

Jan Gilblom

**EDA – Nov/Dec meetings**

**Relating to Historic District – HPC authority**

**Façade Improvement Grant Program –**

The Façade Improvement Grant Program was approved by the EDA on 12/19/19. The Program district extends from Second Street to Sixth Street along Division Street and to all buildings within the Historic District, except for the Post Office. Businesses within this defined district may apply for a maximum of \$10K in matching (1:1) funds to support a variety of exterior building façade improvements. Proposals within the Historic District must be reviewed and approved by the HPC. The EDA will provide a total of \$20K/year for this competitive program and will review the program's criteria and success annually. Applications for 2020 will be accepted between February 1 and March 15. A full description of the program may be found at <https://www.ci.northfield.mn.us/753/EDA-Grants-Loans>.

**Relating to Historic District – No HPC authority**

**5<sup>th</sup> Street Lofts Project:** The sale of the property at 510 Washington St. to Rebound/Stencil Group is expected to close around mid-January. Construction financing for Rebound/Stencil has been approved, and Premier Bank is awaiting approval from the Federal government for its site move. Because the Lofts project will result in a substantial increase in impervious surface area, a concern about increased runoff within the downtown area was raised. Staff will check with Public Works to ensure that storm sewer capacity within the downtown area is adequate.

**Update on Little Joy Coffee:** The business is serving over 200 guests per day, with about 90% of those being repeat customers. As of November, they employed four full-time and 1 part-time employee. During its first six months of operation, the owner estimates Little Joy returned about \$55K to the local community through wages and patronage of other local merchants, e.g., Just Foods and Brick Oven.

Barb Evans

**EDA and Park & Rec. as of Jan. 23, 2019:**

Economic Development Authority:

Nothing that directly involves the HPC in their minutes since my last report.

They are meeting today, Jan. 23rd. On that agenda are the typical beginning of the year activities for city business, election of officers, etc.

The other items have to do with the properties that they own or are selling (to

Rebound) for the Lofts project.

Park & Recreation Advisory Board:

Nothing for the HPC in their recent minutes.

They will be dealing with the results of the Park and Rec Survey. Bridge Square was the only one of the Parks that are in the Historic District and that might connect to the results of the survey.

Alice Thomas

**ACC Meeting Report, January 13, 2020**

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

- 1) Artist on Main Street - The Artists on MainStreet initiative (a grant received by the NDDC) with temporary installations will be repeated next summer.
- 2) The kiosk at the Family Fare corner has been completed; it contains extensive stained glass work.
- 3) Components of a RFP was approved by Council this week for the round-about and underpasses on #246 by the middle school The proposal contains art using the 1% for the arts, i.e., \$30,000 and includes public art such as the each of the underpasses such as interior walls, areas leading up to the pedestrian entrances, as well as the pad behind the roundabout monument sign. There will be a PARC committee but won't include the HPC since it isn't in the Historical district.

**Agenda Items relating to the historic district involving the HPC.**

- 1) Downtown Banner Design.

Since the last update, the new banners were installed downtown. PARC review committee that approved the design included an HPC member.

- 2) New Arts Banner type. (see 11-7-19 report for background)

The ACC subcommittee has not yet moved forward with soliciting designs and funding sources for the new banner types, "artistic banner" for the Arts Corridor and other areas. The HPC is likely to be a member of the PARC review committee for the banners.

- 3) A subcommittee of the ACC is looking at adding a mural policy to the Public Art Policy, and addressing the question of defining a "cultural district."

**Transportation Advisory Committee**

Note: I do not believe the committee has met, but below is an account of activities in the area of which I am aware.

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

- 1) Passenger Rail (see 11-7-19 report for background)

The development of the line for passenger rail that was approved for study. MnDOT approved the passenger rail line for study and included a request for funding in the state bonding bill for that required feasibility study of the line using existing mainline rail infrastructure that will originate in the Twin Cities, pass through Northfield with spurs in Kansas to TX and CA. No state action on bill.

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

**2) Transit Hub** (see 11-7-19 report for background)

The City submitted a Transit Hub bonding request for the 2020 legislative session for the transit hub, pavilion and related parking. Committees from both the House and Senate visited the site. The project made the Governor's recommended list of projects.

When the pavilion and Transit Hub building are built, there will be consideration of compatible architecture and any linkage between the pavilion and the depot. The contract between the Depot group and the City indicates that the Transit Hub "shall be architecturally compatible with the depot" but does not clarify the source of the judgment of compatibility. The plans will come before the HPC.