

City of Excelsior  
Hennepin County, Minnesota

Minutes  
Heritage Preservation Commission

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Macpherson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Bolles, Caron, Finch, Chair Macpherson, Salita

Commissioners Absent: Anderson and Brabec

Also Present: Planning Director Smith

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting of September 19, 2017

Commissioner Salita moved, Commissioner Bolles seconded, to approve the Heritage Preservation Commission Minutes of September 19, 2017. Motion carried 5/0.

3. CITIZEN REPORTS or COMMENTS

a) None

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) 243 Third Street – Historic Landmark Designation

Smith presented the staff report. Bolles and Caron thanked Carlson for applying for landmark designation. Todd Carlson addressed the Commission. Carlson stated that former Mayor Elmer Bardwell lived in the house.

Bolles moved, Salita seconded, to direct staff to commence a designation study of 243 Third Street. Motion carried 5/0.

b) The Commons Master Plan

Smith presented the staff report. Eric Snyder, Chair of the Commons Master Park Plan Committee addressed the Commission. Snyder stated that the Commons Master Plan is a vision. Snyder discussed what a conservancy is. Finch stated his concern with the conservancy raising the money and having control over future improvements. Bathrooms would be removed from the knoll, replaced by a picnic area. Bolles asked about the cost of maintaining the improvements.

Macpherson mentioned that the report should state that the existing trees should remain. A boardwalk would be constructed along the Lake. Salita asked about launching kayaks and where concessions would be located. The plan indicates food trucks in the Port area and possibly the beach area. Salita asked

about storage for the Minnehaha. Snyder said the plan doesn't include storage. Salita asked if there is a priority in the improvements. Snyder stated that the Community hasn't given a chance to provide input on the priority. That will eventually happen.

Bolles stated his concern with the long-term maintenance for the park in general but also the erosion control areas along the boardwalk specifically. Caron stated that the Plan respects the landscape of The Commons without any large structures; adding that the Plan seems to suggest incremental changes. Macpherson stated that any changes to the Commons or the Port will require HPC review.

Caron moved, Finch seconded, to recommend that the City Council incorporate The Commons Master Park Plan into the Comprehensive Plan with or without changes.

Caron withdrew his first motion.

Caron moved, Finch seconded, that the Commission recommend that the City Council adopt the master plan as a working concept to guide future planning in the Commons and Port with the understanding that the Commission reviews plans within its jurisdiction effecting the historic elements of the Commons and the Port. Caron stated that the Commission does not support or object to any particular elements of the Plan. Motion carried 4/0. Bolles abstained, favoring the plan but objecting to the concept for the Port of Excelsior.

c) PVN Report on The Commons

Caron stated that the Blue Line Ticket Booth should be added to the list on page 3. Bolles wanted to add Lot 204 to the definition of The Port. PVN should reevaluate the Water Street Terminus. PVN should also look into the historic significance of the kids' beach. Salita said that the bricks with the names of the donors should be reused somewhere in The Commons if they are to be moved.

Caron moved, Salita seconded, to approve the PVN report with the changes recommended by the Commission. Motion carried 5/0.

d) Historic Preservation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan

Smith presented the staff report. Caron had some notes on the plan. Caron talked more on the objectives and goals.

5. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

- a) Next City Council Meeting – November 6, 2017
- b) Next HPC Meeting – Tuesday, November 21, 2017
- c) Recent City Council Actions
- d) 429 Second Street and 262 Lake Street

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e) Tapping History Event - November 13, 2017

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a) Structures of Merit

b) Downtown Historic District Boundaries – including 426 Lake Street

c) Report from staff regarding the list of properties on local register that have been recorded

d) Conservation Districts

e) Start comprehensive catalog of historic Single Family homes

f) Murals

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Caron moved, Commissioner Bolles seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 p.m. Motion carried 5/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Smith  
Planning Director