

City of Excelsior
Heritage Preservation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, November 16, 2010

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Present: Bipes, Bolles, Finch, Meyer, Mueller, Roden, and Chair Sanders

Also Present: City Planner Fuchs and Advisor Caron

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting of October 19, 2010

The minutes should be corrected to reflect that Sanders was present and Roden was absent.

It was moved by Commissioner Meyer, seconded by Commissioner Finch, to approve the minutes as corrected. Approved unanimously.

3. CITIZEN REPORTS or COMMENTS

None.

4. MISCELLANEOUS/COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

a. Recent City Council Actions

Fuchs reported that the City Council is considering an ordinance pursuant to a MN State Statute that authorizes cities to adopt a standard of 180 days to complete exterior improvements from the issuance of a building permit. Action on the ordinance was continued by the Council to provide time to examine what other cities are doing.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Site Alteration Permit for Exterior Alterations at 380 Second Street --The Sitting Room

Jodi McKee presented a painted wood projecting sign with a metal bracket as well as two surface mounted signs above the storefront windows. The signs would all have a cream colored backing with black letters to tie the projecting sign and both of the proposed surface mounted signs together, rather than what was shown on the illustration.

It was moved by Roden, seconded by Mueller, to approve the signage as proposed with a cream colored background. Approved unanimously.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Site Alteration Permit for 250/252 Water Street - Bob Bushnell, Minnetonka Music

Sanders reported that the building owner and business owner were willing to pursue a plan to renovate the entire rear of the building and will seek grant funding for the project.

Finch asked whether action should be taken on the pending Site Alteration Permit application because the 45-day period for taking action is approaching. Since the applicants have presented no contour for how compliance with the ordinance would be achieved, favorable action on the application could not be taken.

It was moved by Commissioner Finch, seconded by Commissioner Bolles, to deny the Site Alteration Permit with leave to resubmit a formal plan to address the non-compliance and the expectation that the Chair will continue to work with the applicants to develop a plan to renovate the entire rear building elevation by January 2011. Approved unanimously.

- b. Demolition by Neglect Ordinance

It was reported that City Attorney Staunton has finished his review of the revised ordinance. It was moved by Commissioner Roden, seconded by Commissioner Mueller, to continue this item to the next meeting, with the expectation that the City Attorney attend the next meeting to present the completed ordinance. Approved unanimously.

- c. Seifert House

Roden and Sanders reported that they had contacted the preservation specialist from the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center who had offered to look at the structure to see if he could determine the date it was originally built. They had furnished the Hess Roise survey information on the house and also agreed to provide the McGinnis information. They have not yet received a response, but agreed to continue to follow up on this item.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

- a. 2010 Commission Goals and Objectives

Mueller reported finding 132 houses that are 100 years old or older. The Commission determined that they may need to revisit how to handle the Century Home program goal. Finch pointed out that this would be about 20% of the single family houses within the City. Sanders agreed to type the list for the next meeting.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

a. 2010 Commission Goals and Objectives – (Continued)

It was moved by Commissioner Finch, seconded by Commissioner Bolles, to continue the discussion on this item to the next meeting.

b. Administrative Approvals

Fuchs noted that the owners of the Ming Wok building were discovered to be painting the building. They submitted an after-the-fact application for repainting the structure, which was administratively approved. The Commission reviewed the ordinance paint standards, which require earth tones in the downtown district for masonry structures. Fuchs reported that an application for new awnings will likely be presented at the next meeting.

Sanders suggested scheduling a training session for Commissioners. It was determined that they would hold two sessions, one on new construction standards at 6:00 p.m. preceding the December Commission meeting and a second session on standards for alterations and process at 6:00 p.m. preceding the January Commission meeting. Caron agreed to develop and present the training modules.

Roden reported on the recent City Council Work Session he attended regarding advisory commission conduct and process.

8. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Roden, to adjourn. Approved unanimously. Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Finch
Secretary