

**CITY OF NEWPORT
HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2017
REGULAR MEETING**

The May 10, 2017 regular meeting of the Newport Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) was called to order by Chairperson Joann Bailey at 5:00 p.m. in the council chambers at Newport City Hall.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Joann Bailey (chair), Fred Leimbeck, Maria Bonilla, and Brandon Leyde. Beverly Bartl was absent (excused).

The following were also present: Robert Vogel (staff) and Keven Chapdelaine (city council liaison).

Secretary's report

The draft minutes of the March 8, 2017 regular meeting were approved as mailed.

Comprehensive plan

Consultant Vogel provided an update on the progress of the revised comprehensive plan. He also reported on the progress of the CLG grant funded historic context study that will inform the revised comprehensive plan. Both projects were on schedule. The HPC will review the goals and policies section of the heritage preservation element at their July meeting.

2017 Haugen Award

Linda Michie will receive this year's Betty Haugen Memorial Heritage Preservation Award at the next city council meeting. Chairperson Bailey will send Linda a note of appreciation on behalf of the HPC.

Public history talks

Consultant Vogel reminded the commission that he would be speaking on the topic, "Eyah-Shah: Newport's Sacred Red Rock," at the Newport Library following the HPC meeting. The July 12 talk would be on the subject of meat packing and stockyards in Newport, followed by a lecture on William R. Brown on September 13 and the history of Highway 61 on November 8.

Preservation Month

Commission members thanked Maria Bonilla for her excellent work on the poster for Preservation Month 2017, "Celebrating Newport's American Indian Heritage," which is being

displayed at various places throughout the city. Consultant Vogel reported he had provided a copy of the poster to the Minnesota Historical Society.

Educational materials

The commission examined some of the classroom resource materials developed by the Newport HPC in 1997 as part of its grant-funded Heritage Education Project in cooperation with the Cottage Grove Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation. Consultant Vogel advised the HPC that he was still distributing the classroom handouts and other educational materials in response to requests received from teachers, students, property owners, and others. There was discussion of the desirability of reproducing the 1997 heritage education materials in a digital format and posting them on the city's website. Commission members also expressed interest in developing new educational materials that could be downloaded for private use. Vogel will look for an appropriate funding source.

Red Rock cemetery fence

The commission discussed the current condition of the historic Red Rock Cemetery, a designated Heritage Landmark site that is owned by the city, and the need to install a new fence and entrance gate. The gate at the entrance to the cemetery from Cemetery Road is in poor condition and the site is not enclosed by a fence. Off-street parking is provided and the historic site is frequently visited. In 2012 the HPC requested city council authorization for the gate and fence improvements and in 2013 the public works department obtained cost estimates from two vendors, one for \$32,640 and the other for \$26,998; however, no action was taken. Consultant Vogel was directed to recommend the replacement gate and fence be made a part of the city's capital improvement plan if it could not be included in the 2018 budget.

New city hall planning

Councilman Chapdelaine reported on the planning process for a new city hall/fire station. There was a brief discussion of how a "museum" space might be used by the HPC and local historical organizations. The question of what might be done with the present city hall was also raised.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Vogel, Preservation Planning Consultant