

**CITY OF SAINT PETER
HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, June 28, 2022
Community Center – St. Peter Room**

The Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) meeting was called to order by Chairperson Larry Potts at 5:30 pm. Commissioners Potts, Remo Alexandri, Joe Metzen, and Brian Oviatt were in attendance. Commissioner Dustin Sharstrom was absent. City staff present was City Administrator Todd Prafke. Visitors present included Melanie Marti, owner of Harbor Home & Gifts, Tom Torgrimson, owner of 214 South Minnesota Avenue and Matt Borowy, Bright Pixel Design.

Approval of Agenda

City Administrator Prafke amended the agenda by including two additional reports; Fire Station and Community Development Director position. A motion was made by Oviatt, seconded by Metzen to approve the agenda as amended. All voting in favor, the agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Metzen, seconded by Oviatt to approve the minutes of the May 31, 2022 regular meeting. All members voting aye, the minutes were approved as presented.

Sign Permit Application – 213 South Minnesota Avenue (Melanie Marti)

City Administrator Todd Prafke stated that Melanie Marti is opening a retail home and gift store at 213 South Minnesota and has submitted a sign permit application as well as a request to repaint the existing painted area of the store front.

Prafke explained that the initial application submitted by Ms. Marti proposed a 5' X 18' (90 square foot) sign, however, after a conversation with Ms. Marti, she had agreed to reduce the sign to 75 square feet in order to meet the guidelines set forth in the City Code.

Because of peeling paint from the stones on the facade of the building, Ms. Marti is also requesting approval to allow for the repainting of the entire painted portion of the facade. City Administrator Prafke noted that painting of historic brick buildings is generally prohibited, but if a building has been previously painted, the HPC has encouraged repainting of the structure rather than removal of the existing paint using abrasive sandblasting or a chemical peel application that is damaging to the brick.

Ms. Marti addressed the Commission to report the proposed sign would consist of a white background with dark grey script and block lettering.

Oviatt suggested adding a border around the perimeter of the sign to better delineate between the store front and the sign. Ms. Marti expressed no objection to the addition of a border.

A motion was made by Oviatt, seconded by Metzen to approve a 75 square foot sign with the addition of a border, and to approve repainting (white paint) the rock and façade below the second-floor windows. All members voting aye, the motion carried.

Privacy Fence – 214 South Minnesota

Scott Torgrimson, owner of 214 South Minnesota, addressed the Commission to request authorization to install a privacy fence on the north side of his property to block what he felt was unsightly property directly to the north.

He stated that residents from the neighboring property are throwing garbage and loitering on his property which he felt was a liability issue.

Oviatt suggested that an open gate be erected versus a solid fence so it doesn't look like a panel.

Torgrimson had no objection to an open gate and further stated that he would like to put up a wrought iron gate to allow access from the front of the property. Torgrimson also mentioned that he may want to add a matching fence on the south side of the property in the future.

Alexandri asked if there would be enough room to maintain the property between Torgrimson's property and the fence and was assured by the applicant there was adequate space.

Commission members suggested the property owner consult with the architect that designed the building to obtain input as to the type of the fence that would complement the property.

City Administrator Prafke reported the fence can be six feet (6') tall without obtaining a permit, but that the fence design has to be approved by the Commission.

101 South Minnesota Avenue

City Administrator Prafke reported on the property at 101 South Minnesota Avenue which had been heavily damaged in a fire. Prafke noted the insurance claim is not yet settled, but suggested a timeline be established by the Commission in order to move the project forward to rehabilitation or other options. He also indicated that at this time, there has been no action taken to secure the roof.

Fire Station – 227 West Mulberry Street

City Administrator Prafke indicated that once the new Fire Station is built, the City will be marketing the existing station located at 227 West Mulberry Street. He suggested that the Commission take a short tour of the outside of the current station and provide input and criteria they would like included in the request for proposals for repurposing of the existing station and provide suggestions to the City Council that would allow the Council to prioritize new uses for the existing building.

Potts suggested holding the meeting at the fire station since the Commission will be there on a tour.

Preservation Façade Easements

City Administrator Prafke expressed concern that the Commission members did not have a clear understanding of the HPC's role related to the previously proposed preservation façade easements and reminded members the HPC does not have a direct role in the process other than approving façade renovations in the Heritage Preservation District. With that noted Prafke

also mentioned that individual members could participate by becoming part of a group that is involved with the easement program.

Members had additional discussion about the process and more specifically why Tom Hagen and Nicollet County Historical Society Director Jessica Becker had been involved in HPC discussion on the topic of easements.

City Administrator Prafke explained Hagen and Becker were seeking public support for the establishment of a process in Saint Peter and they believed the HPC would help facilitate that goal.

In light of the Commission's discussion, Prafke reported he would extend an invitation to Michael Koop of the State Historic Society Office to attend an HPC meeting for additional discussion.

410 South Minnesota Signage– Matt Borowy

Bright Pixel Design Architect Matt Borowy appeared on behalf of a sign permit application for Saga Beauty Selective at 410 South Minnesota Avenue and would like to put up a sign depicting their business location. Borowy reported the proposed sign would be silver (aluminum lettering) and would be placed above the canopy which would act as a shelf.

Because of the multiple businesses within the property at 410 South Minnesota Avenue, Prafke suggested that an overall plan for signage be submitted for Commission review. He indicated that each individual sign will also need to be submitted for HPC approval.

Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made Oviatt, seconded by Metzen to adjourn. With all members voting aye, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.