

**CITY OF SAINT PETER
HERITAGE & PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, April 6, 2021
Saint Peter Community Center – Governors Room
Virtual Meeting via GoToMeeting Application**

The meeting was called to order by Director of Community Development Russ Wille at 5:38 pm. Commissioner's Larry Potts, Brian Oviatt, Joe Metzen, and Remo Alexandri were in attendance. Absent were members Sharon Lytinski and Emily Bruflat. Absent was member Judy Douglas. Wille and Administrative Secretary Cindy Moulton were also in attendance. Visitor present was owner of Ouren Instruments, Eric Ouren.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Potts, seconded by Metzen to approve the meeting agenda as presented. All voting in favor, the agenda was approved.

Oath of Office

Wille administered the Oath of Office to new member Remo Alexandri.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Potts, seconded by Oviatt to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2021 regular meeting. All members voting aye, the minutes were approved as presented.

Authorize Demolition (411 South Minnesota Avenue) Arts Center of St. Peter

The Arts Center has acquired ownership of 411 South Minnesota Avenue which is occupied by a modular single family home. At this time the Arts Center would like to demolish and remove the structure. Once removed, the site would be appropriately graded and used as an open courtyard.

Wille indicated that the property is located within the Heritage Preservation District that was created by the City. He noted that the property is not located within the St. Peter Commercial Historic district as designated by the National Register of Historic Places which ends at Grace Street.

Wille recommended the HPC authorize demolition as it has no architectural or historic merit. He added that the non-conforming residential structure is not compatible with the surroundings or other structures within the Heritage Preservation District and would be an improvement. The building is an improper use, of an improper scale utilizing the improper materials.

Potts asked who would maintain and guarantee the property would be taken care of.

Wille stated that a slow growing turf would be established and the Arts Center would be responsible for the upkeep.

Oviatt inquired as to whether there has been any determination of the age of the structure.

Wille indicated that the first building permit in the address file is from 1947.

Oviatt stated he was against demolishing the home if there is some historic significance.

Metzen did not feel the home was older than midcentury.

Oviatt mentioned that his research indicated that the building started as a lean-to. He felt that the history of the building is incomplete.

Oviatt mentioned that due to the lack of due diligence, he would vote no. Further research should have been done to determine if any historic events or individuals were associated with the site.

Potts said he didn't sense a strong historical value.

A motion was made by Potts, seconded by Metzen to demolish the building located at 411 South Minnesota. Members Metzen, Alexandri, Potts voting aye, Member Oviatt voting nay, the Motion carried.

Ouren Instruments (208 South Minnesota Avenue)

Ouren relocated his instrument business from Mankato to the Four Seasons Mall located at 208 South Minnesota. In order to denote his location he has submitted a sign permit application to install two separate signs upon the South Minnesota Avenue façade.

The first sign would be 34 inches by 45 inches. The proposed sign would be installed over the window to the right of the doorway facing Minnesota Avenue.

The second sign dimensions would be 30 inches by 40 inches. The sign would project perpendicularly to the building façade by a ½ inch black, metal, square tubing bracket.

Wille indicated that Ouren's lease allows him to make some improvements on the façade of the structure in consultation with Carl Olson, owner of the property. Wille stated that should the façade of the building be altered, the plan would need to be approved by the HPC.

Wille stated that several old signs exist on the façade. Ouren intends to remove the signs of the businesses that no longer rent space in the building.

Potts stated that the façade is an eyesore and needs to be cleaned up. He suggested contacting the St. Peter Chamber to conduct a fundraiser.

Ouren indicated that his lease stipulates that he furnish the labor and Olson furnish the materials.

Oviatt felt the business was a good addition to St. Peter and echoed Potts concerns.

Metzen thought the signs were tasteful.

A motion was made by Oviatt, seconded by Metzen to approve the signage as submitted. Members Potts, Oviatt, and Metzen, voting aye, member Alexandri abstaining, the Motion carried.

Adjourn

With no further business, a motion was made by Metzen, seconded by Potts to adjourn. With all members voting aye, the meeting adjourned at 6:07 pm.