

I. CALL TO ORDER –

A regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission on Monday, April 25, 2022, commencing at 6:30 p.m. was called to order by Chair Kotelnicki. A quorum was established.

A. ROLL CALL:

Commissioner (Chair)	Darlene Kotelnicki	Present
Commissioner	Sid Willson	Absent
Commissioner	Rick Beecroft	Present
Commissioner (Plan. Comm. Rep)	Mike Flaata	Present
Commissioner	Kevin Hovey	Present
Commissioner	Dave Welker	Present
Commissioner	Holly Flemming	Present
Ex-officio	Bill Hicks	Present

II. MINUTES TO APPROVE – October 25, 2021 **MOTION: To approve as submitted Mike/Rick/Passed unanimously by a voice vote).**

III. PUBLIC HEARING

136 N. Marshall Ave.1

- A. Open public hearing at 6:33 p.m.
- B. Declaration of Conflict of Interest: None Ex-parte: Kevin Hovey declared a conflict of interest and did not participate in the discussion or vote.
- C. Review of Proper Notification - Per City
- D. Introduction of Completed Application by Commission: The COA was done with professionals who are listed on the MN Historical Society list and involves maintenance of mostly masonry concerns.
- E. Presentation by Applicant or Designee: Connie Lies, project coordinator, spoke on behalf of the opera house. Board members Jean Hanson and Karen Urdahl were present. The opera house repaired a gutter last year and now wants to repair damaged brick on the south facade. There is also repair on the SW corner of the west facade. Caulking will need to be replaced on the west facade first floor windows and at the sidewalk.
- F. Comments from Other Interested Parties: None
- G. Closure of Public Hearing at 6:36 p.m. p.m. with option to recall applicant.
- H. **MOTION:** Due process was followed (Mike/Dave/Passed unanimously by a voice vote).
- I. Checklist: Completed 5 Yes 0 No 5 NA
- J. Findings of Fact: completed and submitted to the city with the checklist
- K. **MOTION:** To approve as submitted (Mike/Rick/Passed unanimously by a voice vote).

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Benches and possible bench walk hand out - The commission reviewed the sample from Faribault and liked it. After discussion, it was decided HPC members would send possible bench locations to Darlene. We will place them this year and may relocate to another area next year. All felt the location can be rather fluid and would prefer not placing a bench in front of a low window. Darlene will ask Tyler the height of the side so we know how tall the benches are. The HPC would like to partner with the Litchfield Downtown Council since we do not have a presence on social media. It was suggested to do a Tik Tok video of the city staff placing the benches. Another video later about the benches. Holly volunteered to do this. The downtown council could post this. The Bench Walk flyer will have the City, HPC, CLC, and SHIP listed as donors plus private donations. There was discussion about the two LDC benches placed at 2nd and 3rd Streets for CCT bus patrons. This was a specific donation for benches in that location. They will be included on the map. There was discussion about the benches to be placed in the alley between Sweet Escape and the Legion by the LDC also.

B. SWIF Grant Update - Darlene reported that the grant application has not been released by the state yet. Several property owners are interested. We will see some COAs as part of the work may involve the exterior.

V. NEW BUSINESS –

A. Administratively Approved COAs

1. 231 N. Sibley Ave - Roof replacement **MOTION:** To approve the administratively approved COA as submitted (Rick/Mike/Passed unanimously by a voice vote)

B. Expansion of the Administratively Approved List - The commission reviewed the information presented in the packet. The email from Michael Koop and his concerns. They also reviewed the comments from Connie Lies. It was decided to take some time to get more information. Dave felt we should take some time for general discussion. "I really do not follow this." Rick stated he felt somewhat blindsided and would like to take until the next meeting to review everything. Mike stated he has not read it all but he was concerned about not streamlining the process too far. Dave is afraid we may lean too far one way and then what? Kevin was concerned someone says yes just for the sake of saying yes. Then what? I want to look into Michael Koop's email more. Holly expressed concern that really did not know what's going on and where this is coming from. Darlene expressed concern bypassing public hearings and this whole temporary removal of non-historic structures. Bill commented he was concerned about lay people making these decisions that require a process and review of professional documents.

Connie Lies reviewed her document and expressed several concerns. "The preservation ignorance of the person who wrote this shows and he/she has no business approving anything." This writer asked if Connie wished that statement in the minutes to which she replied she did just as she said it.

Several members of the commission questioned why there needs to be any change at all in the administratively approved list. **MOTION:** To table this request to allow members of the HPC to further review the information (Rick/ Kevin/Passed unanimously by a voice vote).

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C. Cemetery Tour- Do we want to participate in a Watercade Cemetery tour? After discussion it was decided yes. Rick expressed interest in being a milk man and Dave a grave digger.

D. Delay in building materials related to COA timelines - Currently the COA is for 6 months and can be reviewed for another 6 months by a written request. It was decided to have the applicant appear before the HPC if another extension is needed.

VI. REPORTS - None

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS -

A. The next meeting will be Monday, May 23, 2021 at 6:30 pm in City Hall.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – 8:00 p.m.

DARLENE KOTELNICKI
CHAIRPERSON