



2020 Annual Report

Saint Peter
Heritage Preservation
Commission

Commission Membership

Lawrence Potts <i>(Chairman)</i>	(2021 – 2023)
Terry Bergemann <i>(Vice Chairman)</i>	(2019 – 2021)
Judy Douglas	(2019 – 2021)
Joe Metzen	(2018 – 2020)
Brian Oviatt	(2019 – 2020)
Sharon Litynski	(2020 – 2022)
Emily Bruflat	<i>Council Liaison</i>

Commission Staff

Russ Wille	Community Development Director
Cindy Moulton	Administrative Secretary

Façade Renovation Reviews

408 South 3rd Street: (3rd Street Tavern)

Approved the design and installation of public art to be placed on the north façade of the tavern. The painting is to be produced on a canvas that would be installed on the building. The painting of the brick was prohibited.

422 South Minnesota Avenue: (Ameriprise Financial)

Approved the installation of Marvin Essential double hung windows on the north and west facades of this noncontributing structure within the Heritage Preservation District.

211 Nassau Street: (It's About Time)

Approved the relocation of the business signage as the operations were relocated to the Nassau Street location. This is a noncontributing structure within the Heritage Preservation District.

220 South Minnesota Avenue: (Extra Innings Paninos)

Approved the design and display of the proposed sandwich board sign.

201 South Minnesota Avenue: (Arrow Hardware & Paint)

Approved the repainting and alteration of the graphics of the advertisement on the Park Row façade of the store.

201 South Minnesota Avenue: (Arrow Hardware & Paint)

Authorized the design and colors of the new signage proposed to be displayed on the Minnesota Avenue awning. The alteration was necessary given the rebranding of the store as its affiliation with Ace Hardware

326 South Minnesota Avenue: (Thrivent Financial)

Approved the color, design and installation of an awning above the doorway on the Grace Street façade of the structure. The awning frame is to be customized to fit the doorway and arched opening. The alteration is due to Thrivent's alteration to their corporate logo.

314 South 3rd Street: (Lorentz Bookkeeping)

Approved the installation of new windows on the second floor of the building. Also approved the installation of a coating of EIFS upon the bottom three feet of the north and south building walls

300 South Minnesota Avenue: (Thrivent Financial)

The Commission approved the alteration of the awning graphic as Thrivent has altered their corporate logo. Franchisees are required to provide for the alteration as per their contract.

217 South Minnesota Avenue: (Reckless Boutique)

Approved an alteration to the existing wall sign. The text "Reckless" replaces the name of the previous retail operation. The balance of the sign will remain unaltered as to design, color, size and placement.

213 South Minnesota Avenue: (Free Bird Gifts)

Approve the repainting of the storefront given that it had previously been painted. The applicant was instructed that the approval required the painting of the second store window trim.

The Commission denied the installation of a cedar slat awning system. Staff consulted with the State Historic Architect at SHPO to support the motion to deny installation.

**The applicant was unable to finish the desired painting before environmental conditions did not allow for the completion of the painting.*

Site Visits / Tours

Due to the Covid-19 virus concerns, there were no site visits or tours scheduled for the Heritage Preservation Commission in 2020.

Others

Central Business District – Accessibility Enhancement Program

The City Council has established the Central Business District / Accessibility Grant Program to finance building improvements which enhance the accessibility for those with mobility impairments.

A total of three, push-button, automatic door opening systems were installed with the expenses paid by the interest from the revolving loan fund(s) administered by the Saint Peter Economic Development Authority.

The opening systems were installed at the following addresses:

324 South Minnesota Avenue.....Riley-Tanis & Associates
109 West Grace Street.....Kind Vet Clinic
310 South Minnesota Avenue.....Swedish Kontur Imports

Based on the perceived success of the 2020 program, the Council has reauthorized the acceptance of applications for a 2021 grant cycle. With applications due in two weeks, seven requests have already been received for review.

All renovations within the locally adopted St. Peter Historic Commercial District will still be reviewed and approved by the Commission. As such, there may be properties which will not be fully ADA compliant if the renovation would require inappropriate alterations to a historic building façade.

State Preservation Conference:

Commission staff attended the virtual preservation conference.

Section 106 Review (227 West Mulberry Street) – Saint Peter Fire Station

Staff led the Commission through a Section 106 review of the Saint Peter Fire Station given the pending relocation of the Fire Department to a new structure to be built on Sunrise Drive.

The Commission made the following determination:

“The potential demolition of the Saint Peter Fire Station at 227 West Mulberry Street would adversely impact the character and appeal of the Saint Peter Heritage Preservation District, Saint Peter Commercial Historic District and the individual properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Upon the relocation of the fire department, any pending sale of the property to a third party should require the preservation of the current structure as it is repurposed for another use and occupancy.”

Meeting In A Box

Staff led the Commission and attendees through the “meeting in a box” process to assist the State Historic Preservation Office with the development of a revised preservation plan.

The Commission and guests determined that the three biggest threats to Historic Preservation are as follows:

1. The economy.
2. Lack of historic resources.
3. The public does not value historic preservation as they should.

The Commission and guests were asked why they thought historic preservation was important and appropriate. The top answers are as follows:

1. Preservation of cultural identity.
2. Provide an educational component.
3. Enhances the economic vitality of the district.

Robo Bros – Post Office Handicapped Ramp

As part of the curriculum of a statewide robotics competition, the teams were challenged to address a dilemma unique to the town from which they live. A group of Saint Peter youths are participating in the program. They have named themselves the Robo Bros.

The team attempted to address the lack of handicapped accessibility of the Saint Peter Post Office.

The team planned and design the installation of a handicapped ramp that would be sympathetic to the historic nature of the Post Office which was built in 1911.

The Robo Bros made a presentation to the Heritage Preservation Commission who were impressed by the planning and enthusiasm of the team. Intending to crowd source funding for construction of the ramp, the team was very

disappointed when the Postmaster indicated that there was no conceivable way to accept the donation and installation.

“A community without a knowledge of its past is like a person with amnesia. It can exist and function from day-to-day, but its lack of memory leaves it without a feeling of purpose, direction or identity.” - Hy Berman