

## **Kasson Alliance Email News, Vol. 3, No. 4, School Reuse Study Meetings KARE Activities**

KARE Supporters,

**1. KARE members and the School Reuse Action Committee (SCHRAC) have been very busy** the past few months preparing for next week's 1918 School Reuse Study Interviews, Workshop and Reuse Study Team Meetings. There are a number of options for you to participate and share your thoughts about the reuse of the school:

**a. Attend the Public Meeting, Community Participation Workshop on Thursday June 11 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM** at the Kasson High School at 101 16th Street Northeast which is north of town on Highway 57. Participants in the June 11 workshop will have an opportunity to meet members of John Lauber's reuse team, hear a brief presentation on the reuse study process, get an update on the progress of the project thus far, and share their opinions and ideas about the potential reuse of the building and site. The workshop agenda and the full schedule for the reuse team's three-day June 10-12 site visit is posted on the Reuse Study website at: ([www.kassonschoolreuse.net](http://www.kassonschoolreuse.net)). The Workshop will start at 7:00 PM, but you are welcome to attend anytime during the 2 hour period to fit your schedule.

**b. Fill out the attached Public Input Survey (15 questions) and mail it or email it to John Lauber at:** Lauber Historic Preservation and Community Planning, 3220 Edmund Boulevard, Minneapolis, MN 55406 or call John at 612-722-0172 (*Office*), 612-991-8983 (*Cell*), *Email: jflauber@comcast.net*. Alternatively, you can mail or email it to the KARE contact info below. Depending on your background or situation, answer any or all of the questions as you like.

**c. For your convenience, and for those who cannot download attachments, the survey is also included at the bottom of this email message.** Simply email it to John Lauber ([jflauber@comcast.net](mailto:jflauber@comcast.net)). If preferred, do a Reply to this email, type in your answers. Depending on your background or situation, answer any or all of the questions as you like.

**d. Survey forms are also available at City Hall and the library in Kasson.**

e. **Visit the Reuse Study Website at:** (<http://kassonschoolreuse.net>) and click on “Share Your Input” at the top of the page. This gives you two options: 1) download the 15-question form and fill it out (see step 3 on the webpage) or fill out a shorter online form on the webpage.

**Please take a few minutes fill out the survey form using one of the options listed above. Your input is valuable!!**

**3. Great News!! Erin Hanafin Berg**, Field Representative for the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, will be attending and assisting with the June 10, 11 and 12 Reuse Study Activities. Erin is a valuable source of information about resources that the Preservation Alliance or the National Trust for Historic Preservation might have available for the Historic Kasson School project. Welcome Erin!!

**4.** Two KARE members recently toured the **historic school in Lanesboro, MN** which has been adaptively reused. Many good ideas discovered.

**5.** KARE is setting up pages on both **My Space and Facebook** in regards to the Historic School. A blog option will be available. We will have more info on that soon.

**6.** KARE will sponsor a **2nd annual Kasson History Day in 2009**. Many citizens and local businesses have asked about this. Watch for details on that event in a future ENews letter.

**7.** A KARE volunteer has set up a **page in Wikipedia for the Historic 1918 School** (thank you!). Visit [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kasson\\_Public\\_School](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kasson_Public_School)

Thank you for your continuing support. Our membership and support from citizens and the business community continues to grow.

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.

**Mission: KARE is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization formed in January 2007. KARE's mission is to preserve historic buildings, structures and properties to serve as landmarks of Kasson's' heritage, along with being a source of education in the importance of historic preservation.**

**Kasson Alliance for Restoration**

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**Email: [KassonAlliance@Kmtel.com](mailto:KassonAlliance@Kmtel.com)**

**Website: [www.KassonAlliance.org](http://www.KassonAlliance.org)**

**Note: The media is welcome to use all or portions of this announcement.**

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# Kasson School Reuse Study

## Public Input Survey

### **Part 1: Help us prepare for the reuse team's visit on 10-12 June.**

In June, the Kasson School Reuse Team will be in town for three days of intensive information gathering, which will include tours of the building and community, a community workshop, and a series of targeted interviews with local residents. You can help us prepare for this visit by answering the following questions:

1. What are some of the local issues that could affect the future of the school building—either positively or negatively?
2. Who should be included in the interview sessions?
3. What questions should the reuse team ask?

### **Part 2: Help us to envision ways in which the school building could continue to contribute to community life.**

4. What are some of Kasson's unmet needs, and how could the school be used to fill them?
5. What features of the school building are unique (location, large interior spaces, the building's division into three distinct sections)? Do these features create any unique opportunities for reuse?
6. Looking broadly at Kasson and the surrounding area, are there economic development opportunities that have been missed or that are pending? Could the school building be used as a venue for pursuing some of these opportunities?
7. How could a rehabilitation of the school building be completed in a way that would help to reduce the community's carbon footprint (energy efficiency, creating a place for telecommuting, etc.)?

# Kasson School Reuse Study

## Public Input Survey

**Part 3: Help us to understand some of the practical issues that should be addressed as part of the reuse study.**

8. How important is it that a reuse of the building be financially self-sustaining?
  
9. Would you support the use of public funding or subsidies if the building were to be rehabilitated for a public purpose (library, city hall, county offices, headquarters for non-profit organizations, etc.)?
  
10. How should costs of a rehabilitation be paid for—taxes, grant funding, incentive programs, revenue generating activities (rental or leases)?
  
11. Are you aware of funding sources that might be applied to rehabilitation and reuse of the school building?
  
12. What kinds of new uses would be most/least acceptable for the school building (offices, community center, housing, commercial, light industry, etc.).
  
13. Has the lack of a tenant over the past few years caused problems for neighbors and other local residents? Please explain.
  
14. How long should the building be allowed to stand while the search for a new use continues?
  
15. The city forgave more than \$250,000 in infrastructure improvement assessments in 2006 in order to acquire the school building from the Kasson-Mantorville School District. Estimates prepared in 2007 for demolition of the building and required abatement of hazardous materials ranged from approximately \$180,000 to approximately \$420,000. Demolition of the school building would therefore represent a substantial investment of public money. That said, what would be the best/most appropriate reuse for the school site?

16. Other Comments?