

Kasson Alliance for Restoration

KARE Email: KassonAlliance@Kmtel.com

KARE Website: <http://www.kassonalliance.org/>

KARE on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Kasson-Alliance-for-REstoration-KARE/207619232585635>

Donate or Join KARE Online at: <http://givemn.razoo.com/story/Kasson-Alliance-For-Restoration>

Proud Member of the Kasson Chamber of Commerce

July 14, 2011, Kasson, MN

Dear Friends, Members, and Supporters of KARE,

1. 1918 Kasson Public School Update:

a. Flo and Joe and the School: On May 25, 2011 the first “Flo and Joe, What’s Happening Around Town” column appeared in the Dodge County Independent (DCI). The column features the mythical characters Flo and Joe who discuss the plan to reuse and rehabilitate the historic school. Joe lives in town and Flo is visiting from another town. These columns have appeared every week since May and will continue to appear until the school is reused. The Flo and Joe for next week is attached below. Your response to Flo and Joe, which is written by a group of volunteers, has been overwhelming. We apologize if we do not acknowledge all the Flo and Joe related Email messages. You can read the first Flo and Joe and blog about the school at the DCI’s 1918 School Blog at:

<http://dctween.blogspot.com/2010/03/school-what-would-you-do-with-old.html#comments>

b. The Kasson Public Library Building Committee (KPLBC) Update: The KPLBC has not released their plan to the public. City Hall released copies of the preliminary plan and KARE’s professional advisors have studied them carefully. The citizen’s of Kasson are patiently waiting for a Draft plan to be released for public review. We will post the information on our Website. On June 1, 2011 the KPLBC published the first weekly library related articles in the DCI. Some of these articles have suggested demolishing the historic school. If the KPLBC continues down that path it would be better for the community if they moved onto designing a library at a different site. Many alternative sites are available. Send an email reply to this message if want a copy of the preliminary plan.

c. 3-D Computer School Model: KARE has contracted with an architect to create a 3-D virtual computer model/images of the school. The preliminary model is currently displayed at KARE’s Fair Booth (see below). The 3-D model will include a “movie” that will walk the viewer in, around and through the school so that viewer can see firsthand how the school would look as a community center, library or other uses. Some draft 3-D images are attached to this Email. The final model will be widely distributed on the Website, on

Facebook, throughout town to citizens, to businesses and to the city council. You will see firsthand how beautiful the school will look when it is finished.

- d. Flower Garden at the School:** The flowers have been planted in front of the school and are being tended by citizen volunteers. Thank you to the school neighbors for supplying the water. The flag looked wonderful on July 4. Thank you to the Kasson American Legion for their support.

2. KARE Fair Booth: KARE's 5th annual historic preservation fair booth is currently open at the fair in the Horticulture building near the City of Kasson booth. Stop by and see the 3-D model images of the school which are being shown on a computer. Lots of information about reusing the school is available in the booth. Thank you to Councilman Matt Nelson and his wife Kay for visiting the booth yesterday to view the 3-D model images. The 3-D model is generating lots of positive citizen support for rehabilitating the school. A scale wooden model of the school is being considered.

3. KARE on Facebook: KARE's Facebook site is up and running. Thank you to all the visitors who have "Liked" us. From your Facebook page search on "Kasson Alliance" or go to this link.

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Kasson-Alliance-for-REstoration-KARE/207619232585635>

5. Upcoming KARE Information Booths: KARE will host information booths at Kasson's Festival in the Park in August and at Mantorville's Marigold Days in September. The 3-D model will be fully operational by then.

6. KARE's new "Get Involved" Web Page: Check out KARE's new Get Involved Web page to learn about the many ways you can support historic preservation.

See <http://www.kassonalliance.org/getinvolved.htm>

Thank You to everyone for your ongoing support. Thank you to those of you who reminded us that many of you have family-memberships which pushes KARE's membership to well over 500 members and climbing.

KARE's mission is to preserve Kasson's history, historic buildings and historic structures to serve as landmarks to Kasson's heritage while being a source of education in the importance of historic preservation. The Kasson Alliance for Restoration (KARE) is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization formed in January 2007. KARE's membership includes both citizens and supporting businesses.

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KARE is a non-profit membership organization bringing people together to protect,

enhance and enjoy the places in Kasson that matter to them. By saving the places where great moments from the cities' history - and the important moments of everyday life - took place, KARE helps revitalize the community, spark economic development and promote environmental sustainability. The Kasson Alliance provides leadership, education, advocacy and resources to citizens and organizations committed to saving historic places, connecting them to Kasson's history and collectively shaping the future of the communities' stories.

Note: The media is welcome to use all or portions of this announcement and any attachments.

UNSUBSCRIBE: If you wish to be removed from this email list simply reply to this email with the word "Remove" in the subject line or in the body of the email and the system will remove you. Alternatively, the ENews letters are posted on KARE's Website under "News".

This will appear in the 20 July 2011 DCI

Flo and Joe Run into each other in Kasson

Flo: Hey Joe. The flowers in front of the historic 1918 Kasson School are beautiful. It sure looked nice on the 4th of July when the American flag was raised.

Joe: Yes, it did. It is a preview of things to come when one day the school building will once again be the center of the community. Say, have you read the school's 2009 Historic Properties Reuse Study?

Flo: Of course. It is easily accessible on the internet. There sure are a lot of reuse funding sources listed in the report including a public/private rehabilitation.

Joe: Yes. The public/private development option is the one the Mayor of Kasson favored in his June 9, 2010 letter. This provides for many funding options that are not available for the construction of a new building. It is very cost effective.

This is a quote from the Mayor: "a Public/Private partnership [seems] to me to be [a] highly recommended way to proceed in order to potentially take advantage of the majority of tax incentives and other renovation programs."

Flo: Yes, well stated by the Mayor. I see that is Option No. 2 in the report and it includes converting the school into a library with some space reserved for community center functions. Isn't that what Kasson needs?

Joe: Indeed it is. In fact the Library Building Committee prefers a library/community center concept.

Flo: Wow, look at the long list of funding options. They reduce the cost by almost 60 percent!

Joe: Absolutely the Mayor was correct about this. The list of funding options include: a City Development Block Grant, a Save America's Treasures Grant, a New Market Tax Credit, a Historic Tax Credit, donated labor, donated materials and a Library Capital Campaign which add up to millions of dollars! In addition, the building's three pods lend themselves well to a phased construction project.

Flo: Is there any way a new building can compete with that financially?

Joe: No. A referendum, voted on by citizens, will be needed to fund some of the work and of course the library capital campaign.

Flo: Do you think both would be successful?

Joe: It is very likely but only if the school building is reused. Nearly 60% of Kasson's citizens who responded to the City of Kasson's 2010 poll voted to reuse the school building. If it is demolished that support will be lost and a huge scar will grace not only the City of Kasson but the entire County.

Flo: Good point. I had not thought about the citizens of the county which encompass the school district. They feel an ownership in the school that is equal to that felt by the citizens of Kasson. Clearly the citizens who are suggesting demolishing the building are paddling against the current both in funding options and citizen support.

Joe: Indeed. All the library building committee has to do is ask and the large majority of Kasson's citizens who adore the school will not only work to rehabilitate it but will also apply for funding and grants.

Flo: Count me in. I will help with whatever it takes to reuse the school.

End

Attachments:



