

**The 545th Meeting of the Red Wing Heritage Preservation Commission  
Regular Meeting  
City Council Chambers  
October 1, 2025**

**Members Present:** Commissioners Kent Tsui, Lottie Aslakson, Paul Pflueger, and Sue Dicke

**Members Absent:** Chair Brooke Reinke and Commissioner Jenifer Majerus (excused absences), and Commissioner Ruth Nerhaugen.

**Others Present:** Steve Kohn, Planning Manager / Staff Liaison; Janie Farrar, Council Liaison

**1. Call to Order**

Commissioner Tsui called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Roll call was conducted. Commissioners Tsui, Dicke, Aslakson, and Pflueger were in attendance.

Chair Reinke and Commissioner Majerus previously indicated they would be absent.

Commissioner Nerhaugen was absent and unexcused.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Staff Liaison Kohn asked if Item 6C could be added to the agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Tsui, seconded by Commissioner Aslakson, to approve the agenda as amended. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 4:0.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**A. Draft Minutes from the September 3, 2025, Regular Meeting.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Dicke, seconded by Commissioner Aslakson, to approve the minutes as drafted. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 4:0.

**5. Public Comment**

Staff Liaison Kohn reviewed the public comment procedure.

No one wished to address the Commission.

**6. Motions and General Business**

**A. Design Review: A-Frame Sign for Adjourn at 413 Main Street.**

Staff Liaison Kohn provided background information and discussed the proposed A-frame sign project. He stated that the proposed sign meets all of the sign

ordinance requirements. He noted that staff recommends approval of the design review for the proposed A-frame sign.

A motion was made by Commissioner Aslakson, seconded by Commissioner Dicke to approve the design review for the proposed A-frame sign. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 4:0.

**B. Design Review: A-Frame Sign for Whimsy’s by Krista, 325 Main Street.**

Staff Liaison Kohn provided background information and discussed the proposed A-frame sign project. He stated that the proposed sign meets all of the sign ordinance requirements, and the Commission has approved signs like it in the past. He noted that staff recommends approval of the design review for the proposed A-frame sign.

Commissioner Dicke asked if there would be any concern with the number of signs on the sidewalk. Staff Liaison Kohn noted that every business gets one sign per business and discussed the requirements to be in compliance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dicke, seconded by Commissioner Pflueger to approve the design review for the proposed A-frame sign. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 4:0.

**C. Design Review: St. James Hotel at 406 Main Street.**

Staff Liaison Kohn provided background information and noted that, due to some unexpected finds during the teardown process, the project proposal is changing. He reviewed the original approved drawing of the storefront and noted what changes would need to be made due to what was found. He shared the proposed drawing of the storefront as it would be now with the changes. He also discussed that during teardown, they found some limestone where it was thought to have needed concrete, but now they would like to keep the limestone. He noted that approval was needed to keep a good timeline for the project. He stated that the brick has been approved for the project as well. He noted that staff are asking to accept the changes and that findings should not be changed based on approval at the last meeting.

Commissioners expressed support for the proposed design and noted some of the historical designs of the building. Staff Liaison Kohn stated that it is hard to know what some of the parts of the building were used for because the historical pictures do not show it.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dicke, seconded by Commissioner Aslakson to approve the design review for the changes to the St. James hotel. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 4:0.

**7. Communication Items**

**A. Staff Status Report.**

Staff Liaison Kohn thanked the Commission for being flexible with the projects.

Staff Liaison Kohn provided an update on the Eagle and the work that is being done to get the plan approved by the HPC.

Staff Liaison Kohn reported that the Hallstrom's Building is coming along and that many of the items that were approved are starting to be seen. He stated that the Gladstone project was shutting down the alley and causing some backup. He noted that the interior might be ready in as soon as 30 days. He noted that the Boxrud building is moving along and that tenants have moved into some of the apartments.

Staff Liaison Kohn provided an update on the Malting Building regarding the archeology study that has taken place in Phase 1. He added that he expects the HPC to get an update from them soon.

Staff Liaison Kohn noted that the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Barn Bluff took place. He also thanked the Commissioners who were at the ceremony for attending. He discussed that WCCO News would be doing a Finding Minnesota on the Lime Kiln.

Staff Liaison Kohn reported that Hanisch Bakery has almost wrapped up their project and is working on a few things that were required for approval by the HPC.

Staff Liaison Kohn discussed the need for businesses to have a permit to have A-frame signs outside of their business. He asked for ideas for the business owners who are trying to get more traffic on Sundays and want to put the A-frame sign on the corner to attract customers, but regulations do not allow that. Council Liaison Farrar asked about how the sign ordinance that was approved by the City Council affects the HPC. Staff Liaison Kohn noted that it does not really affect the HPC because of their own regulations for signs. Council Liaison Farrar asked how the Commissioners should respond if questioned about the sign ordinance. Staff Liaison Kohn noted that it could affect the downtown area a little bit, but most of the ordinance was improved to make it legally defensible in court.

Commissioner Tsui asked how the conference went. Staff Liaison Kohn noted that there was not much feedback at this point, but at the November meeting, they will ask the Commissioners who attended for an update.

Staff Liaison Kohn provided an update regarding the Eagle Scout project at the Goodhue County Poor Farm Cemetery.

## **B. Commissioner Comments.**

Commissioner Tsui commented on the ribbon-cutting ceremony and the specialness of Prairie Island tribal members being present.

Commissioner Pflueger commented on the A-frame signs, the importance of having businesses open on Sunday for the community, and encouraging or incentivizing

businesses to be open. Council Liaison Farrar noted that it is a good idea for the HPC to work with downtown Main Street or the Chamber to find out how the Commission can help figure out the best solution. Commissioner Pflueger expressed that anything the HPC can do to help businesses be open on Sunday would be beneficial. Staff Liaison Kohn provided a suggestion for a sign with a QR code and when businesses are open. Council Liaison Farrar suggested this might be something that is already in place and could be added too for Sunday. Commissioner Dicke suggested having an exception for Sundays. Council Liaison Farrar noted the free parking in the City and how that would help.

**C. Council Liaison Comments.**

Council Liaison Farrar further discussed the 2026 budget planning process and noted that a preliminary budget had been set.

**8. Adjournment**

Commissioner Tsui adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.