

**The 547th Meeting of the Red Wing Heritage Preservation Commission
Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
December 3, 2025**

Members Present: Chair Brooke Reinke; Commissioners Kent Tsui, Ruth Nerhaugen, Jenifer Majerus, Lottie Aslakson, and Paul Pflueger

Members Absent: Commissioner Sue Dicke

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Reinke called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted. Chair Reinke and Commissioners Tsui, Nerhaugen, Majerus, Aslakson, and Pflueger were in attendance.

Commissioner Dicke was absent.

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Majerus, seconded by Commissioner Tsui to approve the agenda as drafted. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6:0.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Draft Minutes from the November 5, 2025, Regular Meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tsui, seconded by Commissioner Nerhaugen to approve the minutes as drafted. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6:0.

5. Public Comment

No one wished to address the Commission.

6. Motions and General Business

A. Review Work Plan and 2025 Accomplishments.

Staff Liaison Kohn presented the Work Plan and went over what was completed in 2025 and noting that it was a very busy year for the Commission. The Commission went over the list and asked questions along the way.

Commissioner Nerhaugen asked if the Carriage Houses would be reviewed in the new year. Staff Liaison Kohn recommended doing so and taking a field trip to see the condition of the accessory structures.

Commissioner Nerhaugen stated that there are a lot of backlit lights/signs that cannot be reviewed by the HPC. Staff Liaison Kohn clarified that those lights are inside buildings. He noted that outside, the closest thing to that would be the halo letters, which give off a soft glow behind the letters. He explained that cabinet signs are not allowed in the B3 district in the Zoning Ordinance and that the work plan still includes signage lighting, but could probably come off the Work Plan. Commissioner Tsui stated that there are some issues with the lights that have been put up, which need to be addressed because of the color. Staff Liaison Kohn added that holiday lighting is allowed under the current ordinance. Commissioner Tsui added that defining what a holiday means is something that could be done. Chair Reinke asked if Commissioner Tsui was talking about string lights specifically. Commissioner Tsui stated that this is what has recently been put up. Chair Reinke asked if the lights are specifically holiday lights or if it is allowed to have other types of lights. Staff Liaison Kohn shared that if the lights are flashing or putting off too much light, then they can be looked at for compliance with City Code.

Commissioner Nerhaugen reminded everyone that the Commission talked about meeting with the Arts and Culture Commission to make sure everyone was on the same page about art installations downtown. Chair Reinke shared her love or the recent arts projects that have come downtown and her hope to see the projects continue, as they add to the things to see in the downtown area. Staff Liaison Kohn noted that the mitigation for the Malting Building needs to be done and could be a collaborative project with the Arts and Culture Commission. Chair Reinke asked if it would receive any sort of funding. Staff Liaison Kohn stated that it will all be done at the developer's cost.

The Commission continued the discussion of the list of items in the Work Plan. Staff Liaison Kohn noted that the teepee project may be a project for which the Commission is asked to collaborate, as it has been heavily involved in the past.

Staff Liaison Kohn shared specific information about the College Hill Area Neighborhood Survey and how it will most likely require a CLG grant for funding. Chair Reineke asked about delineating the initial boundaries for the consultant, and it works. Staff Liaison Kohn shared that he would have to look at past things that have been done to see where the edges are. Commissioner Nerhaugen asked if they had to be contiguous. Staff Liaison Kohn noted that they do not have to be. Staff Liaison Kohn discussed having the information about districts be a Work Session in the new year.

Commissioner Nerhaugen asked about the Jefferson School Building. Staff Liaison Kohn noted that the City has signed a purchase agreement to take it off the School's hands, and the first thing is what it would take to get the building on the National Register to help offset the costs. Commissioner Nerhaugen asked if the Commission would have a role in the process. Staff Liaison Kohn stated that it was discussed, but the Commission does not want to hold back the process at

all, so it may not be needed at this time, and it may be more of just comments from the Commission. Commissioner Nerhaugen asked if somebody would be looking at what is done with the building. Staff Liaison Kohn noted that, definitely at the very least, the Staff, but because it is not locally designated, not the Commission, at this time. He added that the HPC regulations are not set up to look at individual properties. Chair Reinke stated she would be interested in looking into some of the individual properties that could benefit from something like that.

Staff Liaison Kohn noted that item three in the Work Plan is where the Commission could add something about the Malting Project, and working with the developer to put up some sort of display. He noted getting a head start on Preservation Month. Chair Reineke added that if all Commissioners came up with potential award nominations to discuss at the January meeting, it would be helpful. She noted working with Fred Johnson on a presentation in some manner might be a good idea.

The Commission noted adding updated information about Barn Bluff on the Commission website. Staff Liaison Kohn noted adding the west teepee project to the list of things for the Commission as well.

7. Communication Items

A. Staff Status Report.

Staff Liaison Kohn shared that construction is ongoing at the Chief, Hallstrom's, the Eagle Building, and the St. James in downtown.

Commissioner Nerhaugen asked what happened to the marquee from the Chief. Staff Liaison Kohn noted that he did not know, but could ask.

Commissioner Nerhaugen asked what the Teepee Project is. Staff Liaison Kohn stated that the plaza around the teepee is being looked at to upgrade to new materials and also appropriate designs and expansion in Bay Point Park.

B. Commissioner Comments.

Chair Reinke asked if anyone attended the open house for Boxrud's that was held downtown. Commissioner Majerus noted that she attended when the ground floor was opened, but not the apartments. Staff Liaison Kohn added that he has been there several times, and it is very interesting as no apartment is the same because of layouts, but the big windows that face Main Street are pretty cool.

C. Council Liaison Comments.

Council Liaison Janie Farrar noted that the budget process is being finished. She added that the quiet zone for the train had passed, and the budget was much less than thought. She explained how the process would be done to make it all work.

8. Adjournment

Chair Reinke adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.