



**COTTAGE GROVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

12800 RAVINE PARKWAY SOUTH
COTTAGE GROVE, MN 55016

COUNCIL CHAMBER - 6:00 PM

August 11, 2026

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
 - A April 14, 2026 ACHP Minutes
5. Open Forum
6. Action Items
7. Discussion Items
 - A Cottage Grove Historic Display Case
8. Project Updates
 - A Cedarhurst Update
 - B Old Town Hall Update
9. Historic, Inquiries, Articles, and Research Information
10. Committee Comments
11. Council Comments
12. Adjournment



MINUTES
CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
April 14, 2026

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation was duly held at the Cottage Grove City Hall, 12800 Ravine Parkway South, Cottage Grove, Minnesota, on the 14th day of April 2026.

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Marie Sumstine called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tony Brinkman, Cindy Yff, Linda Johnston, Marie Sumstine, Joesph McDermott, Mary Doheny

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jacob Grundhauser

OTHERS PRESENT: Max Erickson, Planner; Council Member Dave Theide

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by Brinkman to approve the agenda with no changes. Johnston seconded. The motion passed unanimously 6-to-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Marie Sumstine to approve the minutes with no changes. Yff seconded. The motion passed unanimously 6-to-0.

OPEN FORUM

Erickson introduced the two new committee members, Joseph McDermott and Mary Doheny. Each member introduces themselves to the new members.

ACTION ITEMS

New Chair Designation for the ACHP Max Erickson (Planner) presented and explained the expiration of Herb Reckinger's position from the Committee. It was explained that the chair be assigned as a replacement for Herb Reckinger. It was discussed that a chair be voted for and a vice chair be assigned as well. A motion was made by Marie Sumstine to elect Tony Brinkman to be chair, which was seconded by Linda Johnston. The motion passed unanimously 6-to-0.

Historic Preservationist of the Year

Max Erickson (Planner) presented a brief introduction for this item. The process for nominating people for Historic Preservationist of the Year was open to the public as an online submittal. There was no one that was nominated, and staff provided a recommendation of Jake Jones with Medicinewood LLC. Erickson explained that Jake Jones is working on several historic properties within Cottage Grove including the Ferber House and under an agreement with the City for the Old Town Hall. Discussion was had between the committee. Members agreed quickly that Jake would be a good fit.

A motion was made by Marie Sumstine to recommend Jake Jones for the Preservationist of the Year, which was seconded by Linda Johnston. The motion passed 6-0

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Cottage Grove Historic Webpage

Planner Max Erickson discussed the idea of updating the City's webpage for historic preservation. Several options were presented, which included examples from other cities on what they do for their preservation website. It was suggested to create individual pages for each resource or a mapping source for existing registered and priority historic sites in Cottage Grove.

Ideas were shared including adding a page for who lived in Cottage Grove and why they were important. This could also include adding a timeline or history of Cottage Grove with people or places. It was discussed that we could add forms that are used for nominating places for the historic register. It was discussed that there can be a spot for public input.

First step would be to create the framework for the site and then implement more robust ideas later once it is well established.

The Committee gave approval to move forward with the tentative plan as discussed.

PROJECT UPDATES – VERBAL UPDATES

Old Town Hall Update

Erickson gave an update for Mr. Jones who has agreed to conduct a complete evaluation of the building, outline aspects of the structure that contribute to the historic integrity, and provide a plan for repairing the structure. Photos were shared with what Jake Jones has discovered in the Old Town Hall.

He found old writing in the walls, came across the old crawlspace location, and indicated that there was some fire damage that may have been the original spot where the wood stove sat.

Cedarhurst Update

Erickson gave an update for the Cedarhurst Mansion construction. A slide show was presented indicating the current state of construction.

Marie Sumstine asked if the Cedarhurst owners will replant roses in the rose garden. Councilmember Theide indicated that there they would include roses for the rose garden. Erickson explained that they are following a set of standards for repairing the building.

Linda Johnston asked if the Gardener's Cottage will be used. Erickson indicated the Cottage will be used as a staff location more than a venue spot.

Ross Property Update

Erickson gave an update for the Ross Property. It was indicated that documentation was taken of the site and photos were available upon request. A slideshow was presented of some of the core photos.

Committee Members asked if there was any chance more investigation could be done before they demolish the house. Staff would look into this.

Committee members asked if there was a chance to visit the house prior to demolishing it or saving any parts of the building. Staff said they would look into this for liability.

HISTORIC INQUIRIES, ARTICLES, AND RESEARCH INFORMATION

There were none.

COUNCIL LIASON COMMENTS

Theide discussed Strawberry Fest and shared a video describing Strawberry Fest in the past. A quilt from an older Strawberry Fest was shared with the Committee.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Tony Brinkman asked for an update on terms and expiration dates Committee Members.

Marie Sumstine asked if there was going to be a historic neighborhood in Old Cottage Grove. Theide mentioned that there was a thought to get this put in, but the idea did not get too far. Staff will investigate. Discussion was had about what could be done for these homes individually. We should reach out to property owners where development is creeping up to get their properties registered.

Further discussion was had about other buildings near past projects and about City Parks.

STAFF COMMENTS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

TO: Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation

FROM: Max Erickson, Planner

DATE: August 5, 2026

RE: Historic Display Case

Introduction

In 2023 the Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation (ACHP) took action to fill the display case located in the lobby of City Hall. Various themes were discussed by the ACHP for filling the display case in which it was decided to include a map of various historic school locations within Cottage Grove. The current display is that of a map of Cottage Grove with locations of historic school locations and images of what those schools looked like. As time has passed, it is appropriate to either add to or change what is displayed in the display case.



Training Room Display Case (Current Display)

Discussion

As proposed in a previous meeting when creating the current display, below is a list of options that staff has determined could be added or changed to based upon the items, photos, stories, etc. found within City files.

1. Sites Listed on the National Register of Historic Places
 - Cordenio Severance House
 - Gray Cloud Lime Kiln
 - John P. Furber House
2. City Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks
 - First Congregational Church/Accacia Lodge
 - Dr. Arthur L. Steen House
 - John P. Furber House
 - Atkin Cemetery
 - Watson Family Home
 - Cottage Grove Town Hall
 - Cottage Grove Cemetery
 - Hope Glen Farm
 - Lyceum Gall Caretakers Sheds
 - Roger Shepard House
 - Harry Roberts House
 - St. Matthews Evangelical and Reform Church
 - Cordenio Severance House
 - John P. Furber Wedding and Event Center
 - Old People's Cemetery
3. Walking Trail Informational Sign Locations
4. Cottage Grove: A Historic Timeline
5. Other

Next Steps

Following the Committee's recommendation on an update, staff will begin gathering related items, photos, etc. to be used for the display case. At an upcoming ACHP meeting, staff will present the Committee with different design options for the display case based on the items and photos gathered.

Recommendation

That the ACHP should discuss and recommend an update for the historic preservation display case in the Cottage Grove City Hall lobby.



To: Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation

From: Max Erickson, Planner

Date: August 11, 2026

Re: Cedarhurst Mansion Update

Background

On August 13, 2025, the City Council passed Resolution 2025-113 to approve a Site Plan Review for improvements to the Cedarhurst site and Mansion and an addition to the Mansion for use as a wedding and event center. Council also approved Resolution 2025-114 to approve a Historical Conditional Use Permit to use the Gardener's Cottage property in conjunction with the commercial event/wedding venue on the adjacent Mansion parcel. During the previous ACHP meeting in April, they were starting on site clearing and the footings for the atrium.

Update

Old debris and items have been removed from the yard and within the Mansion to clean up the structure. Interior work has begun with some deep level repairs within walls and ceilings. Asbestos removal has also been completed. In the main atrium structure, framing and the roof has been completed. Siding is being installed along with electrical and plumbing. The parking area has been cleared of trees, and flags have been placed to indicate grading limits for the future parking lot. Irrigation has been installed in the front and side lawns of the mansion. A new walkway has been built around the back of the rose garden, atrium, and rear of the mansion. Re-roofing has begun on part of the Mansion.

A presentation has been created to update the ACHP on construction activities on site with included photos.

Additional updates will be provided to the ACHP at future meetings.

Recommendation

That the ACHP receive an update presentation from staff on the improvements to the Cedarhurst Mansion and related site work.



TO: Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation

FROM: Max Erickson, Planner

DATE: August 11, 2026

RE: Old Town Hall Project Update

Introduction/Background

The Cottage Grove Old Town Hall located at 9550 Islay Avenue, adjacent to the current Public Works Facility, was constructed in 1881 and used for various meetings until 1961. The structure is listed on the City's Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks and is currently owned and utilized by the City for material storage.

Jake Jones with Medicine Wood Inc. has taken an interest in attempting to repair and restore sections of the building. The City has entered into an agreement with Medicine Wood Inc. that allows for the business to store equipment and supplies inside the Old Town Hall rent free with the stipulation that repairs be made to stabilize the structure's damage. The agreement provides that updates be provided to the City on a regular basis on the progress of the project.

Mr. Jones has been working on the Old Town Hall over the summer and will provide an update to the ACHP on its current status.

Recommendation

That the ACHP receive information related to the current status and updates for the Old Town Hall.