



Promoting the use and conservation of historic properties for the education, inspiration, pleasure and enrichment of the citizens of Sioux Falls

**Special Meeting Minutes for November 30, 2020
City Center, Conference Room 110**

Members Present:

Alex Halbach, Chairperson
Lura Roti, Vice Chairperson
(via WebEx)
Pam Cole
Lynn Remmers
Adam Nyhaug
Kathy Renken
Nolan Hazard
Nicholas Kummer
Gail Fossum Shea

Staff Present:

Diane deKoeyer, Staff Liaison

Public in Attendance:

Margaret Blomberg, Tuthill Neighborhood
Kathy English, Tuthill Neighborhood

Members Absent:

Rachael Meyerink

Call to Order and Quorum Determination

Chairperson Alex Halbach called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Alex Halbach welcomed Board members and guests and gave introductory comments.

Approval of Regular Agenda

Chairperson Alex Halbach requested a motion to approve the regular agenda. Member Pam Cole made the motion to approve the regular agenda. Member Gail Fossum Shea seconded the motion. The motion to approve the regular agenda passed unanimously.

Public Input on Non-Agenda Items (five-minute period)

None

New Business

A. Letter Advocacy for Tuthill House

The attached letter was authored by Chairperson Alex Halbach, Vice Chairperson Lura Roti, Member Adam Nyhaug and Member Rachael Meyerink.

Neighbors in attendance shared that they have a petition with approximately 140 signatures requesting a one-year moratorium on demolition of the house while they try to raise funds that could help with the rehabilitation of the house. Kathy English said this information was provided to the Park Board at their November 18 meeting. Kathy asked that the petition be shared with City Councilors and the Mayor. On Tuesday, December 1, Diane verified with the City Clerk regarding the submission of the petition. Because the Tuthill House is a Parks agenda item for the December 8 council meeting, it should be submitted through Parks.

Dialogue between the neighbors and board members included the construction estimate that was presented at the October 28 Neighborhood meeting with Parks. A contractor that lives in the neighborhood expressed concern at the cost. Kathy and Margaret may ask the contractor to review the estimate in more detail and provide an additional quote for discussion.

After further review and discussion of the Tuthill House, Member Lynn Remmers made the motion to approve the letter of advocacy and Member Pam Cole seconded the motion. The motion to approve the letter passed unanimously by the remaining board members.

Adjournment

With no further business, the Board of Historic Preservation meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Dear Parks Board:

The Sioux Falls Board of Historic Preservation would like to begin by thanking the Sioux Falls City Parks and Recreation Department for their dedication to celebrating the history of our city's historic parks.

The role of the Board of Historic Preservation is to promote the use and conservation of historic properties for the education, inspiration, pleasure and enrichment of the citizens of Sioux Falls. Recently, Aaron Skonhoyd researched and authored a historic plaque dedicated to the Phillips House that once stood in Terrace Park. The last line of this plaque reads as follows:

May this be a reminder, it is our duty to preserve and protect. Once buildings are gone, they are gone forever.

How ironic is it that this Board is being asked to tear down an iconic structure in one of our best-known city parks at the same time you are asked to approve a plaque commemorating the removal of a similar iconic structure from Terrace Park.

This letter is sent on behalf of the Board of Historic Preservation urging you to consider saving the iconic Tuthill Home in Tuthill Park so that the Park Board might be spared from having to review the text of a plaque in 5+ years for a home that is structurally sound, beloved and used by many Sioux Falls residents, and simply needs some cosmetic repairs so it can continue to be used and loved by a new generation of Sioux Falls residents. Although McKennan, Terrace, Lyon and Tuthill parks were once home to their donors' residence, Tuthill Park remains the only Sioux Falls City Park with its donor's home still standing.

Because the Tuthill Summer Home is historically significant to the City of Sioux Falls and continues to serve its purpose as a gathering and educational venue, we respectfully request that the Parks Board save the structure and work with the Board of Historic Preservation, the City, and the neighborhood to preserve its rich history and ensure that it stands as a reminder to Sioux Falls residents of the generosity, legacy and tenacity of Sioux Falls' residents.

The Secretary of the Interior is the federal agency tasked with preserving America's historic buildings, properties, and landmarks. For instance, Mt. Rushmore and the Pettigrew Home & Museum are both protected by the Secretary of Interior. As a volunteer board appointed by the Mayor, we are asking the Parks Board to save this home because it has historic significance, as defined by the guidelines provided to us by the Secretary of the Interior.

Properties like the Tuthill Summer Home are historically significant to the City of Sioux Falls, even though the property is not listed on the State or National Historic Register of Historic Places. This does not mean that they do not deserve the city's protection because of their historical significance.

Below, utilizing the Secretary of Interior criteria, we outline the reasons Tuthill Summer Home is historically significant to our community and should not be demolished.

Criterion A – Pattern of events or historic trends:

The Tuthill home demonstrates multiple layers of Sioux Falls' history. It was originally built as a farmhouse between 1870s and 1907, highlighting a trend of early homes and farmsteads being incorporated into our city as it grew. Then, the Tuthill family purchased the home and land as their summer home. This showcases yet another trend of Sioux Falls' prominent families spending their summers in homes along the Big Sioux River. The Tuthill home is one of the only remaining, unaltered examples of an early Sioux Falls farmhouse and summer home. When the Tuthill family designed the gardens, for which the park is so revered, they did so with their summer home in mind.

Criterion B – Association with the life/lives of important person(s): The Tuthill Summer Home was occupied by two prominent Sioux Falls citizens, William Howie and Arthur Tuthill. The fact that this home was owned by multiple prominent families strengthens its historic and educational value. For example, Sen. Pettigrew was the second owner of what is now the Pettigrew Home & Museum. William Howie was among the first settlers in Sioux Falls Township. In the 1880s he was elected to serve on the Township Board. Arthur Tuthill was a second-generation, successful Sioux Falls lumber baron. The fact that Tuthill lived in this house is quite significant to it remaining in the park because he is the park's donor and namesake.

Criterion C – Design or Construction Value: This farmhouse could have been built between the 1870s and 1907. Its design is a unique, surviving example of an early Sioux Falls residence. Today, no homes of this type and style currently exist within one of Sioux Falls' seven historic districts.

You have the opportunity to help preserve this valuable piece of Sioux Falls' history so you won't need to review a historic plaque at a future meeting and say to yourself that you wished you could have made a different decision when you had the chance. Please vote to preserve, not demolish this historic and iconic Sioux Falls home so it may be preserved for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

Sincerely,

Sioux Falls Board of Historic Preservation

Alex Halbach, Chair

Lura Roti, Vice Chair

cc: Mayor Paul TenHaken

City Councilors