

**CITY OF NEWPORT
HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2015
REGULAR MEETING**

The September 9, 2015 regular meeting of the Newport Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) was called to order by Chairperson Linda Michie at 5:00 p.m. in the council chamber of the Newport City Hall.

Roll Call

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

Also present: Bill Sumner (city council liaison) and Robert Vogel (preservation planning consultant).

Secretary's report

The minutes of the July 8, 2015 annual meeting were approved as mailed.

Train tower roof

Consultant Vogel informed the commission that on July 22, 2015 he had issued a Certificate of Appropriateness for replacement of the roof on the historic Train Tower. The certification was required because the Train Tower is a registered heritage landmark. The work was completed in August. No historic fabric was damaged or removed; the project met applicable treatment standards and guidelines for the rehabilitation of historic properties.

CLG grant final products

Consultant Vogel reported that the survey of the Brown-Johnson House at 331 7th Street has been completed. The project final products were submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office in August along with a request for reimbursement of \$12,000 in projects costs covered by the Certified Local Government grant. Copies of the project final report have been distributed.

Park building reuse

There was discussion of the public input received on Pioneer Day (August 9) regarding options for reuse of the park building in Pioneer Memorial Park. Over 80% of the respondents favored adapting the building for use as a catering kitchen. The consensus of the HPC was to recommend including renovation of the park building in next year's capital improvement plan; in the interim, the exterior of the building should be painted (possibly with one or more murals) as a volunteer project.

150 years of railroad heritage

Consultant Vogel provided a brief overview of the early history of railroads in the Newport area. Construction of the Minnesota & Pacific RR line south from Saint Paul began in 1865, although there was no regular train service between Saint Paul and Hastings until the first segment of the Milwaukee & St. Paul RR was completed in 1869. The consensus of the HPC was the start planning for the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of railroading in 2016, with a series of public informational and educational events in 2017-2019. Staff was directed to contact the local historical organizations and others who might be interested in partnering with the HPC.

Heritage resources inventory

A list of historic properties that have been determined eligible for designation as Newport Heritage Landmarks was reviewed. Consultant Vogel stated that he intended to recommend HPC action on several additional properties at the next commission meeting.

Miscellaneous

There was discussion of the HPC sponsored historical program at the library and the upcoming statewide preservation conference, but no action was taken.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Vogel, Preservation Planning Consultant