

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

**Regular Meeting Minutes for September 14, 2022
City Center, Cooper Conference Room, 110**

Members Present:

Adam Nyhaug, Chair
Kathy Renken, Vice Chair
Gail Fossum Shea
Lynn Remmers
Nolan Hazard
Alex Halbach
Pam Cole
Nicholas Kummer (4:05)

Members Absent:

Delia Druley (unexcused)

Staff Present:

Diane deKoeper, Staff Liaison

Public in Attendance:

Jon Jacobson, Confluence

ITEM 1. Call to Order and Quorum Determination

Board Chair Adam Nyhaug called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

ITEM 2. Welcome and Introductions

Board Chair Nyhaug welcomed the public in attendance.

ITEM 3. Approval of Regular Agenda

Board Chair Nyhaug requested a motion to approve the regular agenda. Member Halbach made the motion to approve the regular agenda. Member Cole seconded the motion. The motion to approve the regular agenda passed unanimously by the board.

ITEM 4. Approval of the August 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Board Chair Nyhaug requested a motion to approve the August 10, 2022 meeting minutes. Member Halbach made the motion to approve the minutes and Member Cole seconded the motion. The motion to approve the August 10, 2022 meeting minutes passed unanimously by the board.

ITEM 5. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items (five-minute period)

None

ITEM 6. New Business

**a. Greenway PH3 Low Head Dam at Falls Park, NRHP
Jon Jacobson, Confluence**

Jon provided verbal history and future plans of the River Greenway.

The proposed Phase 3 Greenway and low head dam replacement is currently going through USACE (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) 404 permitting. As part of the permitting, Section 106 impacts of the proposed project are being reviewed. The USACE is

coordinating with SDSHPO and area consulting parties such as the Sioux Falls Board of Historic Preservation for comment.

- Jon reported that SHPO determined that the replacement and proposed location of the dam would have an adverse effect on the historic property at Falls Park.
- The low head dam has existed for over hundred years at this location on the Big Sioux River.
- Over the last ten years, the dam has deteriorated and with the current development of the steel district, the reconstruction of the dam has become a priority.
- River access is available at the site of the steel district for construction of the dam.
- In the past twenty years, the river level has dropped 6"-12" at different locations.
- Cores of the existing dam were taken last year and the depth of concrete is only 6". No steel reinforcement was found.
- The dam will continue to erode if not replaced.
- The proposed new dam structure would be located off the greenway and river wall on the west at Kiwanis Park and will extend northeast to Falls Park adjacent to the Millrace viewing platform where the gates will be located.
- Interpretive signs will be located at the new overlook platform.
- Adjacent to the existing platform, a new maintenance platform or overlook is proposed just south of the "swamp".
- The area referred to as the "swamp" will be cleaned and infilled with native landscaping.
- The current maintenance platform has rails, but no floor. The floor could be replaced to make it purposeful again, but public access will not be permitted.
- Existing painted green handrails in the area will be replaced with new corten steel and wood.

Questions and discussion by board members

- Member Hazard acknowledged that the new dam is necessary but stated that it should be replaced in the same location as the existing. He asked what the added expense would be to include the "dog leg". Jon estimate that it would add about 50' of the dam structure and approximately \$100,000 to the project.
- Member Cole asked if the river could be used for hydropower as it had historically been used. Jon responded that the river does not have the capacity to support it.

Additional discussion ensued and following that Member Cole made the motion that the proposed new low head dam would not have an adverse effect on the Big Sioux River and historic Falls Park. Chair Nyhaug asked Member Hazard if he wanted the floor of the maintenance platform included in the motion. Member Hazard agreed. Member Cole accepted the amendment to the motion to include the flooring of the maintenance platform. Member Fossum Shea seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by remaining board members.

b. Falls Park Masterplan

Jon Jacobson, Confluence

Jon invited board members to participate in the park masterplan by accessing the survey and mapping activity online.

Because the east side of the park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the board will need to review any proposed changes to this area as masterplan develops.

ITEM 7. Other Business

- a. Reviewed board members absences as noted in the 2009 Bylaws.
- b. **Mid Century Modern Homes Public Education**
Member Cole volunteered her time to help. Once I hear back from Rich Jensen, we will organize a date and time for the meeting.
Options for a public meeting could be at the Downtown Library, IPC or Robert Frost Elementary School.
- c. **Memorandum of Historic Significance for Property Owner Education**
Member Fossum Shea volunteered her time to help with registering her property and assisting other homeowners at a meeting.

ITEM 8. Announcements

- a. Next meeting – October 12.

ITEM 9. Adjournment

The Board of Historic Preservation meeting adjourned at approximately 5:17pm.