

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
EDINA HERITAGE PRESERVATION BOARD
TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2006, AT 7:00 P.M.
EDINA CITY HALL – MAYOR’S CONFERENCE ROOM
4801 WEST 50TH STREET**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bob Kojetin, Marie Thorpe, Chris Rofidal, Lou Blemaster, and Ian Yue

MEMBERS ABSENT: Laura Benson, Karen Ferrara, and Arlene Forrest

STAFF PRESENT: Joyce Repya, Associate Planner

OTHERS PRESENT: Nancy Scherer, Edina Planning Commission

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Member Thorpe moved for approval of the minutes from the March 14, 2006 meeting. Member Rofidal seconded the motion. All voted aye. The motion carried.

II. ARCHITECTURAL STYLE GUIDE PRESENTATION:

Referring to a book provided to all the HPB members entitled “A Field Guide to American Houses” by Virginia & Lee McAlester, Consultant Vogel explained the evolution of historic architecture in the Midwest and particularly in Minnesota. Mr. Vogel pointed out that prior to 1950 less than one half of all Americans owned their own homes and the sense of “neighborhood” was a concept that evolved as the percentage of home ownership increased.

Member Kojetin observed that he found the book to be very informative and suggested that if one is researching a particular architectural style, most of the pertinent information can be found in the first few paragraphs of the relative chapter.

Discussion ensued regarding the numerous architectural styles highlighted in the book and the interesting details provided for each. Board members agreed that “A Field Guide to American Houses” will be a valuable resource. No formal action was taken.

III. ANNUAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION AWARD:

Planner Repya explained that the deadline to submit applications for the 2005 Heritage Award is Friday, April 14th. To date, no applications have been received.

Board members discussed potential nominations for the award as well as the possibility that no qualifying applications will be received. Member Thorpe observed that the previous recipients of this award – The Baird House, The Edina Theater Sign and The Morningside Neighborhood all represent excellent examples of historic preservation. To present the award randomly, without the recipient meeting the criteria established for the program would be a disservice. Board members agreed and determined that if by Friday, no qualifying applications are received, no heritage award would be presented for 2005.

IV. 2006 GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

Board members reviewed the goals and objectives that were identified in 2005, then reviewed the following goals and objectives Consultant Vogel recommended for 2006:

- Complete the Comprehensive Heritage Preservation Plan.
- Initiate a city-wide survey of significant properties associated with the heritage of Edina women.
- Work with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and others to develop long-range plans for preservation and heritage interpretation at the Edina Mill and Mill Pond sites.
- Increase efforts to provide city officials with information, education and training in heritage preservation.
- Work with Public Works, Parks and other city departments to ensure that historic properties are taken into account in planning for city infrastructure maintenance and improvements.
- Increase public education and outreach efforts.

Board members found the second item, the survey of women associated with significant properties to be very intriguing. Mr. Vogel explained that the turn of the century was a pivotal point for women in America. At that time, the design of homes started to take into account the work of the “woman of the house”. He pointed out that the bicycle was also an important liberator for women. Mr. Vogel added that much is known about George Baird and Jonathan Grimes, however it would be interesting to find out more about Sarah Baird and Mrs. Grimes.

Member Rofidal pointed out that to increase education and community outreach is an important item that was identified at the joint meeting with the City Council in January. He added to update the heritage preservation information on the City's website will be an important start to opening communication with the community. Board members agreed.

A brief discussion ensued regarding all the items identified. No formal action was taken.

V. SOUTHDALÉ'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY:

Consultant Vogel observed that this coming October will be the 50th Anniversary for the Southdale Mall. Since Southdale has been identified in the City's Historic Context Study under the Shopping Mall Culture (1955 – 1974 chapter), it seems apparent that the mall warrants recognition on this milestone anniversary.

Member Kojetin stated that the Edina Historical Society is planning something for the mall's anniversary. Planner Repya suggested that the Heritage Preservation Board partner with the Historical Society in the anniversary celebration. Board members agreed that would be a worthwhile project. A brief discussion ensued, after which Mr. Kojetin promised to keep the Board advised as the plans for the anniversary celebration unfold. No formal action was taken.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Rambler Preservation Workshops – Edina Community Center

Member Rofidal announced that two workshops on the history and preservation of the rambler are being offered at the Edina Community Center on Thursday, April 13th and May 10th. The workshops are offered by the Midwest Preservation Institute in collaboration with the Edina Community Educational Services.

B. Morningside's Final Celebration of their 100th Anniversary

Member Kojetin advised the Board that the Edina Historical Society will have a final celebration of Morningside's 100th Anniversary on May 10th. He will provide more information to the Board as it becomes available.

C. Street Name Change – W. 56th Street to Surrey Lane

Member Rofidal explained that he lives on W. 56th Street which he has learned was originally named Surrey Street or Avenue. However, when the plat was filed in 1947, it was decided to use the name W. 56th Street to coincide with the street

on the east side of what is now Highway 100. Once Highway 100 was updated the rationale for using the numbered street name no longer applied.

Mr. Rofidal pointed out that the other streets in the neighborhood have the English names such as Kent, Windsor, Richmond and Warwick. Several neighbors would like to start a campaign to change the name of the street from W. 56th to Surrey. The process involved includes a petition from the residents of the street and perhaps some endorsements from groups such as the Heritage Preservation Board and the Historical Society. Mr. Rofidal asked if it would be appropriate for the HPB to support the initiative.

Consultant Vogel indicated that if the City didn't have a problem with the name change and the rationale for the change was based on the history of the area, it would not be inappropriate for the HPB to express an opinion.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the name change. Member Rofidal thanked the Board for their input and agreed to keep them posted on the project.

VII. **NEXT MEETING DATE:** May 9, 2006

IX . **ADJOURNMENT:** 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Repya