

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
EDINA HERITAGE PRESERVATION BOARD
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2006, AT 7:00 P.M.
EDINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY AT ARNESON ACRES
4711 W. 70TH STREET**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bob Kojetin, Chris Rofidal, Arlene Forrest, Laura Benson, Karen Ferrara, Nancy Scherer, Lou Blemaster, and Ian Yue

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marie Thorpe

STAFF PRESENT: Joyce Repya, Associate Planner

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Vogel, Preservation Consultant
Edina Historical Society Members

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Chairman Kojetin thanked the Historical Society for hosting the December meeting of the Heritage Preservation Board. All present introduced themselves, after which Kojetin explained how Arneson Acres came to be the home of the Historical Society.

II. THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE HERITAGE PRESERVATION BOARD – HPB Consultant, Robert Vogel:

Consultant Vogel explained that the Heritage Preservation Boards and Historical Societies are commonly confused. However, the Heritage Preservation Board is actually part of the city government, whereas a Historical Society is usually a non-profit corporation, operating independent of city government.

The Heritage Preservation Board is advisory to the City Council and its members are appointed by the Mayor and Council. The HPB is guided by City Ordinances #801 and 850.20 and oversees designated properties by means of a plan of treatment. The plan of treatment is established to address the unique characteristics of each designation. In the case of Edina's Country Club District, there is one landmark designation for the district with 550 pieces.

One of the hardest tasks for the Heritage Preservation Board is to determine which properties warrant designation. The goal is to select those places which

identify the local history and can be preserved. Once properties have been designated, the Heritage Preservation is responsible for overseeing changes as set out in the individual plan of treatment designed for the designated property.

Annually, the Heritage Preservation Board evaluates the activities of the previous year and establishes their goals for the coming year. The beauty of the Heritage Preservation Board's way of doing business is that if they see something is not working, or in need to be reevaluation, they do so – they are flexible and focused on getting it right.

Mr. Vogel further explained that the Historical Society is in the memory business, but due to the concentration with the past, the activities of both groups sometime overlap. The mission of educating the public regarding the history of the city is probably the most significant common goal.

Chairman Kojetin thanked Mr. Vogel for enlightening both groups about their similarities and differences. He added that the common goal of education is a perfect segway to the next item of business.

II. NATIONAL TRUST CONFERENCE – OCTOBER 1-6, 2006 PLANNING A FIELD SESSION HIGHLIGHTING EDINA:

Consultant Vogel reminded the Board that at their November 14th meeting, Amy Mino, Director of the Landmark Center explained the activities being planned surrounding the upcoming National Trust Conference in the Twin Cities next October. Ms. Mino invited Edina to host one of the 30 field sessions that will be offered to conference attendees.

Mr. Vogel explained that the field sessions usually precede the conference and provide an all day tour experience, highlighting the areas historic significance. The deadline for submitting proposals to the planning board is the first week of January, so timing is of the essence. Mr. Vogel shared that he is a member of the planning board and thought between the efforts of the Heritage Preservation Board and the Historical Society a very interesting session could be presented highlighting historic preservation in the suburbs which is a hot topic these days, but a novel idea for the Trust.

Discussion ensued regarding how the day long session would proceed. Some suggestions included starting at City Hall for an overview of the city, moving on to the Cahill School and Grange Hall to provide a one room school house experience with the assistance of the Cahill teacher. A tour of the Country Club District was suggested as a must do experience, with lunch at the Historical Society at Arneson Acres.

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Members of both the Historical Society and the Heritage Preservation Board shared their enthusiasm for the proposed project. Mr. Vogel pointed out that if a proposed session is accepted, once the Conference was over, the City would have an excellent tour/presentation that could be offered to groups within the community. Chairman Kojetin added that there is currently an historic tour of the City in the works which could be used as a starting point.

No formal action was taken. However, it was agreed that after the first of the year a planning session would take place.

III. OTHER BUSINESS: None

IV. NEXT MEETING DATE: January 9, 2007

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Repya