



**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION**  
**February 13, 2024**

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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 13th day of February, 2024.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Reckinger called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

*MEMBERS PRESENT:* Herb Reckinger (Chair), Joseph Gall, Corinne Marz, Tony Brinkman, Linda Johnston, Jacob Grundhauser, Marie Sumstine

*MEMBERS ABSENT:* None

*OTHERS PRESENT:* Councilmember Dave Thiede; Mike Mrosła, Senior Planner; Conner Jakes, Associate Planner

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion made by Grundhauser to approve the Agenda with no changes. Sumstine seconded. The motion passed unanimously 7-to-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Brinkman made a motion to approve the October 10, 2024 meeting minutes as is with no changes. Gall seconded. The motion passed unanimously 7-to-0.

**OPEN FORUM**

No one spoke.

**ACTION ITEMS**

***Committee Terms***

Mrosła summarized the memo and provided background on the revised committee terms that were updated as part of the 2022 city code update. Mrosła stated it was Committee Member Marz's last meeting as she has reached the maximum amount of time a Committee Member can serve.

Councilmember Thiede and staff provided Marz with a plaque honoring her dedication and time served on the committee.

Brinkman inquired as to whether the revised term limits are consistent with the other Committee's and Commissions within the city. Mroska responded and confirmed that the same term limits apply to all Committees and Commissions within the City. Brinkman requested the starting and ending dates of the Committee's terms. Mroska stated it will be provided to each Committee Member.

Mroska stated Committee Member Gall's current term was expired but could serve an additional term as he has not reached his term limit. Gall accepted reappointment to serve an additional term. The motion passed unanimously 7-to-0.

Mroska stated the Committee should re-elect or appoint a new chair for the committee and opened to the Committee for discussion. The Committee re-elected Chair Reckinger to another term. The motion passed unanimously 7-to-0.

### ***2024 Meeting Schedule***

Mroska summarized the memo and opened it to the committee to discuss the preferred start time of meetings. The committee discussed and agreed that the current 6:00 p.m. time should be kept for another year. The motion passed unanimously 7-to-0.

### ***Historic Preservationist of the Year – Open Public Submission***

Jakes summarized the memo and opened to the discussion as to whether the Committee would like to open to the public for nominations for the Historic Preservationist of the Year Award. The Committee discussed and agreed to open a nomination submittal portal to the public. Further conversation regarding potential recipients occurred with the mention of Nancy Goodman, VFW, and Cindy Yff. The motion to open the public submission for nominations of the Historic Preservationist of the Year award to the public passed unanimously 7-to-0.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### ***Old Town Hall – 9550 Islay Avenue South***

Jakes summarized the memo and showed photos to explain the current condition of the Old Town Hall. Marz suggested staff could contact the Bauer Family for potential funding or information on restoration as they have restored, deconstructed, and rebuilt multiple historic buildings. Gall stated staff could contact builders within the city to see if they would be interested in sponsoring the restoration. Gall mentioned it could be a possibility to partner with Park High School or a local community college for students to gain experience in restoration while also benefiting from hands-on experience.

The Committee discussed potential funding options and whether there was potential for the City to provide funds. Staff stated they would propose funding for the repairs at the next budget cycle, which begins in the spring.

### ***Historical Markers – MNHS Grant Opportunity***

Jakes summarized the memo and opened for discussion from the Committee. The Committee discussed the potential grant submittal and recommended staff to work towards applying for the July submittal. Discussion occurred on the preferred sign style. The Committee agreed that the

two-post interpretive sign style would be preferred due to the larger space, but that the one-post tilted sign would be the preferred secondary style if space doesn't allow for the two-post interpretive sign.

## **PROJECT UPDATES – VERBAL UPDATES**

### ***Historical Display Case***

Jakes summarized the status of the historical display case that is located in the Training Room hallway at City Hall. Jakes stated the map and photos are on display and that the tri-fold brochure is in the final stages before going to print. Johnston stated there may be potential provide more color within the display case, staff stated they will contact the Communications Department. Reckinger stated there should be information on each school that is featured in the case, staff stated the tri-fold brochure will contain detailed information on each school that is featured in the case.

### ***Certified Local Government Grant Application***

Jakes stated staff submitted the application for the Certified Local Government Grant and that staff will be informed as to whether the city has been awarded the grant on April 12, 2024.

### ***Mississippi Landing***

Mroska summarized the status of the proposed Mississippi Landing housing development proposed along the Mississippi River. Committee discussion occurred regarding the proposed development and house located at 10301 Grey Cloud Trail South. Brinkman discussed lift stations, inquired about the lift station proposed as part of the project, and whether the lift station could be moved in order for the house at 10301 Grey Cloud Trail South to remain. Sumstine stated the house at 10301 Grey Cloud Trail is an example of everyday people that live within the city and the house, once removed, will never be back again. Marz stated the home was constructed in the 1850s during Minnesota Territorial times and that there are not many houses remaining from the time period, and that the city should attempt to preserve the house throughout all circumstances.

Reckinger discussed asbestos within the walls of the structure, proximity of homes to the railroad, and beavers throughout the wetlands and ponds of the area. Grundhauser inquired about the road realignment and whether the Council would accept written testimony for the City Council meeting. Councilmember Thiede stated the Council will accept written testimony from residents in regard to the project. The Committee had further discussion regarding the approval process and steps taken up to this point. Mroska stated that the City has followed state statute, and that the City is ensuring the developer is following all applicable City standards.

### ***Cedarhurst***

Mroska provided the Committee with an update regarding Cedarhurst, stating there is a potential user interested in the site, but no further information is available at this time as conversations are preliminary.

## **HISTORIC INQUIRIES, ARTICLES, AND RESEARCH INFORMATION**

### ***Langdon Village – Ground Penetrating Radar***

Jakes summarized the memo and provided the Committee with additional information related to the project. The Committee supported the idea and encouraged staff to continue moving forward.

***SWCTC Video Topics***

Jakes summarized the memo and opened to the Committee for discussion. Marz stated a video could be produced on Joseph Brown and to highlight farming within Cottage Grove. The Committee supported the production of an informational video on Joseph Brown and the history of farming in Cottage Grove.

***History Matters Day at the Capitol***

Jakes summarized the memo and informed the Committee of the History Matters Day at the Capitol event.

***Washington County Historical Society – Annual Open House***

Jakes summarized the memo and informed the Committee of the Washington County Historical Society Annual Open House event.

**COUNCIL LIASON COMMENTS**

There were none.

**COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

There were none.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

There were none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Grundhauser made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brinkman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 7-to-0, and the meeting was adjourned.