

City of Excelsior
Heritage Preservation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, August 17, 2010

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Sanders called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Meyer, Mueller, and Chair Sanders

Commissioners Absent: Roden

Also Present: Mayor Ruehl, Consultant Richards, City Planner Fuchs, Advisor Caron

2. Oath of Office-Robert Bolles and Steve Finch

Mayor Ruehl administered the oath of office to the newest Commissioners Bob Bolles and Steve Finch.

Sanders also informed the Commission that Barnard had resigned.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting of July 20, 2010

It was moved by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, to approve the minutes as written. Approved unanimously, with Bolles abstaining as he had not been present at the meeting.

4. CITIZEN REPORTS or COMMENTS

None.

5. MISCELLANEOUS/COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

a. Recent City Council Actions

Mayor Ruehl reported that the first phase of the Pavement Management Program had been approved. He noted that the bids came in under budget. The Council was committed to saving many of the mature trees in the area so they had decided to go with directional boring for the water line. The Council had entered into a purchase agreement regarding the Lyman site with Hennepin County. The City parking as contemplated for the site would be located behind the library off of Water Street. The Council also approved a parking study to determine the cost of a parking space. The cost of the environmental remediation and other site improvements would be reviewed over the next 45 days.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Site Alteration Permit for Signage at 368 George Street - Betsy Hanna, Cameo Tesserae Salon

Fuchs noted that the Applicant could not attend the meeting. He stated that the Applicant had previously presented, and the Commission had approved, a sign that was smaller. The proposed sign uses the existing posts on the site, but is a bigger because of the distance from Water Street. The background color for the sign is a soft moss green.

It was moved by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, to approve the Site Alteration Permit for signage as proposed. Approved unanimously.

- b. Site Alteration Permit for Signage at 237 Water Street - Fish & Labeau Signs, Inc./Excelsior Appliance

Joe Hartmann presented a proposal to replace the signs on both the front and rear of the building. Hartmann explained that the new signage consists of the same sign, in the same material and location, and is merely being repainted.

Fuchs noted that the application altered some elements on the sign, adding a phone number and website.

Bolles questioned the dimensions of the sign. It was clarified that the new sign will actually be mounted on the existing plywood sign, and would be the same size as the existing sign made of vinyl, rather than the submitted dimensions.

It was moved by Commissioner Meyer, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to approve the Site Alteration Permit for signage as amended to be consistent with the description above. Approved unanimously.

- c. Site Alteration Permit for Exterior Alterations at 261 Water Street - Carolyn McMahon

Greg and Kay Carlson appeared on behalf of the building owner. They proposed to repaint the face of the building and add a split Sunbrella roll-up awning with vertical stripes over the front windows. They explained that the prior awning had blown down during the storm on Crazy Days. The same two colors would be used on the front and rear of the building. The brick would be repainted in Stratton Blue and the trim would be repainted in Hasbrouck Brown on the storefront and doors. The new awning will feature a traditional scalloped edge. The colors for the awning will be Westfield Julep.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- c. Site Alteration Permit for Exterior Alterations at 261 Water Street - -Carolyn McMahon - (Continued)

The building was a car repair garage originally. It was noted that the surviving architectural features will not be affected by the alterations.

It was moved by Commissioner Finch, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, to approve the Site Alteration Permit as presented. Approved unanimously.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Decision and Order for Site Alteration Permit for New Building at 10 Water Street - -Excelsior Hotel

As Roden was not present to review the draft decision and order, at the suggestion of city staff, it was moved by Commissioner Meyer, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to continue this item to the next Commission meeting. Approved unanimously.

- b. Demolition by Neglect Ordinance Provision

It was reported that the draft ordinance is currently under review by the City Attorney.

It was moved by Commissioner Meyer, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to continue this item to the next meeting. Approved unanimously.

Staff agreed to follow up with the City Attorney to make sure a draft was available for the next meeting.

8. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

- a. 2010 Commission Goals and Objectives

The Commission reviewed its goals for the year. Regarding the Old Excelsior High School designation, Sanders reported that she had spoken to former Superintendent Drayer, who was not supportive of designation. The Commission discussed compiling a record of City support of the school district, and seeking out retired faculty members who might be interested in providing support for the designation.

Regarding the historic Seifert house strategies, Richards stated that the Planning Commission was still looking at historic variances as a potential

8. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

a. 2010 Commission Goals and Objectives – (Continued)

mechanism. Commissioners expressed a need to follow up on the status of the demolition by neglect ordinance.

The Commission discussed scheduling a training session in the near future, which would incorporate a presentation by the City Attorney on good decision-making processes.

Mueller agreed to continue work on the century home list for the next meeting.

Sanders agreed to review the content of the HPC website for discussion at the next meeting.

The Commission noted that the annual SHPO conference is being held in September. Fuchs and Meyer agreed to work on the HPC handbook.

b. Election of Secretary to Fill Vacancy

Due to the resignation of Barnard, there is currently a vacancy in the office of Secretary of the Commission. After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Bolles, to nominate Steve Finch as the new Secretary to serve in accordance with the By-Laws. Approved unanimously.

9. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Finch, to adjourn. Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Caron
Recording Secretary