

**CITY OF NEWPORT
HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2012
REGULAR MEETING**

The September 19, 2012 regular meeting of the Newport Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) was called to order by Chairperson Linda Michie at 4:30 p.m. in the council chamber of the Newport City Hall.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Jo Bailey, Beverly Bartl, Linda Michie (chair).

Member Steven Lanz was absent.

Also present: Robert Vogel (consultant); City Administrator Brian Anderson; Mayor Tim Geraghty (council liaison); Brent Peterson, Washington County Historical Society.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the July 11, 2012 regular meeting were approved as mailed.

Historical exhibit

Consultant Vogel informed the commission that the Washington County Historical Society has offered to provide an exhibit of historic artifacts at the Newport Library. Brent Peterson, the society's executive director, was on hand to answer questions about the exhibit, which will include the long-term loan of an appropriate exhibit case.

Red Rock Cemetery

Consultant Vogel reported on the condition of the gate at the Red Rock Cemetery, which has been damaged and is in need of repairs. He also advised the commission that the historic site had recently been surveyed for the city public works department and the corners had been located. There was general agreement that the gate needed to be repaired or replaced and that it would be desirable to have the entire site fenced. Staff was directed to obtain a cost estimate for an appropriate ornamental gate and fence.

Mill Pond site

Consultant Vogel and City Administrator Anderson provided an update on the status of the Johnson property in the vicinity of the Mill Pond. The consensus of the commission was that the city should pursue acquisition of the riverfront property for conservancy purposes; the historic Brown family homes on 7th Street also need to be considered.

Veterans' memorial

There was discussion of fundraising plans for the plaza in Pioneer Memorial Park. To date, only nine bricks have been sold.

WCHS Heritage Center

Mr. Peterson gave a presentation on the county historical society's campaign to acquire and renovate a 14,000 square foot building in Stillwater for use as a heritage center. It was moved by Bailey, seconded by Bartl, that the HPC recommends city council support for the project. The motion passed unanimously.

Park building

The building in Pioneer Memorial Park was discussed. Consultant Vogel advised the commission that the building dated from about 1940 and was considered a historic preservation resource. Various rehabilitation treatment alternatives and adaptive uses were discussed. The consensus of the commission was that a preservation assessment and feasibility study needed to be carried out.

Preservation conference

Chairperson Michie reported on the Minnesota Preservation Conference held in Fergus Falls on September 13-14, which she attended.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Vogel, Preservation Planning Consultant