



MINUTES
CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
April 9, 2024

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 9th day of April, 2024.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Reckinger called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilmember Dave Thiede; Mike Mroska, Senior Planner; Conner Jakes, Associate Planner; David Olson, Parks and Recreation Commission

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by Grundhauser to approve the Agenda with no changes. Gall seconded. The motion passed unanimously 6-to-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Grundhauser made a motion to approve the February 13, 2024 meeting minutes as is with no changes. Gall seconded. The motion passed unanimously 6-to-0.

OPEN FORUM

No one spoke.

ACTION ITEMS

Historic Preservationist of the Year – Nomination

Jakes summarized the memo and displayed the public's nominations for the award. The committee discussed the nominations from the public, which were all for Dodge Nature Center (Shepard Farm).

The public's nomination previously won the award, so the committee discussed further options of first-time recipients.

Sumstine commented that various members of the public worked diligently to save the house located at 10301 Grey Cloud Trail South. Reckinger stated Cindy Yff and Kathy DeMarre would be great recipients for the award due to their work on the Old People's Home & Cemetery. The committee agreed that both Cindy and Kathy should be nominated as recipients of the award if selected. Brinkman stated Corrine Marz would be a good recipient as well due to her work on Native American history.

The committee agreed after discussion that Cindy Yff and Kathy DeMarre should be nominated due to their detailed work on preserving the history of the Old People's Home & Cemetery. Johnston made a motion to nominate Cindy Yff and Kathy DeMarre. Brinkman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 6-to-0.

Historical Markers – Plaque Design

Jakes summarized the memo and displayed the two potential plaque designs. Grundhauser stated the second option with the ACHP's themed colors is preferred and the inclusion of a QR code to additional information the site would be great to include. Grundhauser stated sites where the resource is still present doesn't need the amount of information as other sites. More photos of sites where the resource does not exist would be more beneficial. The committee agreed that the second option of the plaque design with the ACHP's themed colors is preferred. The motion passed to select the second option with the ACHP's themed colors as the design preference 6-to-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Historical Markers – Plaque Information

Jakes summarized the memo and displayed the information gathered for each site; the committee reviewed each site and discussed the information and photos for each site.

Atkinson Cemetery information was accurate. Brinkman stated there is a book titled "History of Newport (Red Rock)" which discussed the Atkinson Cemetery in detail. The committee agreed that a list of prominent names buried in the cemetery and potentially photos of the headstones would be a good addition to the plaque.

The Old People's Home & Cemetery information was accurate. The committee requested staff contact Cindy Yff and Kathy DeMarre to assist in writing the plaque information. In addition, the committee requested there be a map of where the two homes were, if possible.

The Cottage View Drive-In site was discussed as staff did not have any information on the site. Grundhauser and Johnston stated photos have been found in the Cottage Grove Facebook groups. Councilmember Thiede stated the drive-in was located adjacent to the current Walmart site, so a good location for the plaque would be at the corner of the east Walmart entrance adjacent to the public trail. Grundhauser stated once the Shoppes at Cottage View develop, it would be beneficial to move the plaque to the north corner of the site.

Shepard Farm was discussed, and the information was accurate. Councilmember Thiede stated the house onsite has historic photos that could be utilized for the plaque if the Shepard Farm staff is

contacted. Grundhauser stated it would be nice to include the acreage of the site as it is generally unknown how large the site is.

The Cedarhurst site was discussed, and the information was accurate. The committee discussed and desired for the plaque to talk through the site starting with a farmhouse and moving to modern day. Grundhauser stated the plaque should incorporate Cass Gilbert.

The Thompson Grove development was discussed, and the information was accurate. Brinkman stated Orrin Thompson was not associated with any of the Thompson Grove plats. Rather, his brother Olin Thompson is associated with the plats. Grundhauser stated it would be interesting to reference that this is one of the earliest large developments in the southern area of the county. Johnston inquired as to whether the old street names could be incorporated into the plaque.

The Hill-Gibson house was discussed, and the information was accurate, no comments were made from the committee.

PROJECT UPDATES – VERBAL UPDATES

Historical Display Case

Jakes stated the historical display case has been completed along with the tri-fold brochure that contains detailed information on each of the schools within the display case. Johnston stated staff could put an article in the Cottage Grove Reports to inform residents the project is completed, and the information is available.

Certified Local Government Grant (CLG) 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 Mississippi Landing development and that photographs documenting the house were obtained. Staff also stated other items such as doors, barn wood, and part of the wall were preserved in order to be utilized for a display case at the future Mississippi Landing park building.

Historic Properties Conditional Use Permit – Code Language Revisions

Jakes provided the committee with an update that the Historic Properties Conditional Use Permit has been added into the code. In addition, staff provided the uses that would be permitted with the permit and the process for issuance.

Langdon Village – Ground Penetrating Radar/SWCTC Video

Jakes provided the committee with an update on the schedule of the Langdon Village privy dig. The dig was scheduled for April 20, 2024, and committee members were invited to attend. Jakes also stated that the South Washington County Telecommunications Commission is producing a video on the history of the Langdon Village, which include the privy digging event.

HISTORIC INQUIRIES, ARTICLES, AND RESEARCH INFORMATION

7575 Lamar Avenue South – House History

Mroska stated the new property owner of 7575 Lamar Avenue South is searching for history on the property and its correlation to the Military Trail.

COUNCIL LIASON COMMENTS

There were none.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Grundhauser inquired as to the requirements for obtaining a valid Historic Properties Conditional Use Permit. Staff provided the list of requirements as listed in the city code.

Grundhauser inquired as to how staff's work of making historic information more accessible is progressing. Staff stated work is progressing as it relates to internal organization of information and scanning documents.

Grundhauser inquired about the Cedarhurst property and the current status. Staff stated a wedding venue user was interested but that there are no additional details at this time.

STAFF COMMENTS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Reckinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gall seconded. The motion passed unanimously 6-to-0, and the meeting was adjourned.