



**Minutes of the
Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC)**

**Held at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 10, 2021
Committee Room, Anoka City Hall**

I. **Call to Order** Chair Bart Ward called the regular meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

II. **Roll Call**

Members present: Chair Bart Ward, Commissioners Barb Thurston, Colleen Hansen, Cory Rahn

Members absent: Commissioners Peg Flaig, Elizabeth McFarland, Lisa Silberg-Jurek

Others present: None

Staff present: Clark Palmer, City Planner

City Planner Clark Palmer said he would add Open Forum onto future agendas to allow members of the public to speak on a topic not already on the agenda.

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO BRING FORWARD ITEM V.A. BY COMMISSIONER THURSTON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER RAHN. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Thurston noted corrections needed on Page 2, Item IV.C.: “Vice Chair Thurston said if we were to continue with the program, we need to find replacement sign frames.”

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JULY 13, 2021, MEETING BY COMMISSIONER THURSTON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HANSEN AS CORRECTED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Item V.A. was heard at this point in the agenda.

IV. **Old Business**

A. **2021 Goals**

Mr. Palmer said each year the Commission adopted their previous year’s top five accomplishments and five goals for the upcoming year and that review of the adopted goals would be discussed at each meeting for progress checks. He reviewed the five adopted goals then commented specifically about expanding the City registry with inclusion of the Stonehouse by designating it as a historic site. He noted financing for

necessary repair work would include grant funds for items such as the culverts and others.

Chair Ward said he would have an update on the Stonehouse by the next meeting then shared comments about how the structure would need to be shock treated and more stones added and replaced and how any future bridge construct would require a permit.

Mr. Palmer shared an update on development infill standards and proposed legislation at the special session that would impact cities by requiring more dense housing options.

Commissioner Rahn shared comments on how the legislation would not effectively assist in providing more affordable housing and that the Commission should move forward with creating infill standards.

Mr. Palmer spoke about potential award recipients that included the speakeasies, Jim Nielson's photograph collection and the house 5th Avenue. He noted he had spoken with Senator Abeler who was receptive to being recognized for their speakeasy at the annual televised meeting.

Mr. Palmer said staff would report on other locations for review at the October meeting for inclusion in the November televised meeting. Commissioner Hansen suggested including recognition of Scott Berndt and his work to raise awareness of Civil Rights Activist Anna Arnold Hedgeman.

Discussion was held on the need for sandwich sign replacement. Commissioners Thurston and Hansen shared they both had suggestions on potential vendors and would follow-up for the group.

Mr. Palmer shared that the consultant working on historic site designations was attempting to confirm that City Hall was designed to resemble a gun. He said when the building was dedicated in 1966 there was no mention of this fact but added the property was donated by Federal Cartridge so it was a possibility.

V. **New Business**

A. **Request by Scott Berndt to Discuss Historic Evaluation of 618 Cross Street – Childhood Home of Civil Rights Activist Anna Arnold Hedgeman.**

Scott Berndt, Anoka, thanked the Board for their work in Anoka then shared information on Civil Rights Activist Anna Arnold Hedgeman and his request to acknowledge her work with civil rights.

Commissioner Thurston asked how the home at 618 Cross Street was identified as Ms. Hedgeman's former residence. She noted Ms. Hedgeman's work was honored as part of the Daughters of the Revolution (DAR) then asked for ideas to further recognize her

contributions. Mr. Berndt suggested ideas included designating her home and inclusion of her work in school curriculum that would include field trips to her home.

Chair Ward said while they supported recognition of Ms. Hedgeman but noted they were only an advisory commission and would not have any available funding but that Councilmember Wesp supported this effort as well. He said another group was working to acknowledge another Anoka graduate with similar recognition and liked the idea of ongoing learning through inclusion of storyboard signs in Veterans Park as this is what Anoka was based on.

Commissioner Thurston suggested including Ms. Hedgeman's work with the Methodist Church as well. Mr. Berndt suggested an exploratory committee be created to explore possible options and corresponding costs.

Commissioner Rahn said designating the home would be difficult due to its current private ownership and suggested a park be named in Ms. Hedgeman's honor instead. Chair Ward suggested a bench be placed along with a storyboard that shared Ms. Hedgeman's history.

Mr. Berndt said he would also be working with the schools to include her history in its curriculum and said since education was so important to Ms. Hedgeman suggested a library be named in her honor.

Commissioner Thurston suggested sharing this topic at an upcoming City Council meeting as well for further exposure. Commissioner Rahn suggested creating a nonprofit organization that would assist funding as needed.

Discussion was held on the possibility of creating of a new park in Ms. Hedgeman's honor. Mr. Palmer noted the difficulties included the trend to move away from new pocket parks.

**MOTION TO ASSIST WITH STORYBOARDS AND WORK TO INCLUDE INTEREST FROM THE PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD BY COMMISSIONER RAHN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HANSEN.
MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

Commissioner Thurston said she would explore possible funding with the DAR.

Commissioner Hansen suggested attending a Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting as well as a City Council meeting. Commissioner Rahn suggested sharing the ultimate goal of historic designation of the home but begin with storyboards that included press releases and other public education options.

Mr. Palmer referred to the Commission's goal of expanding the City register and while the home had been renovated several times over the years they could work to add the home to the register with the property owners' permission that would include a plaque.

Mr. Berndt thanked the Commission for their time.

VI. **Committee Reports**

A. **Heritage Preservation Award Committee (Thurston, Silberg-Jurek)**

No further report.

B. **Fundraising Committee (Rahn, Flaig)**

Mr. Palmer shared an update on the pavers and costs that resulted in less profit than originally planned. He said staff had ordered 10 pavers as eight parties were interested in purchasing and that they would continue to evaluate the concept.

Commissioner Rahn suggested hosting a booth to sell pavers at the upcoming food truck festival and the need for a logo tablecovering for such events.

Commissioner Thurston inquired about the Park and Recreation Advisory Board's work to restore the WPA barbeque grills at City parks and suggested a resolution be adopted that formally requested this work occur.

MOTION TO FORWARD A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT WORK OCCUR TO RESTORE THE WPA GRILLS AT CITY PARKS BY COMMISSIONER THURSTON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HANSEN. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

C. **Event Committee (Ward, McFarland, Hansen)**

No further report.

VII. **Adjournment**

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY COMMISSIONER RAHN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HANSEN, MOTION CARRIED 4-0 AT 6:20 P.M.