

October 15, 2019

To: Mayor Pownell and City Council
Cc: Ben Martig, City Administrator
Dave Bennett, City Engineer



From: *Save the Northfield Depot*

Re: Update on Depot Project

The depot site continues to be a hub of activity – particularly with the recent work on the driveway construction. With this memo and attachment, *Save the Northfield Depot* would like to update the City Council on our progress that has taken place since our last update to the Council in April.

Depot Interior Progress

Painting. Volunteers have completed the painting of all of the door, window and wainscoting trim that was installed early in the summer.

Lighting. The newly installed hanging “school house” style lights and sconces create a warm, inviting space.

Flooring. The maple flooring was recently installed over the layer of concrete added in 1944. The original maple flooring under the concrete was not possible to salvage.

Interior stairway. Maple stairway to the basement has been installed.

Yet to be completed:

- Install and paint baseboard.
- Apply finish to stairway and interior side of exterior doors.
- Enclose interior stairway in basement as required by fire code.

Depot Exterior Progress

Trim. The final pieces of the trim have been added to the top of the exterior south wall. The original south wall was removed in 1944 when the freight house was attached but was rebuilt after the depot move using the 1888 blueprints.

Lights. Period exterior light fixtures were restored by a volunteer and mounted under the 8’ overhang. The one remaining original light mounting was used as a model.

Yet to be completed:

- Installation of Order Board: See 2017 Annual Report for photo and details.
- Railings: On the steps of the two track side exterior doors and on the steps of the exterior stairs to the basement.
- Ramp: A handicapped accessible ramp at the north end at the main double door entrance.
- Benches: Installation of donated period depot benches; archival photos show two exterior benches on the track side.
- Safety fence and sidewalk: Addition to track side extending from 2nd Street to 3rd Street for safety of those visiting the depot, attending events, and using the transit hub.
- Depot “platform”: About 1,200 reclaimed Purington Street Paver Bricks were recently donated and will be installed on the track side of the depot.

Sculpture Garden Progress

Limestone walls: The stone mason has built three limestone sitting walls and the circular center wall in sculpture garden; stones are from the original foundation of the depot.

Water feature: The metal basin for the water feature has been installed in the circular center wall; water and electricity connections are in place. The water feature incorporates 1886 bollards from the original 2nd street bridge and were donated to the project.

Yet to be added:

- **Plaza pavers.** Pavers will be delivered next week and installed soon.
- **Water feature elements.** The bollards and water tubing yet to be installed.
- **Landscaping.** Over 100 plants and shrubs were donated by the Northfield Garden Club and two citizens early in the summer and cared for by two volunteers. They have been planted in temporary locations for the winter and will be replanted next spring.

City Collaboration

As you are aware, a condition of the 2012 agreement with the City was recently exercised, i.e., our transfer back to the City any portion of the property needed for a transit hub. The City staff has been very understanding and cooperative given the close proximity of two active construction sites and some of our materials on areas to which they needed access for their infrastructure.

Funding

Union Pacific Grant. *Save the Northfield Depot* (STND) was recently notified of our successful application for a \$10,000 grant to assist in building a safety fence and path between the railroad track and the depot complex. STND and the mayor have been invited to the 2019 Union Pacific Foundation Awards event in Lilydale on October 16.

Fund Raising. Thanks to our community, the historical building was saved from destruction and its renovation is nearing completion. This fall and winter, *Save the Northfield Depot* will engage in major fund raising efforts. The community responded with critical support when the project was started; community support can now get the project to the finish line!

Status of 2010 Project Goals: We are pleased to note the progress made towards the initial goals:

- **Historic Preservation:** Preserve a key part of Northfield's heritage. ✓
- **Sustainability:** Reuse existing buildings and materials. ✓
- **Beautification:** Remove blight; create a visual community asset and welcoming gateway. ✓
- **Education:** Create awareness among current and future generations of the important role of railroads in Northfield history. ✓
- **Build Community:** Provide a community gathering place. (coming soon)
- **Economic Development:** Provide a catalyst to the development of the west side. (in process)

Attachment: Restoration Progress (see next page)

Restoration progress: Northfield 1888 Milwaukee Road Depot

October 2019

North Wall



2016



2019

1944 false ceiling removed; original ceiling height restored. Added crown moulding using original size and pattern

1" of plaster added in 1944 removed from surface of original v-board walls. Original walls and wainscoting repaired and painted. Flooring installed.

Window, door and wainscoting trim installed and painted. Lights installed.

West Wall



2016



2019

1944 double door removed and original station master bay restored with three windows.

Original doorways on each side of bay that were converted to windows in 1944 were restored; 1888 blueprints used for customized doors and transoms.

Window, door and wainscoting trim installed and painted. Lights installed.

South Wall



2016



2019

Window, door and wainscoting trim installed & painted.

←

Volunteer hand crafted 34 rosettes for corners of window and door trim; commercial versions were too small. →



In Progress:

Permanent Interior Stairs



2019: Carpenter installed maple stairway to the basement; wood finish will be added to match new flooring.

Sculpture Garden



2019: Original depot limestone foundation pieces not used on the new foundation were used to build the Sculpture Garden stone seating walls and the center circle. Two sculptures were installed; two trees planted. To be added: water feature in center circle, pavers on the surrounding plaza, plants surrounding the sitting wall and garden paths.