

## ST. ANTHONY FALLS HERITAGE BOARD

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### BIENNIAL REPORT 2008-2009

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 eleventh 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:**

##### 2008:

Nina Archabal, Director, Minnesota Historical Society  
R. T. Rybak, Mayor, City of Minneapolis  
Randy Johnson, Chair of Hennepin County Board of Commissioners  
Bob Fine, President, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
Jon Gurban, Superintendent, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
Representative Jim Davnie  
Representative Augustine “Willie” Dominguez  
Senator Lawrence Pogemiller  
Senator Linda Higgins  
Barbara Johnson, Member, Minneapolis City Council

Diane Hofstede, 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  
Jon Olson, Member, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
Phillip Koski, Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office  
Kevin Kelley, Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission  
Bob Glancy, Board Member, Hennepin History Museum  
Michael Fox, Minnesota Historical Society  
Don Nikkola, Appointee, Minneapolis Park And Recreation Board  
John Sarna, Appointee, Minnesota Historical Society  
Kathleen Clarke Anderson, Appointee, Minnesota Historical Society

2009:

Nina Archabal, Director, Minnesota Historical Society  
R. T. Rybak, Mayor, City of Minneapolis  
Mike Opat, Chair of Hennepin County Board of Commissioners  
Liz Wielinski, President's Designee, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
Jon Gurban, Superintendent, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
Representative Phyllis Kahn  
Representative Bobby Champion  
Senator Lawrence Pogemiller  
Senator Linda Higgins  
Barbara Johnson, Member, Minneapolis City Council  
Diane Hofstede, Member, Minneapolis City Council  
Peter McLaughlin, Hennepin County Board of Commissioners  
Mark Stenglein, Hennepin County Board of Commissioners  
Scott Vreeland, Member, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
Bob Fine, Member, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
Linda Mack, Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office  
Kevin Kelley, Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission  
Bob Glancy, Board Member, Hennepin History Museum  
Michael Fox, Minnesota Historical Society  
Stephanie Gruver, Appointee, Minneapolis Park And Recreation Board  
John Sarna, Appointee, Minnesota Historical Society  
Kathleen Clarke Anderson, Appointee, Minnesota Historical Society

**Summary of meetings and actions taken by the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board,  
2008 – 2009.**

February 4, 2008:

Meeting Location: Minneapolis City Hall, Room 333

Nina Archabal, Chair, welcomed new Board member Kevin Kelley and expressed appreciation for Philip Koski returning as a Board member.

The Board approved the minutes from the meeting of December 3, 2007.

Board Coordinator John Crippen provided a summary of changes made to previously approved projects. Mr. Crippen reviewed the current state of Heritage Board funds. Commissioner McLaughlin suggested that a summary report of capital funds leveraged by the board would be appropriate for its 20th anniversary.

Individual project leaders gave overviews of the 2008 project proposals. On a motion from Mark Steinglen, seconded by Peter McLaughlin, the Calendar Year 2008 Budget and Work Plan was approved after a brief discussion.

Projects receiving funding were:

- \$4,000 for Riverfront 2008 Brochure Printing
- \$6,300 for Minneapolis Riverfront District Walking Tour Map and Brochure
- \$15,000 for Theme (Birthplace/First Place) research
- \$10,000 for Washington Avenue Historic Research
- \$5,000 for Then and Now Photography
- \$20,000 for Riverfront Revitalization Oral Histories
- \$3,500 for Holidays at the Mills—1920s
- \$12,500 for Old St. Anthony/East Bank Research
- \$25,000 for Questing on the Riverfront
- \$2,500 for Stone Arch Bridge Anniversary Celebration
- \$20,000 for Song of the North Star—Student Admissions

Thomas Zahn of Zahn & Associates presented the findings of his board-funded reuse study on the Washburn-Crosby Elevator No. 1. Mr. Zahn provided a brief history of the grain elevator, which was originally part of the Washburn-Crosby Milling Complex and currently adjoins Mill City Museum, owned by the Minnesota Historical Society. Mr. Zahn outlined the many challenges faced in rehabilitating a building that is not only architecturally unique in its design, but has also sat vacant and unused for almost two decades, leading to some stabilization issues.

#### July 21, 2008

Meeting Location: Mill City Museum, ADM Conference Room

The Board approved the minutes for the meeting of February 4, 2008.

A progress update on the St. Anthony Falls Interpretive Plan was heard and discussed:

1. Results from Audience Research: John Crippen provided a summary of the audience research conducted by Cincinnatus Inc.
2. Community Input: In addition to the audience research to date, staff intend to get more input from a variety of groups within the community about the new plan.

Board members brainstormed various audiences and constituents that are valuable and resourceful to the Heritage Zone.

3. Timeline for Remaining Planning: The Board determined that the December timeline for remaining planning was realistic. A request for proposals will be released in the fall, with staff assessing whether the current budget is adequate for the full planning project.
4. Discussion of Vision & Scope: A lengthy discussion regarding the vision and scope of the interpretive plan ensued, based upon the draft written by staff. The vision contains a combination of aspirational statements and accomplishments that should be maintained into the future. There was general consensus that the vision was sound, and merely needed some editing for clarity.

Terry Ward from the Minnesota Department of Transportation gave a brief presentation on the history and progress of the new 35W bridge.

Ms. Archabal noted that 2008 marks the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Heritage Board and thanked the board members and organizational representatives for their hard work through the years.

#### December 15, 2008

Meeting Location: Minneapolis City Hall, Room 333

The Board approved the minutes for the meeting of July 21, 2008.

David Stevens from the Minnesota Historical Society gave a brief presentation showing the progress of the St. Anthony Falls Then & Now photo project, a 2008 budget Board-funded project. The results will be exhibited at Mill City Museum in October with the possibility for a publication in the future.

Laura Salveson, also from the Minnesota Historical Society, made a brief announcement for an upcoming program at Mill City Museum, "An Eventually Christmas: Holidays at the Mill," which was also a 2008 budget Board-funded project.

Dr. Fotis Sotiropoulos provided a power-point lecture on the history, background, and current research being conducted at the University of Minnesota's St. Anthony Falls Laboratory.

The Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment, which was recently approved by Minnesota voters, was briefly discussed by board members. The amendment is in place for 25 years, and calls for 19.75% of the funds to be used for Minnesota heritage.

Ms. Archabal acknowledged Board members Augustine Dominguez and Philip Koski, who are leaving the Board at the end of the year.

March 9, 2009

Meeting Location: Minneapolis City Hall, Room 333

Approved the minutes for the meeting of December 15, 2008 as written.

Nina Archabal presented an overview of the history of St. Anthony Falls Interpretive Plan. Board Coordinator John Crippen provided an overview of the planning process to date, including the committee's process and rationale that resulted in the selection of Cincinnatus as the team to hire for the project. The Cincinnatus team was introduced—Diane Herman as the principal focusing on strategic planning and facilitation, Jim Roe focusing on historical interpretation and audience engagement, and Greg Ingraham focusing on urban planning and landscape architecture.

Mr. Crippen provided a brief overview of the 2009 budget and work plan. Diane Hofstede moved approval of the budget, John Sarna seconded the motion, and the budget passed unanimously.

The following projects were approved and received funding:

- \$4,000 for Riverfront 2009 Brochure Printing
- \$8,000 for Minneapolis Riverfront District/Downtown Walking Tour Map and Brochure
- \$10,000 for Theme Research 2010 (transportation
- \$25,000 for First People, First Stories
- \$5,000 for Canoe Crossing Event
- \$15,000 for Railroad Event
- \$12,500 for Transportation Study
- \$5,500 for Story Boats
- \$14,000 for "Meeting of the Minds" Theater Piece
- \$25,000 for Greening of the Riverfront Program Series
- \$5,000 for Parcel A Rail Corridor Interpretation
- \$100,000 for Interpretive Plan Supplemental Funding

Kit Richardson of Schafer-Richardson offered an update on his firm's efforts to pass a historic preservation tax credit in the 2009 session of the state legislature. There was consensus from board members to have staff investigate this initiative further to determine if Heritage Board involvement is advisable.

July 20, 2009

Meeting Location: Mill City Museum, ADM Conference Room

The Board approved the minutes for the meeting of March 9, 2009.

Board Coordinator John Crippen again provided an overview of the St. Anthony Falls Interpretive Plan Development planning process to date, including a re-introduction of the core consultant team from Cincinnatus. The consultant team then gave a lengthy

presentation and update on the status of the Interpretive Plan and the timeline for completion.

Accessibility to the Heritage Zone and Minneapolis Riverfront continues to be a strong concern for Board Members that they would like addressed in the Interpretive Plan. Safety, lack of amenities, and striking a balance between development and protection of the area's natural resources were also issues raised by several Board Members. There was strong consensus that further discussion was needed before moving ahead with the plan

December 14, 2009

Meeting Location: Minneapolis City Hall, Room 333

Chair Nina Archabal also took a moment to recognize departing Board member Walt Dziejczak for his service to the Board and his many years of advocacy for the riverfront.

The Board approved the minutes for the meeting of July 20, 2009.

The Cincinnatus team presented an overview of the finalized St. Anthony Falls Interpretive Plan. The final plan presents a 25-year vision and specific 10-year goals and strategies. On a motion from Kathleen Clarke Anderson, seconded by Mark Stenglein, the Board agreed to accept the finalized Interpretive Plan as a conceptual plan for future action and vision.

The Board discussed how best to put the plan into action. Consensus was that the Board should first gain a sense of commitment from the individual entities, and concurrently refine the 3-year action steps towards the longer range goals. Once this process is complete, there should be a process to engage the public in discussion and hold public meetings. On a motion from Diane Hofstede, seconded by Kathleen Clarke Anderson, the Board agreed to extend the Cincinnatus contract to include assistance with Interpretive Plan presentations to the partnering entities and to refine the action steps.

**This report is respectfully submitted on May 7, 2010:**

Nina Archabal, Chair  
St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board

John Crippen, Coordinator  
St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board