

City of Excelsior
Hennepin County, Minnesota

Minutes
Heritage Preservation Commission
Special Meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 2016

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Commissioners present: Anderson, Brabec, Caron, Finch, Schmidt and Chair Macpherson

Commissioners absent: Salita

Also present: City Planner Smith and Bob Bolles

Chair Macpherson called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

2. Discuss the Period of Significance for the Downtown Historic District

Smith presented the staff report. Anderson presented a memo that he, Caron and Salita worked on. Anderson stated that Period of Significance does not have to be static but can change over time. Caron stated that SHPO would require a Period of Significance for any district or property proposed to be designated at the local level. Finch asked how this would pertain to individual properties. Caron stated that each individual building outside the downtown historic district would have their own Period of Significance.

Schmidt quoted the National Register's definition of a historic district. The district defines a character. Adding buildings should be consistent with the character of the district. Chair Macpherson said the HPC does not designate buildings but only recommends designated.

Anderson stated that historic districts do not have to have one Period of Significance. Brabec asked the question of what happens 50 years from today with all the buildings being constructed now. Macpherson stated that even within the 2nd and 3rd Street block, there's different style architecture.

Schmidt stated that research that he has done has indicated that the 50 year rule is a rule of inclusion rather than exclusion. Finch believes the district needs to change over time. Schmidt asked about the Period of Significance to the District versus individual buildings. Macpherson stated the district is not architecturally cohesive.

Macpherson stated that the Commission is not discussing if the Hour Glass Cleaner and Excelsior Professional Building at this time, but just discussing the framework of how the Commission should determine if the Period of Significance should change in the future.

When reviewing changing the Period of Significance, Caron suggests that the Commission only has to review buildings recommended to be adding and all

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non-contributing buildings. An analysis of all buildings within the district is not necessary.

Staff will look at other buildings within a Period of Significance of 1965 around the existing historic significance.

Schmidt left the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Finch motioned that future meetings be considered Work Sessions instead of a special meeting. Motion carried 5/0.

3. Adjournment

Commissioner Brabec moved, Commissioner Caron seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 p.m. Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Smith
City Planner