

**Heritage Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2022**

Members Present: Ron Dwyer, Rob Kuhlman, Lee Nordmeyer, Karl Vohs, and Chair Sauer

Members Absent: Cori Weems and Sam Temple

Staff Present: Peter Waldock

1. Call to Order

Chair Sauer called the meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Chair Sauer introduced Kuhlman and thanked Nordmeyer for returning.

2. Approval of Minutes of January 19, 2022 meeting.

Commissioner Nordmeyer made a motion to approve the January 19, 2022 meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Dwyer. Motion passed on a 5/0 vote.

3. General Heritage Preservation Items

- A. Citizen Comment Period – None.
- B. Presentation & Discussion of Rice County Development Concepts for the LEC Block

Waldock began the presentation regarding An informal discussion of the block between 1st Ave and 2nd Ave. Rice County is required by State regulations to upgrade the County Jail facility. Due to the extensive reconstruction needed to meet current State standards for this facility along with other facility needs, the County has determined it is best to build a new LEC at a different site. They intend to repurpose the current LEC building for use by other County Departments (Corrections and Parks & Facilities) and possibly redevelop the balance of the block. Representatives of Rice County and Wold Architects will be in attendance to present and discuss four concept plan options being considered for the LEC Block, located between 3rd and 4th Streets NW between 1st and 2nd Avenues NW.

The LEC block is located outside of the Heritage Preservation District. The east portion of the block along 1st Avenue NW is within the Downtown Sign District. The County-owned portion of the block adjoins a small portion of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) area boundary in the southeast corner of the block. None of the county-owned property is within the NRHP area of the Downtown. The Heritage Preservation Commission does not have official regulatory jurisdiction here (since it's outside of the historic districts), but the County is interested in the City's comments and feedback regarding the concepts being considered.

4. Design Reviews - None.

5. Items of Discussion

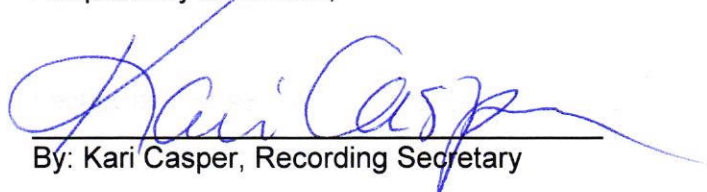
- A. Continued Discussion of Demolition by Neglect

The Commissioners have asked to revisit the topic of " Demolition by Neglect" for continued discussion. The Commission members have listed this topic as a priority concern for Heritage Preservation in the City. As noted during a recent review of Johnston Hall, Farmers Seed and Nursery and the original Woolen Mills building, the cost of necessary restoration of historic buildings can greatly exceed the building's value, making it financially unfeasible to restore or even repair to the extent needed to preserve them.

6. Adjourn

A motion was brought by Dwyer and seconded by Nordmeyer to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



By: Kari Casper, Recording Secretary