

Comprehensive Plan Forums: April-May 2007 Heritage Preservation Notes

April 28 Forum

Main Ideas:

- Every project contributes to preservation
- Preservation that recognizes that urban environments evolves.
- A regulatory environment to enforce the main
- Creating an environment that demands good places.
- Moving preservation out of the idea of just the past.
- The procedures, process, education, information

May 1 Forum

Question 1: What elements of Minneapolis are most in need of preservation, including landscapes, buildings, and other resources?

- Railroad infrastructure and right-of-ways
- Favored the idea of adaptive re-uses of out-of-date or old railroad corridors like the Midtown Greenway
- Saw RR corridors as useful for new transportation lines – light rail
- Street Grid
- Straight streets were the result of some legislation in the 1880s (Northwestern Territory Act, or something ...)
- Major streets and commercial corridors were formed by section lines
- Factories/Industrial sites
- Specifically old mills, grain elevators, RR infrastructure (Shoreham Yards Roundhouse was mentioned in particular)
- Emphasized public accessibility to these sites
- Re-use these sites!!!! Didn't really care what they are used for, as long as they are being used and not sitting in a dilapidated state
- Bridges
- Lakes
- Preserve the quality of the water in lakes and rivers – connected with sustainability values

Question 2: How can we conserve our history, including those areas or structures that are not officially designated as historic?

- Broad, creative public education approaches (more on that to come)

- They saw building to look “fake historic” as a problem – loved the Guthrie for fitting in with historic buildings, but being different
- Particular areas they were interested in working toward preserving:
- Penn Avenue to Cedar Lake to Lake of the Isles
- Windom Park in Northeast – collection of bungalows
- Park and Portland
- Preventing tear-downs and McMansions helps to preserve character

Question 3: How should preservation be balanced with other values and priorities as projects are developed? In what situations should public time and money be used to preserve historic resource?

- While preserving older buildings is connected with sustainability, it can also be extremely expensive and labor intensive
- Difficult to make preservation work if the market does not respond to it
- City should provide funds when market cannot support preservation – especially if buildings are put toward a public use
- Good example of privately/publicly funded preservation projects: Midtown Exchange

Question 4: How can the city help educate the public about the importance of preserving the heritage of Minneapolis in its buildings, landscapes, and culture?

- Very important to reach people (especially those who are disenfranchised from a sense of place). By educating the public about the history of the city or their particular neighborhood, it promotes a sense of ownership and belonging to a community
- Plaques
- Vitalization events – festivals and fairs as a way of sharing history
- Encourage small business owners to provide customers with historic info.
- Connect with schools
- Self-guided walking tours (Victory Pkwy, Webber Camden neighborhood) – connect with Convention or visitors centers
- Publicize creative re-uses of spaces on website – highlight examples of places that work
- On website, propose design options as an alternative to demolition (i.e. how to make a half-story usable space in your home)
- Involve neighborhood orgs. more

Main Ideas:

- A regulatory environment to enforce the maintenance of creating an environment that demands good places; sense of place
- To move preservation into ordinary things – every project should take preservation into account
- Preservation that recognizes that change is constant in the environment

May 17 Forum

- Suggested that we all do agree on comprehensive plans that we do, and the city never fully honor the plan.
- Interested in the history of the neighborhood
- Sees no support from the city, she feel some building inspectors as negligent. And some of the historical buildings might be destroyed. Historical preservation is economic development for the city.
- Glenwood Avenue is very interesting before but things have changed and is empty. The process of closing down convenience stores is not helping in curbing crime in the neighborhood. The destruction of historical building is making the neighborhood empty and dying.
- What is historical, is it the ugly building?, what defines a historical building? Answer: any building 50 years old is considered historical, but it can be broken to allow a way around it.
- Happy the Sears Building was saved and forgive the city for the most of the sins the city committed in the past.
- It cost more to preserve some historical buildings. Suggestions on how the city do it cheaply and cost effective measures.
- Wants a greater partnership between the city and the citizens.
- Suggested keeping a historical recording through visual and audio to be kept by city for preservation and to be told to the newer incoming generations. Spoke of the history of the city. The ethnic make up of the city should be honored, and their contribution mentioned.
- There is historical connection to certain people and that can be used to the city advantage to preserve the cultural and historical heritage.
- The city should map out historical neighborhoods lived by the previous ethnic groups and designate them as historical.
- Spoke of the zoning regulation of Portugal, and the Portuguese insist always saving their historical heritage thus protect them.
- Be proud of history, our history no matter what it is, and make it more significant to the citizens.
- How to educate the public, and some of the participant suggested
 - Public sessions, or meetings
 - Walking tours
 - Cable TV
 - Engage the residents to work with the city.

Main Ideas:

- Historical preservation leads to economic developments, Gayle Bonneville
- Keeping our cultural ideas, and preserving them, Lauren Huynh
- Preserve some of the small business, and politician from blaming them for crimes, Bill McCoy
- Twins baseball should be preserved as both historical and economical preservation.