

Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 8th, 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 12:07 p.m. on Monday, June 8th, 2026, in the Duluth city hall council chambers.

Attendance

Members Present: Ken Buehler, John Hest, Jess McCullough, Michael Schuetze, and Andrea Wedul

Members Absent: Kathleen Cargill and Wayne Gannaway

Staff Present: Chris Lee and Sam Smith

Consideration of Meeting Minutes

Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting – April 13th, 2026

MOTION/Second: Buehler/Wedul approved

VOTE: (5-0)

Consideration of Matters Regarding Commission Action

None.

Other Business/Presentations

Commissioners discussed the future of the Karpeles Museum and potential ways the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) could support preservation of the building. The discussion included the building's ownership, potential future buyers, and the process for obtaining historic designation. Staff noted that the property owner would need to initiate the designation process, although the HPC could contact the owner to encourage consideration of historic designation. Commissioners discussed sending letters to the property owner using the contact information listed in St. Louis County property records, and Commissioner McCullough offered to make an in-person visit as a private citizen.

Communications

Planning Commission Liaison Update – Wedul explained that the May meeting contained several items including an update from staff regarding the ongoing Lester Park Golf Course land use study, proposed UDC changes, and next steps in the downtown AUAR process. There was also a presentation on a proposed multi-unit residential building that will be constructed near Lake Superior College. The June meeting agenda will include several variance applications, additional UDC changes, and a presentation from Parks staff on the Lester-Amity-Hawk Ridge Designated Natural Area Management Plan.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.