

ACC Meeting Report, February 8, 2021

Agenda Items relating to the historic district but no HPC authority:

- 1) **1% for the Arts.** The City Council approved the first reading of the 1% for the arts: the dedication of one percent of the total cost of any new infrastructure capital improvements towards public art. It had been voluntarily implemented by practice since 2017.
- 2) **Arts Corridor Banners.** A sub-committee of the ACC has identified the location and sizes of 16 banners on the Arts Corridor (from the Arts Guild Theater to the Riverside sculpture, *Threshold*). They are currently identifying an artist and funding sources.
- 3) **Sculpture at #3 & 3rd.** The committee has met with John Sterner, the selected Native American artist, to review and comment on his concept models for the commissioned sculpture of an American eagle, to be placed on the sculpture pad at the northeast intersection of Highway 3 and 3rd Street .
- 4) **Young Sculptor’s Project.** Work on the high school student’s metal sculpture stopped a year ago due to COVID but they plan to resume next month. They will be working and pouring metal castings both in an artist’s studio in the Twin Cities and in the metal shop at NHS. It will replace the earlier student sculpture at the corner near the Library.
- 5) **Temporary sculpture:** The heart-shaped sculpture that has been on loan at the intersection of Highway 3 and Third Streets is scheduled to be removed in April.

Agenda Items relating to the historic district involving the HPC.

- 1) **Mural Policy.** The Creative Placemaking Subcommittee that wrote the draft indicated that more research and study is needed regarding the approval process and identification of best practice regulations regarding designated historical areas. The draft has been shared with City staff.

Transportation Advisory Committee

Items not relating to Historic District but could involve Locally Designated Historic Building (the depot).

1) Passenger Rail

The Northfield rail corridor is designated as eligible for passenger service connecting South Central to both of the Twin Cities. The corridor includes two potential routes between Northfield and the Twin Cities, and an auxiliary east-west line that provides connections to Mankato, Rochester and Winona via Owatonna . A bill (HF1393) has been introduced (Rep. Lippert) to authorize \$500,000 in general funds in FY2021 for required study and alternatives analysis.

Items relating to the Locally Designated Historic Building involving the HPC.

2) Transit Hub

The City has indicated that the primary construction work on the transit hub project will take place in the Summer 2022.

Note: If the depot is re-assessed as an historic site, the HPC is likely to be asked to comment on the design of the planned adjacent pavilion and transit hub. The agreement to transfer the property from the City to Save the Northfield Depot indicated that if the City made plans to construct a transit hub on the remaining property, that portion would be conveyed back to the City (which has taken place) and included the following conditional clause:

“Further, in such event, the City agrees that any structures to be constructed in connection with the Transit Hub shall be architecturally compatible with the Depot.”