

**CITY OF NEWPORT
HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2017
REGULAR MEETING**

The September 20, 2017 regular meeting of the Newport Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) was called to order by Chairperson Jo Ann Bailey at 5:00 p.m. in the council chambers at Newport City Hall.

Roll Call

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

Also present: Kevin Chapdelaine (city council liaison) and Robert Vogel (staff).

Secretary's report

The draft minutes of the July 12, 2017 regular meeting were approved as mailed.

CLG grants update

Consultant Vogel reported that the Certified Local Grant (CLG) for the revised historic context study had been completed and the project products had been delivered. The results of the project will be incorporated in the updated comprehensive plan. He informed the commission that the next CLG grant project, a survey of mid-20th century heritage resources, was scheduled to begin in October.

Red Rock heritage landmark

Consultant Vogel provided the commission with an update on the status of the proposed relocation of the historic Red Rock from its present location on the grounds of the Newport United Methodist Church to the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary in St. Paul. Although the historic object is a designated Heritage Landmark, the church is not required to obtain a city permit for moving it; therefore, there has been no opportunity for HPC review and approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness, as required by City Code Sec. 16-57. Vogel briefly summarized the events leading up to the church's decision to return the sacred boulder to the Mdewakanton Sioux tribe.

City officials have proposed moving the boulder to a site on Cedar Lane (the old levee, which is being acquired by the city for conservancy open space) and there have been meetings with the parties involved in the repatriation effort. After discussion, the consensus of opinion among the commission members was supportive of the concept of repatriation. However, some members expressed concern with the downtown St. Paul relocation site; the Cedar Lane parcel was viewed as more appropriate because of its riverfront setting and proximity to the historic location. Commission members also agreed that there should be a meeting of all stakeholders prior to moving the historic object. Consultant Vogel and Chairperson Bailey will contact the Newport

United Methodist Church for the purpose of discussing plans for preservation, protection, and use of the Red Rock and the historic Kaposia Mission (“Log Cabin”).

Educational materials

There was discussion of ways to improve the existing classroom education kits and make them more accessible to those interested in the “teaching with historic places” concept. The two-page essays and site file informational handouts remain popular; however, some of the information is outdated. New materials need to be developed to reflect the scope of Newport’s heritage preservation resources and the information developed by recent studies. Consultant Vogel will provide the commission with copies of the 1996 materials, which will be digitized and posted on the city website.

Comprehensive plan

HPC members were asked to review the heritage preservation element of the comprehensive plan adopted in 2008. The plan is in the process of being revised and updated. Consultant Vogel encouraged the commission members to pay particular attention to the “strategies for implementation” section. Preservation goals and policies will be discussed in detail at the next regular meeting.

Preservation conference

HPC members Bailey and Bartl reported on the Minnesota Preservation Conference in Albert Lea on September 13-15, which they attended as the city’s representatives.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Vogel, Preservation Planning Consultant