

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

April 30, 2011, Kasson, MN

Dear Friends, Members, and Supporters of KARE,

1. KARE's First Meeting of 2011: The Kasson Alliance for Restoration (KARE) held its first meeting of 2011 on Saturday March 19, 2011 at 10:00 AM in the Historic Kasson State Theater on Main Street. A great time was had by all. Thank you to Levi Livingood for the music and other entertainment and to the State Theater for hosting the event. Thanks also to Emily Northey, Preservation Alliance of Minnesota's Main Street Program Coordinator, who presented information on the Minnesota Main Street Program (MMSP). The MMSP does NOT require city approval to be implemented. Main Street businesses or other interested parties can organize it. Many have expressed interest.

2011 Elections: Maggie Lien (re-elected), Don Ness and Fred Spading were elected as Board members. Don and Fred were added after the board agreed to increase the size of the board to 7 members. Additional board members include: Melanie Leth, Karen McClamroch, Diane O'Brien Berge and Lorraine Spading. Real Estate Attorney Rodney Peterson was appointed as an additional board advisor.

2. Dodge County Historical Society (DCHS) News: KARE president Diane O'Brien-Berge was recently elected as a Dodge County Historical Society board member. Congratulations to Diane! KARE has worked with the DCHS in past most recently in regards to tours of Kasson's 1895 Water Tower which is a National Register listed secondary resource related to the 1918 Kasson Public School. KARE looks forward to continued partnerships with the DCHS on projects involving preserving Kasson's, and in a larger sense Dodge Counties', historic resources.

DCHS Museum Volunteers Needed: The DCHS museum director Cheryl Finnegan will be on medical leave for the next two weeks (thru approx. May 14). Volunteers are needed to staff the DCHS museum in Mantorville. If you can help please contact Cheryl at: 507-356-4056. Cheryl does a wonderful job at the museum.

3. 1918 Kasson Public School and the Kasson Library Building

Committee (KPLBC) Update: Library Director Bonnie Adams provided KARE a letter on March 19 which updated the KPLBC activities related to the 1918 School (in lieu of appearing at KARE's member meeting). The same letter appeared in the March 30 Dodge County Independent Newspaper. A copy is attached to this E-Newsletter and is pasted below. Many of you have contacted KARE to express your concern that the letter outlines a bias against the Historic School in advance of the Widseth, Smith, Nolting and Associates School/Library-related report being released. Thank you for your input. KARE has officially contacted the City and requested that that a draft copy of the tax-payer funded report be released to the public, as required by State Law, for review and comment prior to a final report being published. The following is a summary of the Library Director's letter:

a. The KPLBC is investigating how to incorporate a library facility into the National Register Listed Historic 1918 Kasson School site.

b. A library facility of 17,000 sq ft has been suggested. It is preferred that this space all be on one floor.

c. The Kasson community needs a multi-purpose 3,000 sq. ft. community center space preferably adjacent to the proposed library (total of 20,000 sq. ft.

d. On March 10, 2011, the Widseth, Smith, Nolting architects presented the three preliminary design proposals to the Library Building Committee. The pros and cons of each proposal were extensively discussed between the Library Building Committee members and the architects. All present agreed that further design work is required; incorporating the pro and con information identified before any decisions can be reached. The architects agreed to incorporate the new

input into additional design work and will meet with the Library Building Committee again to re-examine the proposed designs.

e. The committee's mission statement lists the following three library design proposals for the Historic 1918 school site:

- 1) Total rehabilitation of the 1918 school building,
- 2) A partial or modified rehabilitation of the school building and
- 3) A completely new structure on the general footprint of the existing building.

4. May is National Preservation Month: KARE sponsors a Historic Preservation event every year in May. News on this year's event will be released soon.

5. KARE on Facebook: KARE's Facebook site is up and running. 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>

Be sure to check out the pictures. KARE has lots of plans for this social media outlet.

3. Dodge County Expo, March 26: Thank you to the many volunteers who worked at the booth.

4. Other KARE Information Booths: KARE will host information booths are the Dodge County Fair, Kasson Festival in the Park and at Marigold Days. More information to follow.

Thank You to everyone for your ongoing support.

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.

Kasson Alliance for Restoration

122 West Main Street, Suite No. 2

Kasson, MN 55944

507-634-7435

Email: KassonAlliance@Kmtel.com

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

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".