



Our Vision

Red Wing thrives as a vibrant, creative river town that values its natural environment, welcomes all people, and unlocks opportunity for everyone.

Our Mission

We strive to create a sustainable, healthy, accessible, resilient, and equitable community where every person feels at home.

Statement of Intent: We gather today in this room as one people to discuss and attend to the matters of Red Wing. Together, as a government body and as community members, we agree to treat everyone with courtesy, dignity, and respect. We will listen to all sides of an issue, encourage participation, support each other, act with honor and accountability, and inspire pride in our community. This we commit as we open this meeting.

Meeting Announcement and Agenda Heritage Preservation Commission Regular Meeting City Council Chambers, 315 West 4th Street, Red Wing, MN & Virtually Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 5:30 PM

This meeting will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers and virtually via Webex at the same time. Members of the public can join this meeting either in person at City Hall or virtually. [Join the meeting via Webex](#). To join via telephone, please dial (415) 655-0001. Enter access code 2555 854 0854 and password 2026 when prompted.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Agenda

4. Approval of Minutes

4.A. Draft Minutes from the August 12, 2026, Special Meeting

5. Public Comment

We now invite anyone to share their thoughts on a topic that is not on the agenda. We welcome all opinions and ideas. We appreciate you stating your name at the lectern, and please remember that personal attacks may be ruled out of order. You will have up to three minutes to comment, and we appreciate your time in coming tonight.

6. Motions & General Business

6.A. Design Review - Freestanding Signs for Christ Episcopal Church at 321 West Avenue

7. Communication Items

7.A. Staff Status Report (Verbal)

7.B. Commissioner Comments

8. Adjournment

Accommodations for signing interpreter, Braille, large print, etc. can be made. Call City Hall at 385.3600 seven days prior to the need. Hearing assistance devices are available during meetings.

**The 555th Meeting of the Red Wing Heritage Preservation Commission
Special Meeting
City Council Chambers
August 12, 2026**

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

Members Absent: Commissioner Nerhaugen (excused absence)

Others Present: Steve Kohn, Planning Manager

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, Goodwin, Majerus, Aslakson, and Pflueger were in attendance.

Commissioner Nerhaugen previously indicated she would be absent.

3. Approval of Agenda

Staff Liaison Kohn asked to add Item 6. F. Review Downtown Parking Signage.

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

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Draft Minutes from the July 1, 2026, Regular Meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Goodwin, seconded by Commissioner Majerus to approve the minutes as drafted. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried by a vote of 4:0 with Commissioners Tsui and Aslakson abstaining from the vote.

5. Public Comment

No one wished to address the Commission.

6. Motions and General Business

A. Design Review – Building Signage for El Tesorito Mexican Café at 303 Bush Street.

Staff Liaison Kohn shared background on the application and presented the information on the Design Review as found in the Agenda Packet.

Chair Reinke asked about the number of colors allowed on a sign. Staff Liaison Kohn explained that the limited number of colors is only for the lettering.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tsui, seconded by Commissioner Aslakson to approve the design review as submitted. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6:0.

B. Design Review – Porch Reconstruction on Front Façade at 822 W. Fourth Street.

Staff Liaison Kohn presented the design review as found in the Agenda Packet.

The Commission reviewed the parameters for form within the review regarding additions and demolitions, and this review is in a similar form to what was there.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tsui, seconded by Commissioner Majerus to approve the design review as submitted with the recommendation to reuse or recreate the dormer that was salvaged from the demolition of the porch roof. A vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6:0.

C. Design Review – Window Signs at St. James Hotel Complex, 406 Main Street.

Staff Liaison Kohn shared background on the application and presented the information as it appears in the Agenda Packet.

The Commission noted that the various signs have a cohesive feel and that they liked their look. The Commission agreed to let Staff approve the Coffee Shop sign when it is brought forward in the future.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tsui, seconded by Commissioner Goodwin to approve the design review as submitted and for Staff to have final decision on Coffee Shop signage. Following discussion, a vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6:0.

D. MnDOT CRU Section 106 Consultation Invitation – CSAH 1/CSAH 66 Roundabout.

Staff Liaison Kohn reviewed the consultation invitation from MnDOT and noted that there are no historic districts in the roundabout area. He stated that he did not see a reason for the Commission to be involved.

Chair Reinke asked if there would be general public involvement meetings. Staff Liaison Kohn stated this is a public process, but he is not sure that any public meetings were scheduled. He added some background information on what the project has been through in the past.

The Commission agreed that the Heritage Preservation Commission did not need to be directly involved in the project.

E. NAPC Forum Conference Review (Verbal).

Staff Liaison Kohn noted that there were many great reviews about the tour of Red Wing and that they enjoyed being in the City. He enjoyed being a part of the conference. He added that reimbursements will be issued to those who attended the conference.

Commissioner Goodwin shared her thoughts on the conference, saying it was helpful and inspiring. Chair Reinke agreed that the conference was great and that she learned many things that the City could be doing. Commissioner Tsui shared that the conference was great and that he enjoyed hearing about the other cities and shared some ideas he learned. Staff Liaison Kohn shared some of his takeaways from the conference.

F. Reduce Downtown Signage Parking.

Staff Liaison Kohn explained that, usually, when the City installs signs, no design review is required, but as a courtesy, they are being brought before the Commission. He showed pictures of the signs and presented on them.

The Commission discussed how the signs would look best and fit within the City. They pointed out that the cast stone circle on the 2nd level of La Grange Ramp's west façade should not be covered as presented. Staff Liaison Kohn noted that he would report back to the parking committee that the Commission thinks the proposal looks good, with the exception of the wing on the cast stone.

7. Communication Items

A. Staff Status Report.

Staff Liaison Kohn noted that demolition at the Maltery will begin soon. Chair Reinke asked about the project's design committee. Staff Liaison Kohn shared that it has not yet been organized.

Staff Liaison Kohn explained that Public Works is close to submitting information to the State Historic Preservation Office to initiate an Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the removal of the reservoir on Levy Road. This may come back to the Commission for comment. In the future, the Commission may consider designating landmarks for more local control and to avoid EAW processes. The Commission discussed the process for locally designating items.

The Commission discussed some projects underway locally.

B. Commissioner Comments.

Commissioner Tsui reiterated that the tour in Red Wing went well. Chair Reinke noted it is nice to have an audience to talk about how cool Red Wing is.

8. Adjournment

Chair Reinke adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Agenda Item

06.A. – Heritage Preservation Design Review for Christ Episcopal Church Signs at 321 West Avenue

Action Requested

Motion to Adopt Staff Recommendation

Attachments

- Photos/Drawings/Narrative

Prepared By

Steve Kohn, Planning Manager, August 26, 2026

Background

Christ Episcopal Church, 321 West Avenue, has submitted a Sign Permit application and a Heritage Preservation Design Review application for two (2) new freestanding signs on the property. One sign will be located at the northwest corner of the property, at West Avenue and W. Third Street, and one sign will be located at the southeast corner of the property, at East Avenue and W. Fourth Street. The Red Wing Zoning Ordinance allows one freestanding sign per street frontage; since the proposed signs are located on different streets, both signs are allowed.

The applicant has included a thorough narrative that explains the history of the property and details the proposed signage. Please see attached. Christ Episcopal Church is located in the Red Wing Mall Historic District and occupies an entire City block. The proposed freestanding signs would be located approximately 300' apart and would not be visible from each other due to the distance and location of the church sanctuary.

The proposed sign in the northwest corner of the property is 6' tall and 4' wide and consists of metal posts and metal supports all painted black and two high density urethane panels that will be machine-routed and hand painted. The main portion of the sign is based on a historical sign design used in the past. A secondary panel above the main sign lists service times. Both panels have black backgrounds with gold trim and lettering, and a colored logo for the church. See attached drawings.

The proposed sign in the southeast corner of the property is 8' in height by approximately 4' wide. In general, the proposed sign matches the first sign in materials and design, with the exception that the sign includes space for temporary banners (2) which would allow special events or messages to be displayed. The temporary signage would be vinyl banners that would slip over metal supports. See attached.

Both signs would not be lighted and will include landscaping around the bases.

Analysis

It appears that a freestanding sign has historically been located on the northwest corner of the property. The size of the property, the one-way streets to the east and west, and the fact that the church property is an entire block, makes the property unique. Placing small signs at the proposed corners will not impact the character of the property or district, and will have no impact on views of the historic structures on the property. Freestanding signs also appear to be more appropriate than attaching signage to the historic sanctuary or parish hall. The

proposed design of the signage is based on a historic sign and the proposed colors are appropriate for the property and district.

Staff finds that the proposed signage will not alter or destroy the distinguishing original qualities and character of the building and district. The signs appears to meet all sign regulations in the Sign Ordinance and the Heritage Preservation Ordinance.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the Design Review Form as submitted.

Proposal for the addition of Historically Accurate Signage

**On the campus of Christ Church, Red Wing, Minnesota
Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota**

1. Executive Summary

- We have been making numerous improvements to the church over the last two years: new and restored lighting, a state-of-the-art sound system, remote control cameras for live streaming, and have generally opened up the building for many community events.
- Christ Church is prominently located “front and center” in the historic district of Red Wing. (We joke that nearly every tourist who comes to town gets a photo of the church.) We take this responsibility very seriously.
- Next on our list is to upgrade the exterior campus, landscaping and signage.

2. Purpose and Need

- We currently have no signage on the campus except for a temporary, deteriorating and inappropriate “sign”. At present, the only signage is mounted to the building itself and is generally not readable from the street or the sidewalk.
- We feel that the signage is a powerful tool to spread our message, keep people informed of events, enhance the beauty of our campus and of the city of Red Wing.

3. Historical Background

- The existing church building was started in 1869 and completed in 1871. It has a rich history.
- In the autumn of that year work began on the new building, constructed in Gothic Revival style following plans furnished by New York architect Henry C. Dudley
- D.C. Hill was contracted to do the basic carpentry work; George H. Davis provided the finished carpentry (seats, columns, tracery, wainscoting) all of locally-grown butternut, finished in oil.
- G.A. Carlson carried out the stonework with magnesian limestone from his quarries here in Red Wing.

- The windows were furnished by a M. Sharpe from New York City using the same methods of fabrication perfected over 600 years in France and England.
- The cornerstone was laid June 24, 1869 and the new church was consecrated by Bishop Henry Benjamin Whipple on December 19, 1871. (Due to concerns about the foundations, the steeple was not added until 1897.)

4. Design Proposal

- We propose two signs: one larger and more traditional on the Northwest corner of the campus (roughly facing the Post Office), and another single pole sign with changeable banners to advertise special events, etc. on the Southeast corner near the bandshell.
- We have no reliable photos of earlier signage, nor does anyone recall specific details. However, while installing the sound system, we found a very old, weathered sign in a corner of the basement. It had clearly spent many years somewhere near the church building and can therefore be considered historically appropriate. This sign became the starting point for our current proposal because it complements the building's design and the campus's overall formality.
- We did considerable research to create the style of poles, mounts, etc... that would befit this historic site, the formality of the Episcopal architectural traditions, and the prominence of our church in the city.
- We also wanted the mounting hardware and poles to harmonize with the existing signage, lamp posts and other hardware around downtown Red Wing.

5. Practical Considerations

- We wanted signs to be visible for foot traffic on the sidewalks, motorized traffic on East and West Avenues.
- We want them to occupy a prominent location featuring the church itself as a backdrop for photographs, and clearly identify who we are and our faith tradition.
- The signs will not be lit, as we felt this would not be historically acceptable.
- The posts, hardware and metal parts will be powder coated for durability. They will be black.
- The sign crests themselves will be High Density Urethane, machine-routed, and hand-painted in authentic colors. (Yes, the Episcopal Church has a style guide for graphics which spells out colors, fonts, etc...)

- The East Avenue sign is slightly smaller than the West Avenue sign, but otherwise the same in construction and materials and will be routed on both sides.

6. Budget and Design Approval

- The funding has been raised through donations from parishioners.
- The design was decided by a special committee formed for this project and was approved by the Vestry in May. Ron Weitnauer was committee chair.

7. Timeline

- Our contractor assures us that this work can be completed yet this summer (2026).
- Once the signs are installed, we will work with a landscaping contractor to design raised beds and plantings around the bases. We hope to be able to use some of the original limestone from the building for these final touches. (We found a large amount of this limestone which was removed when the building was expanded, also in the basement.)
- NOTE: The building itself is undergoing major tuckpointing, stone repairs, roof repair/replacement over the next year or two. This will necessitate tearing out most of the existing foundation shrubbery and plantings. When construction work, scaffolding, etc. is finished, we hope to make the landscaping around the new signs and around the building itself, one unified project.

Respectfully submitted

Ronald Weitnauer

Vestry clerk, Christ Episcopal Church, Red Wing, Minnesota

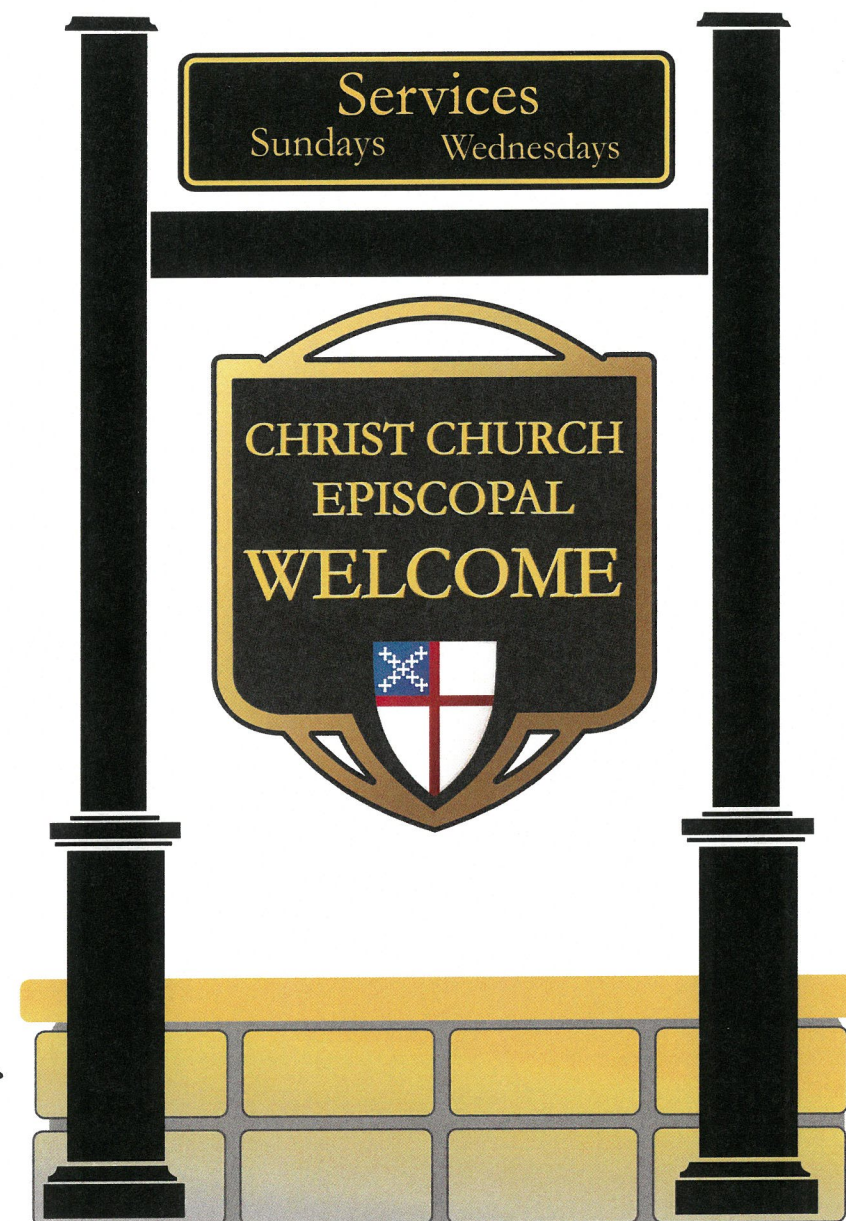
August 13, 2026



East Ave.
(SE Corner of Campus)

Printed Vinyl Banners
(can be easily changed for special events)

Landscaping will use
limestone from the
original building
(A subsequent project
yet to be designed)



West Ave.
(NW Corner of Campus)



Original sign
(found in the
basement)

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Job: New Signs
Proof #: V2
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Christ Episcopal Signage Proposal



