

**CITY OF NEWPORT  
HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2016  
REGULAR MEETING**

The July 13, 2016 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), Fred Leimbeck, Jo Bailey and Bev Bartl.

Member Mary Ann Newman was absent (excused).

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

**Secretary's Report**

The minutes of the May 11, 2016 regular meeting were reviewed and approved as mailed.

**Condition of city-owned historic properties**

Consultant Vogel reported on the results of his most recent evaluation of the condition of the following heritage preservation resources that are owned by the city:

- CM&StP Railroad Switching Tower (“Train Tower”), 600 Seventh Avenue. The property is structurally sound and in good overall condition; public access is restricted.
- Newport Village Hall, on Seventh Avenue next to City Hall. The building, which is occupied by the model railroad club, is in a good state of preservation.
- Newport Library, 405 Seventh Avenue. The building is structurally sound and in good overall condition; exterior is in need of major restoration.
- Red Rock Cemetery, east end of Cemetery Road. Grounds require more intensive maintenance; fence and gate in need of repair or replacement.
- Pioneer Memorial Park, off Fourth Avenue. The site is in a good state of preservation but the ca.1940 building is in need of renovation and the lost trees should be replaced.
- WPA Overlooks, on the Mississippi River at 10<sup>th</sup>, Park Place and 12<sup>th</sup> Street. All three sites are in fair to good condition but the stone walls require more intensive maintenance.
- Mill Pond Site, on the Mississippi River west of Fourth Avenue. The historical and archaeological components needs to be identified, protected from deterioration, and stabilized to prevent loss from erosion, flooding, and land development; public accessibility also needs to be improved.
- Main Street Levee (steamboat landing), on the Mississippi River at the west end of 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The site is in a good state of preservation but needs better interpretive signage.

Vogel advised the Commission that while the city is doing a good job managing its heritage resources, more attention needs to be given to public education and accessibility issues. Restoration of the library building and Red Rock Cemetery fence should also be included in the city's capital improvement plan.

### **Veteran's memorial**

Members of the public have approached city officials about purchasing pavers for the veteran's memorial plaza in Pioneer Park. The city administrator has requested the HPC's help in coordinating public participation in the project. Commission members agreed to hold a workshop at their next regular meeting.

### **Pioneer Day**

There was discussion of the HPC's participation in this year's Pioneer Day festival on August 14. The consensus was to have an information table with displays showing recent HPC projects.

### **Statewide preservation conference**

The annual Minnesota Preservation Conference will be held in Hastings on September 7-9. Scholarships may be available from the State Historic Preservation Office to pay for registration. Attendance by at least one HPC member is required for maintaining the city's Certified Local Government status.

### **Caboose**

Councilman Sumner reported that the model railroad club wanted to move a railroad caboose to the Train Tower site for conservation and interpretation purposes. Consultant Vogel advised the commission that a Certificate of Appropriateness would be required before the object could be moved to the historic property.

### **Johnson property**

The city council has sold part of the old Johnson property at the Mill Pond, including the parcel formerly occupied by the Loren Johnson residence at 331 7<sup>th</sup> Street (demolished), for the purpose of constructing new single-family houses.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Vogel, Preservation Planning Consultant