

## Rochester Post Bulletin

Kasson News

6/22/2007

Kasson, Minnesota

A limestone chimney built during the Depression era in North Park has been demolished despite opposition from a local preservation group.

City Administrator Randy Lenth said the city moved ahead with the demolition to make way for a new park shelter. He said the city plans to save as much of the limestone as possible, but said the chimney was in poor condition and was a safety hazard.

"The mortar in between all of the blocks had turned to sand. It was just crumbling," Lenth said.

Members of the Kasson Alliance for Restoration had voiced opposition to the chimney being demolished. The chimney was commissioned by the Works Progress Administration. Kasson Mayor Tim Tjosaas had suggested a compromise — the city remove the chimney but save the limestone bricks for one year. He challenged residents to come up with a use for the bricks.

Lenth said there has been discussion about creating a historical display featuring the limestone, an old bell from City Hall and the brick from the old elementary school in Kasson. But with the school's demolition on hold, the future of that display idea is still uncertain.

---

End