

# Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 @ 12:00 p.m.  
Duluth City Hall Council Chambers

## Call to Order and Roll Call

President Jess McCullough called to order the meeting of the city of Duluth Heritage Preservation Commission at 12:06 p.m. on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026, in the Duluth city hall council chambers.

## Attendance

Members Present: Kathleen Cargill, John Hest, Jess McCullough, and Andrea Wedul

Members Absent: Ken Buehler, Michael Schuetze

Staff Present: Chris Lee, Sam Smith, James Gittemeier, Alex Popp

## Consideration of Meeting Minutes

Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting – March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**MOTION/Second:** Wedul/Hest approved

**VOTE: (4-0)**

## Consideration of Matters Regarding Commission Action

None.

## Presentations

**Upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction Project** – James Gittemeier gave a PowerPoint presentation on the project. The project area includes the portion of 4th Street that runs between Mesaba Avenue and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, it will be a full reconstruction of the entire right-of-way (ROW) space. The driving reasons for this reconstruction project include the replacement of the water main under the street, and some utility upgrades. The plans for rebuilding the street will give staff an opportunity to focus on the improvement of traffic for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists. There are no plans to add additional travel lanes. This year, staff are working on public engagement to help form the street design. The first public meeting was held in January, and the next public meeting will be Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Central Hillside Community Center. There will be a couple more public meetings later in 2026. In 2027, Engineering will begin their portion of the plan preparations for the construction aspect of the project. The construction will take place in 2028 and 2029, and the street will be worked on in segments. Gittemeier spoke about the different historical markers that exist along the project area of 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and he clarified that no historical buildings will be demolished. Staff are seeking commissioners' suggestions and input regarding this project.

**Commissioners:** Commissioners asked staff what road and sidewalk accessibility will look like for motorists and pedestrians during the construction portion of this project.

**Staff:** Gittemeier answered that sections of the road will be closed for construction one at a time. There will be no car access during the construction, but pedestrian access will remain open. The sidewalks will also be replaced as part of this project, so there will be gravel in place of the sidewalks for pedestrians to use during that time.

**Commissioners:** Wedul commented that connectivity, walkability, and snow removal are important aspects to prioritize for this area. She also believes that the historic character of the corridor should be preserved.

Mccullough asked if there are structures or properties along 4<sup>th</sup> Street that would be impacted by removing sidewalk.

**Staff:** Alex Popp, Senior Project Engineer, addressed the commissioners. There are a couple places along 4<sup>th</sup> Street that have either steps or retaining walls that intrude into the ROW, like the Damiano site. The Damiano has brick pavers that will be impacted, so staff are still figuring out how to manage those areas.

**Commissioners:** Hest asked if there are any bike and transit changes that they can expect to see from this project. He also asked if there were any concerns brought forth at the previous public meeting.

**Staff:** Gittemeier stated that staff will go over the different potential bike and transit options during the upcoming public meeting. Location of bus stops will also be discussed. During the first round of public engagement, members of the public expressed their desire for better pedestrian facilities. Staff are also exploring the idea of implementing a shared-use or multi-use pathway. Public concerns were largely centered around the need for a safer pedestrian corridor for people walking and crossing 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Staff are considering putting in bump out curb extensions to create shorter crossings distances and upgrading to more standardized sidewalks along that corridor.

Popp added that community members desire a neighborhood-feel space with wider sidewalks and more green space.

**Commissioners:** Wedul asked how crossings for pedestrian traffic will be addressed.

**Staff:** Popp responded that crossings or bump outs will be included in some intersections along 4<sup>th</sup> Street, but they won't be at every intersection. Those plans are still under discussion because things like snow removal and parking need to be considered as well.

**Commissioners:** Cargill stated that curb bump outs can be dangerous for bikers

Wedul asked if single-side parking is part of the project plan.

**Staff:** Gittemeier responded that staff conducted a parking occupancy study to count how many cars park on the street over a 24-hour period. Staff are still considering the option of single-side parking and will present ideas and concepts at the upcoming public meeting.

**Commissioners:** Mccullough requested that the HPC receive regular updates as the project progresses so members can offer suggestions and feedback throughout the process.

Commissioners thanked staff for the presentation.

## Communications

**Planning Commission Liaison Update** – The April meeting will take place tomorrow, April 14<sup>th</sup>. The agenda includes several concurrent use permit applications, the Safe Bay interim use permit application, the Downtown Duluth AUAR public hearing, a TIF district request for the Armory, and several more items not relevant to the HPC. Additionally, the Chester Chalet building permits should be issued in the coming weeks.

## Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.