

Kasson Alliance Email News, Vol. 4, No. 3, Kasson Alliance for Restoration News

Kasson Alliance for Restoration (KARE) Supporters,

A. 1918 School Reuse Task Force Update: The 1918 School Reuse Task Force members continue to meet on Tuesday evenings in Kasson's City Hall although occasionally they skip a week or two to accommodate member's schedules. The Task Force is publishing a weekly column in the Dodge County Independent titled: "**Kasson Public School: T.I.P of the Week**". **T.I.P. stands for "To Inform the Public"**. The Task Force will be distributing a survey related to the historic school to Kasson Residents in the near future.

B. Mothballing the Historic Kasson Public School: The January 31 E-Newsletter mentioned that the October 2009 Historic Properties Reuse Study Report recommended "mothballing" the historic school. KARE members have volunteered to assist with **mothballing the School**. Some of you contacted KARE to ask what "mothballing" meant. Page 30 of the report states:

Mothball

Under this scenario, the city would take steps to halt further deterioration of the building. **The integrity of the exterior envelope would be restored** by boarding over upper level windows, securing the exterior entrance to the boiler room, etc.

Extensions would be added to rain leaders to direct water away from the foundation, fill would be added to establish positive drainage in the courtyard area, and a portable pump would be installed in the boiler room to remove excess water.

Snow would no longer be stored on the parking area; destructive training activities inside the building would be discontinued. **Carpets and other materials conducive to mold growth** would be removed from the building, and the building would be ventilated to minimize mold and mildew. **Regular security** checks would minimize intrusions by vandals. **Maintenance of the grounds would continue,** window coverings would be painted, and other steps would be taken to keep the building from becoming a neighborhood eyesore.

Advantages

- Would halt further deterioration of the building.
- Most of the work required could be completed by city crews or volunteers with minimal expenditures for materials.
- Would save the costs of hazardous materials abatement and demolition.
- Would allow the city to retain ownership of the site for future use.
- Would allow for potential rehabilitation/reuse of the school building in the future.

-Would allow time for the community to engage in a detailed planning process, to explore potential for grants and other funding, and to market the property to outside developers.

To see the rest of the report got to: http://www.kassonalliance.org/kassonschool_reuse-study.htm

C. KARE meets with the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (PAM): KARE met with PAM staff members Bonnie McDonald and Erin Hanafin-Berg on January 28th to discuss KARE's ongoing mission of historic preservation in Kasson. A number of good ideas were discussed. Some of you may remember Erin from the time she spent in Kasson in June 2009 during the Community Workshop meetings for the Historic School. A meeting with the Minnesota Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office is planned for the near future.

D. The Main Street Program: The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota is working in 2010 to reestablish the statewide Minnesota Main Street coordinating program which is a comprehensive, community-driven, economic development program that revitalizes established commercial corridors. To kick it off they held a Minnesota Main Street Logo Design Competition. Three logo designs were submitted and now it is time to vote. The logo selected will be used as the primary icon on the Minnesota Main Street website, printed documents and other media. *Public judging will take place online from March 1, 2010 – March 14, 2010.* In order to vote: Log into Facebook, Find Minnesota Main Street, Albums ◇ Logo Designs. Once you have found the one you like best, click "Like" and your vote will be tallied. The logo designs are also posted on the [Minnesota Main Street](#) page at the PAM website. Look at the images there and submit your vote by sending an email to wokeefe@mnpreservation.org. For questions about the Minnesota Main Street program, contact Will O'Keefe at wokeefe@mnpreservation.org. <http://www.mnpreservation.org/programs/main-street/>

E. KARE's Dodge County Expo Booth: KARE will host its second annual booth the Dodge County Expo on Saturday, March 27 and we welcome you to visit. The Expo is held at Triton High School in Dodge Center from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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. KARE's mission is to preserve Kasson's history, historic buildings, structures and properties to serve as landmarks to Kasson's' heritage while being a source of education in the importance of historic preservation.

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

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