



## HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION DESIGN REVIEW MEETING AGENDA

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Thursday, August 10, 2023  
6:30 P.M.

Afton Historical Museum  
3165 St. Croix Trail South  
Afton, MN 55001

(PLEASE NOTE DIFFERENT TIME AND LOCATION)

### AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair Edwards  
\_\_\_\_\_ Vice Chair Livingston  
\_\_\_\_\_ Commissioner Bolton-Iverson  
\_\_\_\_\_ Commissioner Vujovich  
\_\_\_\_\_ Commissioner Thomas

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
  - A. Approval of Agenda for August 10, 2023 meeting
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - A. Minutes of the July 12, 2023 Meeting
5. **BUSINESS**
  - A. Tour of Afton Historical Museum
  - B. Walking Tour Upgrade Project and Grant Application
  - C. Grant Application for Plaques for the City's Designated Historic Sites
  - D. Election of Secretary
  - E. Other
6. **ADJOURNMENT**

A quorum of the City Council or Other Commissions may be present to receive information.

## HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION/DESIGN REVIEW

City of Afton, Minnesota

MEETING MINUTES July 12, 2023

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Edwards at 6:05 pm.

Item 2. ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners Vujovich, Edwards and Thomas. Quorum present. City Officials: Mayor Bill Palmquist - Council Liaison and Ron Moorese, City Administrator.

Item 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made Vujovich and seconded by Thomas to approve the July 12, 2023 Agenda. Vote taken: Vote: Yes – 3, No - 0, Motion carried.

Item 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made Vujovich and seconded by Thomas to approve the June 21, 2023 minutes. Vote taken: Vote: Yes – 3, No - 0, Motion carried. Item 5. BUSINESS:

A. Annual Commission Goals and Work Plan

The Commission members discussed the walking tour upgrade project and a possible grant application. They agreed a copy of the current walking tour brochure needs to be obtained. It was also suggested that the commission should look into whether a grant could be obtained for plaques for the City's historic sites.

B. Grant Received for a Historical Research Project Regarding the Valley Creek Women's Club

The Commission members discussed the grant received for a Historical Research Project Regarding the Valley Creek Women's Club.

C. Election of Secretary

Due to a lack of full attendance, the Secretary position was not addressed.

D. Annual State Historic Preservation Conference Attendance

After consideration by both Jacob Edwards and Kate Thomas, it was agreed that Kate Thomas would attend the State Historic Preservation Conference. Moorese indicated that scholarship grants are normally provided to cover expenses related to the conference including the registration fee and lodging. Moorese indicated he would contact Michael Koop at the Minnesota Historical Society regarding the scholarship application.

E. Update Regarding the Lerk's Bar Property

Vujovich reported that Jim Cox had prepared some sketches regarding accessibility solutions for the Lerks building, and that he (Vujovich) would also be interested in providing assistance to the property owner. Bill Palmquist indicated that he would contact the Lerks property owner to connect him with Jim Cox and Peter Vujovich.

Item 5 ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m. was made by Thomas and seconded by Vujovich: Vote taken: Vote: Yes – 3, No – 0, Motion carried.

The next DR/HPC meeting will be: Thursday, August 10, 2023 at **6:30 p.m. at the Afton Historical Museum**

# Design Review/Heritage Preservation Commission Memo

**Meeting: August 10, 2023**

To: Design Review/Heritage Preservation Commission Members  
From: Ron Moorse, City Administrator  
Date: August 7, 2023  
Re: Walking Tour Upgrade Project and Grant Application

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Attached is information from Kate Thomas regarding the walking tour upgrade project and a draft grant application. Also Peter Vujovich provided information and the link below to the website of Welcome Guide, a company that creates digital property brochures that support QR codes, audio, video, and text for each property. The link to the Welcome Guide website is as follows: <https://ourwelcomeguide.com/>

Pick up a copy of Downtown Afton Walking Tour from Afton City Hall. See also VC Historic Tour.

1. What are our criteria for choosing 10 sites to feature on a Walking Tour? Driving Tour?
2. Besides the printed pamphlets, do we want to pursue –
  - Virtual online tour? See <https://mnhs.org/tours> Scroll down to find virtual online tours, e.g., Fort Snelling
  - “Great Rivers Confluence” Afton, Hastings, Prescott, River Falls map for historic/cultural sites at <https://www.greatriversconfluence.org/map-description> scroll down and click on “Cultural Experiences” interactive map.
  - Northwoods and Waters of the St. Croix Heritage Area: <https://northwoodsandwaters.org/> , Scroll down to “Experience Our Stories”
  - Poster with QR code? See Rehoboth Beach example

Poster QR example: Rehoboth Beach, DE



**Project title:** City of Afton History Tour, Accessible with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technology

**Brief Summary:**

Which grant applying for? Research and writing grant; Implementation grant (technology)

Update current paper brochure "Historic Afton Valley Creek Tour" with 46 sites to just 10 sites that includes all Afton and the range of people that have lived here historically.

Make the tour available as a paper brochure with QR codes to hear more about each site. Also, make the tour downloadable to phones from the city of Afton's "History" site so that the tour will be completely accessible online for residents and visitors at any time.

Limit tour to ten sites and include all of the area's history: indigenous peoples, first or historically significant migrants/immigrants, schools, parks, churches/cemeteries, post office, mills, etc. Make additional sites available online by topic: indigenous history, religious history, business history, educational history, park and recreation history, village growth and expansion.

**Geographic Focus:** Afton, MN

**Budget**

| Item  | Grant  | In-kind         |
|---|--------|-----------------|
| Research topical history with written report of all possible sites; discussions with Heritage Commission and Afton Museum to narrow to 10 sites | \$5000 |                 |
| Printing brochure   |        | \$50 & on-going |
| Develop descriptions for additional descriptions to link online for each topic  | \$5000 |                 |
| Develop QR codes for 10 sites with audio descriptions and link to city website  | \$???? |                 |
|   |        |                 |

**Project Description**

The Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) of the city of Afton wants to create a city history tour that is inclusive, accessible by walking, biking, or driving, and available in print and online. The basic tour will be limited to ten sites so that it can be completed in less than an hour by car or bike, with additional sites available online by topic so that residents and visitors alike can explore the sites of most interest to them.

The HPC "is responsible for the protection and enhancement of the community's history. It was created to assist the City with its overall historic preservation goals. These goals include: supporting the protection of the City's heritage by preserving, protecting, conserving, and wisely using the significant historical, cultural, social, economic, political, architectural, or archaeological objects, structures, buildings, and sites in the City. ... The HPC also reviews applications for and maintains an inventory of historical sites, and provides education regarding civic and architectural heritage in cooperation with the Afton Historical Society."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ci.afton.mn.us/index.asp?SEC=59625781-59A3-4CD5-8631-A670FDA68939>

into the museum, especially during the cold months for the Old Village Holiday celebration, but the warmer months bring hikers, cyclists, and others who prefer to travel outdoors. Additionally, # of homes are sold in Afton every year. This is a recent increase of \_\_\_\_\_ as our demographics shift from the older WWII generation to a younger 21<sup>st</sup> century demographics. While an abundant interest in "settler" history remains, there is an increase in the longer and mixed-heritage histories that Afton evinces.

Afton is lucky that our "Old Village," unlike neighboring Stillwater or Hastings, is compact enough that it can be traversed in less than thirty minutes, thus providing an easy walk to learn about the original buildings and parks. At 25 square miles, the entire city is small enough that hikers, cyclists, and drivers already meander along its winding roads for exercise and pleasure as part of their visit to our festivals and businesses. With a guided tour brochure and online site, they can view additional areas and sites that are historically significant to the farming and hunting cultures that have always existed here. Whereas Stillwater and Hastings are \_\_\_\_\_, Afton is \_\_\_\_\_ so our walking tour is a necessary addition to the area.

### **Work Plan and Timetable (by month)**

**Research & Writing Grant:**

**Implementation (technology):**

### **Enduring Value**

Afton has a unique history along the St. Croix River. It began as other mill towns, but retained its small village, family culture while other towns became commercialized. Afton gets thousands of visitors a year so we have a ready-made audience and interest.

### **Sustainability**

Afton's HPC is evidence that the city is committed to preserving and sharing its history. Creating online links through the city website ensures that the information will be retained.

### **Measurable Outcomes and Evaluation: Timeframe (Short-term, Intermediate, Long-term), Expected Impact [Action Item], Progress Indicator**

**Research & Writing Grant:**

**Implementation (technology):**

### **Project Personnel (if we know who will do the work; otherwise RFP)**

**Research & Writing Grant:**

**Implementation (technology):**