

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of the**  
**Edina Heritage Preservation Board**  
**Edina City Hall – Community Room**  
**November 7, 2011**  
**7:00 p.m.**

I. **ROLL CALL 7:00 P.M.**

Answering roll call were Chairman Stegner, and Members Ahlstrom, Anger, Carr, Curran, Davis, Moore, Rehkamp Larson, Schwartzbauer, Copman and Ellingboe.

Staff present was Planner Joyce Repya; also present was Robert Vogel, Preservation Consultant.

II. **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

Member Carr asked that the updating of the City's web site be added to the "Chair and Board Member Comments" section of the meeting. Member Curran moved to approve the meeting agenda with the addition of the updating of the City's website added to the "Chair and Board Member Comments". Member Carr seconded the motion. All voted aye. The motion carried.

III. **MINUTES APPROVED Regular meeting of October 11, 2011**

Member Carr moved approval of the minutes from the October 11, 2011 meeting of the board. Member Curran seconded the motion. All voted aye. The motion carried.

IV. **COMMUNITY COMMENT None**

V. **REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**A. Heritage Resources Inventory**

Consultant Vogel provided the Board with detailed information outlining the responsibilities of the HPB as well as an up to date status of the heritage landmark properties, an inventory of historic resource studies, and the scope of the preservation work currently underway.

Mr. Vogel explained that the State Historical Society (SHPO) has a statewide database of paper files with a computerized catalog that is not remotely accessible. The inventory for Edina contains paper files for 626 surveyed properties within Edina's city limits (550 of which are homes in the Country Club District). Much of the survey data in SHPO's inventory is quite old and many of the files have not been updated in over two decades.

Mr. Vogel pointed out that due to time and funding constraints, the review and organization of the inventory files has not been a high priority for the HPB in the past. However, the mass of the data with over 1,000 paper files has become overwhelming. Keeping the files up to date is a time-consuming task and some of the newest survey data has yet to be integrated into the inventory. That being said, all of the files are securely stored and while the data is bulky, it can be retrieved when needed by city staff.

Mr. Vogel concluded the he recommended the following action items for the HPB to update the historic resource inventory:

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1. Merge the SHPO, City Hall and consultant inventories into a single set of paper files to be known as the Edina Heritage Resources Inventory and locate the files in the city planning department.
2. Integrate the results of the Edina Country club District re-survey, Morningside Neighborhood reconnaissance survey, and Morningside bungalow multiple property study with the master Edina Heritage Resources Inventory.
3. Develop a fully operational computerized catalog system to provide rapid, easy access to critical management information based on location, name of property, resource type, use, date of construction, and significance.
4. Prepare Minnesota Architecture-History Inventory Forms for all surveyed properties that are not included in the current SHPO inventory.

Member Carr thanked Mr. Vogel for the thorough report stating that the information was helpful to see the big picture regarding Edina's historic resources. Board members agreed, adding that they found it interesting that in this electronic age so little has been done on the State level to provide electronic accessibility to historic resource information. Member Curran commented that Edina's resource inventory from SHPO is dated from 1998...reason enough to bring the data into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Member Davis pointed out that Edina's historic assessor's files dating back to the 1950's are stored at the Edina Historical Museum, however they do not have staff to evaluate the inventory. Chairman Stegner stated that it would be important to evaluate the data available on the historic resources and then determine a structure for organizing the information.

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of providing Edina's historic resource data in an electric format that could be accessed by the public. Chairman Stegner commented that creating an up to date electronic database of Edina's historic resources is a project that has not been addressed, yet if done correctly, could be a model replicated in other communities.

Member Davis moved that Chairman Stegner appoint a subcommittee of three people to report at the January meeting on the potential for creating an electronic historic resource inventory for the City. Member Curran seconded the motion. All voted aye. The motion carried.

Chairman Stegner asked for volunteers to serve on the historic resource inventory subcommittee. He, Member Moore and Member Davis volunteered. Consultant Vogel agreed to provide the subcommittee with the State's Survey Manual.

Board members agreed that solidifying a thorough and current historic resource inventory would serve to advance the preservation of those resources in the community.

Following a brief discussion Member Rehkamp Larson moved that the HPB create a calendar with inventory and grant time lines using the current annual work plan as a template. Member Ahlstrom seconded the motion. All voted aye. The motion carried.

Chairman Stegner suggested that as a long term project, the Board review the properties currently listed as eligible for landmark designation to compare with potential properties currently not identified which could be added to the list. Consultant Vogel agreed that including long term projects with the work plan was an excellent idea and suggested that referring to the Heritage Preservation section of the Comprehensive Plan where the goals are established would be helpful.

The Board thanked Mr. Vogel for the valuable information – pointing out that they now better understand the previous work of the HPB with an eye on planning for future.

**B. 5015 Wooddale Lane – Royal Barry Wills, Architect, 1939**

In 1939, the home at 5015 Wooddale Lane was constructed as part of an architectural experiment. Life Magazine in collaboration with Architectural Forum Magazine selected four families in four income groups in the east, south, mid-west and far west areas of the country, and eight of the most prominent architects in America to draw plans for traditional and modern type homes affordable to the respective families. A “traditional” Cape Cod style home was designed for Edina’s Blackburn family priced in the \$5,000 to \$6,000 range by renowned New England architect, Royal Barry Wills.

While this home has been identified in the City’s historic resource inventory, Member Moore brought it to the attention of the Board along with clippings from Edina’s 1939 “The Crier” newspaper when the construction and marketing of the home was chronicled. The Board agreed that the information was fascinating and wondered if the current owners were aware of the history of their home. Planner Repya agreed to send a letter to the owners outlining the history of their home with an invitation to discuss the potential for landmark designation. Chairman Stegner was joined by the remainder of the Board in thanking Member Moore for sharing the interesting newspaper clippings on the Royal Barry Wills home. No formal action was taken.

**C. Construction of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church Video 1936-1938**

Member Moore shared a 13 minute movie highlighting the construction phases of St. Stephens Episcopal Church from the 1930’s. Mr. Moore explained that his grandfather served on the building committee for the church and periodically had his son (Moore’s father) take movie footage of the construction from the early days when the land was being cleared to the time when the church was nearing completion.

Since the movie provided by Mr. Moore was in an 8-track format, Planner Repya arranged to have the City’s communications department download the movie to YouTube which enabled the Board to view the film.

After the viewing, the Board expressed their thanks to Member Moore for sharing this valuable piece of Edina’s history. It was agreed that the film would no doubt be of interest to the community; and it was pointed out that

since St. Stephen's Church received the 2011 Preservation Award, perhaps the film could be incorporated into the upcoming televised meeting. Chairman Stegner also thanked Member Moore for sharing the movie with the Board – pointing out that it provided an excellent segway to the next item on the agenda. No formal action was taken.

**D. Plans for December 13<sup>th</sup> Televised Meeting**

Chairman Stegner reminded the Board that in response to the City Council's request that one meeting a year be televised, it has been arranged for the next HPB meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> to be videotaped. To accommodate the production staff, the meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers.

A discussion of the meeting content ensued. It was agreed that in addition to any potential Certificate of Appropriateness applications, it would be a good time to review the Board's 2011 activities, as well as the work plan and future projects that have been identified.

Referring back to the film of the St. Stephen's Church construction, it was pointed out that since the movie has no sound, perhaps background music could be added to enhance the viewing.

Chairman Stegner stated that once the deadline for COA submittals has passed, it will be easier to establish the agenda for the December meeting. He agreed to work with Planner Repya on a potential power point presentation and the format of the meeting and report to the Board prior to December 13<sup>th</sup>. No formal action was taken.

VI. **CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS**      **None**

VII. **CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

**A. Southdale Center Update**

Member Moore reported that he and Member Anger met with Planner Repya to review the Southdale information she had in her files. They also plan on visiting the Edina Historical Society to review their information with the ultimate goal of creating a master book of scanned files.

Member Anger stated that it would be great if the Southdale owners recognized the importance of identifying the artifacts from the center's early days. Consultant Vogel commented that it appears the owners need to get a handle on what artifacts remain and where they are located.

Member Carr pointed out that there may be a foundation such as the Target Foundation that would be interested in supporting a Southdale artifact restoration project. Board members agreed, adding that there are most likely TV footage and press materials from Southdale's early days that could be used to spark interest from the public.

Chairman Stegner thanked Members Moore and Anger for their work thus far; pointing out that with the upcoming 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the City in 2013, the timing of this project is perfect.

**B. GrandView District Small Area Study**

Chairman Stegner reported to the Board that since the October meeting Planner Repya, he and Consultant Vogel attended a work session of the GrandView District Small Area Study committee that focused on the history of the area. Also in attendance were members from the Edina Historical Society and Jerry's Foods. The information was very interesting and focused on the development of the area since 1912 as well as influential residents that lived in the neighborhood. The purpose of the work session was to provide the committee and consultants an historic backdrop they will take into consideration in their planning process.

**C. Updating of the City's Web Site – Member Carr**

Member Carr recognized that the City's communication's department is in the process of re-doing the City's website and pointed out that this might be a good time for the HPB to provide input regarding the need for an interactive element whereby interested parties have the ability to access information. She added it would be wonderful if through the website, the HPB could emphasize education and heritage preservation awareness. Following a brief discussion, Planner Repya agreed to report back to the Board on how the updated website will impact their mission.

**VIII. STAFF COMMENTS**

Planner Repya provided the Board members with copies of the completed "Thematic Study of Heritage Resources Associated with Women in the City of Edina". The project, funded by a matching Certified Local Government Grant" will be coupled with previous studies to provide contextual information regarding the impact of women on Edina's heritage resources.

Board members stated that they have been anxious to receive the finished study. It was agreed that they wanted ample time to review the information, and since the December meeting will be televised, they would discuss the study at the January 2012 meeting.

**IX. NEXT MEETING DATE** December 13, 2011

**X. ADJOURNMENT** 8:55 P.M.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Repya**