

ST. ANTHONY FALLS HERITAGE BOARD

BIENNIAL REPORT 2004-2005

TO: MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

FROM: St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board

Laws of Minnesota for 1988, Chapter 684, Article 1, Sections 13-18 [138.761] established in Minnesota Statute (138.761-766) the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Interpretive Zone encircling the Mississippi River in downtown Minneapolis as well as a St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board with the purpose of developing “a comprehensive plan to interpret historical resources in that area to start the process of encouraging development of that area’s historical resources.” Sections 13-17 charge the Board with developing and implementing a comprehensive interpretive plan for the St. Anthony Falls area, complementing existing planning and development activities on the riverfront by using state, federal and local funding for historic preservation.

The St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board hereby issues this report, as required in Section 15, Subdivision 1. This is the ninth biennial report to be filed.

St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board Membership

The Laws of Minnesota for 1988, Chapter 684, Article 1, Section 15, as amended in 1996, states that the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board be comprised of 22 members from the following entities: Minnesota Historical Society, Mayor of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Hennepin County Board of Commissioners, Minnesota House of Representatives, Minnesota State Senate, Minneapolis City Council, Minnesota State Review Board, Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission, Hennepin County History Museum, and citizen appointees by the Park Board (one) and by the Chair of the Board (two).

Members of the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board:

2004:

Nina Archabal, Director, Minnesota Historical Society
R. T. Rybak, Mayor, City of Minneapolis
Randy Johnson, Chair of Hennepin County Board of Commissioners
Jon Olson, President, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Jon Gurban, Superintendent (Interim), Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Representative Keith Ellison
Representative Arlon Lindner
Senator Linda Higgins
Senator Lawrence Pogemiller
Barbara Johnson, Member, Minneapolis City Council
Don Samuels, Member, Minneapolis City Council
Peter McLaughlin, Hennepin County Board of Commissioners
Mark Stenglein, Hennepin County Board of Commissioners

Walt Dziedzic, Member, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Bob Fine, Member, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Steven Edwins, State Review Board
Phillip Koski, Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission
Donna Stephenson, Board Member, Hennepin History Museum
Patrick McCormack, Minnesota Historical Society
Don Nikkola, Appointee, Minneapolis Park And Recreation Board
Sage Cowles, Appointee, Minnesota Historical Society
John Sarna, Appointee, Minnesota Historical Society

2005:

Nina Archabal, Director, Minnesota Historical Society
R. T. Rybak, Mayor, City of Minneapolis
Randy Johnson, Chair of Hennepin County Board of Commissioners
Jon Olson, President, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Jon Gurban, Superintendent (Interim), Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Representative Keith Ellison
Representative Char Samuelson
Senator Linda Higgins
Senator Lawrence Pogemiller
Barbara Johnson, Member, Minneapolis City Council
Dean Zimmerman, Member, Minneapolis City Council
Peter McLaughlin, Hennepin County Board of Commissioners
Mark Stenglein, Hennepin County Board of Commissioners
Walt Dziedzic, Member, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Bob Fine, Member, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Steven Edwins, State Review Board
Phillip Koski, Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission
Donna Stephenson, Board Member, Hennepin History Museum
Empty, Minnesota Historical Society
Don Nikkola, Appointee, Minneapolis Park And Recreation Board
Sage Cowles, Appointee, Minnesota Historical Society
John Sarna, Appointee, Minnesota Historical Society

**Summary of meetings and actions taken by the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board,
2004 – 2005.**

February 26, 2004

Meeting Location: Mill City Museum, ADM Conference Room

Ian Stewart, Acting Chair, introduced new Board members and organization representatives. Mr. Stewart shared the names of new appointments that were absent and announced his retirement from the Minnesota Historical Society at the end of March.

Approved the minutes from the meeting of November 18, 2003.

Ann Calvert, Community Planning and Economic Development, shared plans to light the Stone Arch Bridge in honor of the 2004 Grand Excursion. The plan calls to light the pattern of the arches and the trestle. Permission is being sought from the bridge owners (MNDOT) and the city is being asked to be the lead on the project. Fundraising and the lengthy approval process are underway.

Board Coordinator Deborah J. Johnson presented the work plan and budget for 2004. The budget and work plan were unanimously approved. The following projects received funding:

- \$57,700 for the St. Anthony Falls Interpretive Plan evaluation and revision project.
- \$40,000 for Mill Ruins Park Lower Tailrace Area Design/Engineering
- \$25,000 for Reuse Study on the Grain and Feed Elevators and Wheel House of the Washburn Milling Complex
- \$10,000 for Research and Script for Living History Character Emily Goodridge Grey
- \$10,000 for Contract Facilitators for Minneapolis Riverfront District Signage and Wayfinding Master Plan.

Ms. Johnson announced a public meeting to be held at Mill City Museum on March 11 to inform residents and business owners within the Minneapolis Riverfront District about the Pillsbury A Mill redevelopment plans and the Minneapolis Riverfront District Signage and Wayfinding Master Plan.

November 18, 2004

Meeting Location: Mill City Museum, ADM Conference Room

Approved the minutes for the meeting of February 26, 2004

The following progress reports and project updates were heard:

- *Mill City Museum*: John Crippen (Board Secretary) reported that the museum's first year of operation has been a success. Attendance met projections, and the programs have been well received. He distributed a list of the many awards the museum has received, including the Honor Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Award of Merit from the American Association of State and Local History.
- *Mill Ruins Park*: Rachel Ramadhyani (Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board) provided an overview of the progress on the next phase of development for Mill Ruins Park. Despite initial bids coming in much higher than predicted, the project is going forward and should be under construction in the spring of 2005.
- *Guthrie Theater, Chicago Plaza, Mill Quarter Parking Ramp*: Ann Calvert (Community Planning and Economic Development) reported that the Guthrie Theater is on schedule to be open in the spring of 2006. During the summer of

- 2005, Chicago Avenue will be extended to 2nd St., and Chicago Plaza (between Mill City Museum and the Guthrie) will be completed. Plans include stairs that connect the plaza to West River Parkway.
- *Stone Arch Bridge Lighting*: Ann Calvert reported that progress is being made to secure approvals for a design that will not create adverse effects to the integrity of the stone. Project planners are hopeful that the lighting can be completed by July 2005.
 - *Fuji-Ya and Crown Hydro sites*: Jon Olson briefly reported that the Park Board has approved the sale of the Fuji-Ya site to a developer who plans to build townhomes on the site. Mr. Olson also reported that the Park Board's legal counsel has responded to the possibility of the Crown Hydro site being taken by eminent domain.
 - *Pillsbury A Mill*: John Crippen reported that the city is in the process of conducting an Environmental Impact Study for this proposed development.

Shundreya Robinson, a staff member at Mill City Museum, presented her portrayal of Emily Goodridge Grey. This early settler in St. Anthony is the latest history player to debut at the museum; the research and development costs for this program were funded by the Heritage Board.

March 8, 2005

Meeting Location: Minneapolis City Hall, Room 333

Approved the minutes for the meeting of November 18, 2004.

Nina Archabal, Chair, led introductions of Board members and organization representatives.

Mike Cronin, coordinator for the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) of the Pillsbury A Mill project, reported that the EIS has been forwarded to interested parties for comment. The purpose of this review is not to select a preferred project among the four listed in the EIS, but to verify that all projects meet the necessary qualifications. The final decision on whether to move forward with this development project will rest with the City Council.

John Crippen, Board Secretary, informed the committee that a number of projects have been completed since the board's last meeting in November. Of note:

- *Signage and Wayfinding Plan*: recently printed.

- *Interpretive Plan Analysis and Revision*: the City of Minneapolis, through its Department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED), has taken the lead on an effort to hire a consultant to research the possibility of a new riverfront corporation for Minneapolis. If grant money is received, the project will go forward to review riverfront needs. Phase I of this project, which is expected to be complete by the end of 2005, would include a review of what is already in place along the riverfront and what needs to be done to continue the work.

Mr. Crippen provided an overview of the recommended proposals for funding in 2005. It was recommended that the board consider creating guidelines for the use of its funds. Concerns were raised about the need for visual cohesion in the Heritage Zone, and it was recommended that the brochure and kiosk projects adhere to design concepts in the Signage and Wayfinding Plan.

The 2005 budget and work plan was adopted unanimously. Projects receiving funding were:

- \$3,000 for printing the “Bridges” Brochure
- \$30,000 for Prototype Wayfinding Signage Design and Implementation
- \$23,500 for Minneapolis Riverfront District Walking Tour Map and Brochure
- \$10,000 for Research and Script for Living History Character, Franklin Steele
- \$25,000 for DIG IN! Pilot Public Archeology Program
- \$10,000 for adding the St. Anthony Fall Heritage Zone Profile to the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area’s Mississippi River Kiosk system and to install one of these kiosks within the Heritage Zone.
- \$15,000 for Parcel D Archeology Study, the land to be developed for the St. Anthony Mills Apartments, as it may include the location of a historic railroad roundhouse.
- \$20,000 for Contamination Cleanup Consultant for B. F. Nelson Park Site

Mayor Rybak informed the board that progress has been made in efforts to light the Stone Arch Bridge. Fundraising has begun, and the project is expected to move forward sometime soon. In addition, 50 new trees will be planted along Washington Avenue, between 13th Avenue and the site of the new Minneapolis Public Library. Funding for these trees has come from a \$100,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

June 28, 2005

Meeting Location: Mill City Museum, ADM Conference Room

Approved the minutes for the meeting of March 8, 2005.

Orlyn Miller, Director of Planning and Architecture for the University of Minnesota, and Jim Litsheim, Senior Architect for Capital Planning and Project Management, presented the University’s plans for building improvements along the riverfront, including the construction of a rowing facility at the location where the University’s showboat used to

dock, expansion of the Weisman Art Museum, possible demolition of the Science Classroom Building to make way for a new student services facility, renovation of the Educational Sciences Building, continued restoration of the Southeast Steam Plant, and potential renovation of the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory. The only building that falls within the Heritage Zone is that of the St. Anthony Falls Lab.

Nina Archbal detailed the Heritage Board's past funding practices. She highlighted two important principles that have guided the Heritage Board since its inception:

- Four member agencies of the Heritage Board contribute planning funds annually. On the basis of an annual work plan and budget, the Board uses these funds to support the planning and design of projects that advance the Board's Interpretive Plan (1990).
- The Heritage Board is not an employer and does not use its funds to compensate the work of the staff of member agencies.

There was consensus that the Heritage Board establish funding guidelines in conjunction with the upcoming review and analysis of the 1990 Interpretive Plan, and prior to development of the 2006 budget. It was also recommended that an organizational chart that diagrammed how Heritage Board decisions are made would be helpful for new board members.

Mr. Crippen provided an overview of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's request to receive matching funds to hire a contamination cleanup consultant for the B.F. Nelson Park site. This project was not included in the original Heritage Board budget for 2005 because at the time, the MPRB had not heard if it had received an Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Cleanup Grant. MPRB has been officially awarded this grant, and is asking that the Heritage Board consider its proposal to provide the 20% local match needed to meet the terms of the grant. Upon a motion made by Mr. Dziedzic and seconded by Mr. Edwins, the proposed addendum to the Calendar-Year 2005 budget was approved.

Mr. Crippen stated that the Heritage Board, at its March 2005 meeting, had approved funding for the design and implementation of six prototype signs from the Signage and Wayfinding Plan. Mr. Dziedzic made a motion to approve the use of the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Trail Maintenance Fund to cover maintenance costs beyond basic repairs for the prototype signs during their 4-5 year testing phase. Mr. Edwins seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Other business and announcements were addressed:

- Mr. Crippen announced that he has been receiving calls about the Heritage Board's position on De La Salle's efforts to construct a new football stadium on Nicollet Island. In response to these inquiries, he has been stating that the plan is a land-use issue, and that it does not appear that historic resources will be affected by the plan.
- Mr. Crippen reported that the Environmental Impact Statement for the Pillsbury A Mill has been finalized and approved by the City Council. The developer is

- working on plans to bring to the Heritage Preservation Commission and the Planning Commission
- Mr. Crippen provided board members with copies of two new brochures funded by the Heritage Board – “The History and Bridges of the Minneapolis Riverfront District” brochure and the “Minneapolis Riverfront District” brochure.

November 29, 2005

Meeting Location: Minneapolis City Hall, Room 333

Approved the minutes for the meeting of June 28, 2005.

David Frank of the 106 group gave a presentation on the work of Schafer Richardson to develop the Pillsbury A Mill complex. The project includes work on eleven separate buildings, and is on the January 10 agenda of the Minneapolis HPC.

John Crippen (Board Secretary) and Anne Ketz (the 106 Group) presented an update about the interpretive plan, highlighting projects that have been completed as a result of the plan, and mentioning some preliminary findings from the first workshop of board

members and stakeholders. Next steps include a second workshop and further analysis by the 106 Group and members of the SAF Heritage Board Technical Advisory Committee.

This report is respectfully submitted on May 12, 2006:

Nina M. Archabal, Chair
St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board

John Crippen, Coordinator
St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board