

**CITY OF NEWPORT
HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2015
REGULAR MEETING**

The January 14, 2015 regular meeting of the Newport Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) was called to order by Chairperson Linda Michie at 5:30 p.m. in the council chamber of the Newport City Hall. This was the HPC's annual meeting.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Linda Michie (chair), Jo Bailey, Bev Bartl, Fred Leimbeck, and Mary Ann Newman.

Also present: Robert Vogel (preservation planning consultant).

Secretary's report

The minutes of the November 12, 2014 regular meeting were approved as mailed.

Brown-Johnson house

Consultant Vogel provided a brief report on the progress of the historical and architectural survey of the historic Brown-Johnson House, 331 7th Street. Due to the fact that no log structural remains had been found, the city will not be pursuing a Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage (Legacy) grant to finance any additional archaeological investigation.

Marko property

Consultant Vogel reported that Steven Marko is still negotiating with the city on a possible land swap involving the historic Mill Pond.

2014 accomplishments

The commission reviewed the major accomplishments of 2014.

2015 meeting schedule

Members agreed to meet on the second Wednesday of March, May, July, September and November in 2015. All meetings will start at 5:00 p.m.

Election of officers

Motion by Bartl that the following be elected as HPC officers for 2015: Linda Michie, chairperson; Jo Bailey, vice chairperson; and Bev Bartl, secretary. The motion was seconded by Bailey and passed with all voting in favor.

2015 goals & objectives

The HPC reviewed its 2014 work plan and noted the major accomplishments of the past year. There was discussion of a work plan for the coming year based on the following goals and objectives:

1. Sponsor public education activities for Preservation Month (May).
2. Sponsor public education activities for Pioneer Day (August).
3. Nominate properties for designation as Newport Heritage Landmarks.
4. Provide city officials and the public with information, education and training in historic preservation.
5. Revise and update the Newport heritage resources inventory.
6. Develop plans for rehabilitation and adaptive use of the park building in Pioneer Memorial Park.
7. Update and expand the historic preservation content on the city's website.
8. Begin work on revising the historic preservation element of the city's comprehensive plan.
9. Work with the Planning Commission to find ways to encourage preservation of Newport's historic residential neighborhoods.
10. Start planning for the celebration of the sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) of the first railroad built through Newport.

2015 goals and objectives will be finalized at the next regular meeting.

Veterans memorial

There was discussion of the sale of commemorative bricks for the veterans' memorial in Pioneer Park.

Haugen award announcement

Consultant Vogel provided members with a brief overview of the Betty Haugen Memorial Heritage Preservation Award, which is presented each year during Preservation Month (May). Chairperson Michie officially made the call for nominations and appointed Consultant Vogel and HPC member Leimbeck as the 2015 Haugen Award selection committee.

CLG grant pre-application

Consultant Vogel was directed to prepare a pre-application request for Certified Local Government grant funding to begin preparation of the next comprehensive preservation plan.

Red Rock saloon sign

There was discussion of plans to redevelop the Red Rock Saloon property located at 374 21st Street. The property is in the process of being redeveloped as a “brew pub.” Consultant Vogel advised the HPC that the building itself was not considered historically significant; however, the rooftop sign is an old and familiar neighborhood landmark and several individuals have expressed interest in seeing the sign preserved. The consensus of opinion was that the sign had artistic value and would be worth retaining as part of the new business, but only if the owners were supportive.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Vogel, Preservation Planning Consultant