

## **Kasson Alliance Email News, Vol. 2, No. 8, 16 August 2008: KARE and City Reach Agreement on Historic School**

**KARE supporters,**

**The** Kasson Alliance for REstoration (KARE) and the City of Kasson signed a settlement agreement on Wednesday August 13, 2008. As a result, there will **NOT** be a trial on Monday August 18, 2008. We are alerting you as many of you were planning to attend the trial. The agreement calls for the two parties to issue a joint press release. In the meantime, the article below recently appeared in the **Rochester Post Bulletin**. See [http://www.postbulletin.com/newsmanager/templates/localnews\\_story.asp?z=2&a=356611](http://www.postbulletin.com/newsmanager/templates/localnews_story.asp?z=2&a=356611)

If you would like to see details about the agreement, you can view the entire settlement document on KARE's website at:

[http://www.kassonalliance.org/docs/08Aug\\_School\\_Settlement\\_Agreement.pdf](http://www.kassonalliance.org/docs/08Aug_School_Settlement_Agreement.pdf)

In the months ahead, we will have more news to report on the ongoing preparation for the professional reuse study. There will be opportunities for all of you to participate.

KARE is very pleased with this agreement and we look forward to partnering with the city on this project as well as many other endeavors to enhance Kasson's amenities. Thank you to all of you for your support over the past many months. Your support thru volunteering, calling us, writing us, emailing us and of course your generous donations have made it all possible.

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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## **Rochester Post Bulletin, Local News**

### **City, preservationists reach agreement on Kasson's old elementary school**

8/15/2008 9:00:22 PM

By [Laura Gossman](#)  
Post-Bulletin, Rochester MN

KASSON -- Just days before it was set for trial in Dodge District Court, attorneys for the city of Kasson and Kasson Alliance for Restoration announced that they've settled a lawsuit over the old elementary school in Kasson.

The two entities have agreed to share expenses for a reuse study to investigate ways to use the 90-year-old building, they said Friday.

If the study identifies a way to use the school that will preserve the school's historical integrity, the city will hold off on demolishing it until after Aug. 31, 2011.

KARE attorney Mark Anfinson said the expectation is that city leadership will be responsive if a use is found for the school.

"My clients are pleased with the agreement," Anfinson said.

Both groups agreed to issue a joint news release with no further comments.

"I give the city officials enormous credit for meeting KARE halfway," Anfinson said.

According to the agreement, the study could cost as much as \$30,000, and the city has promised to match a maximum of \$15,000. Any grant money received from state or federal sources will be apportioned equally between the parties.

After a request for bids is completed and a qualified contractor is found, the contractor has seven months to complete the study, Anfinson said. The firm chosen to do the study must be approved by both the city and KARE.

The city will continue to own the school and the property, and may use the school for any purpose it deems necessary as long it doesn't cause damage, according to the agreement.

The dispute between the preservation group and the city began in 2006 after Kasson voters rejected a \$3.9 million plan to renovate the old school into a library and government center. Later, city officials moved toward demolishing the empty building with the hopes of constructing a new library on the site.

The preservation group argued that the structure should be saved, and they helped put it on the National Register of Historic Places.

**[Laura Gossman](#) covers news in Olmsted and Dodge counties. If you have news tips and story ideas, call her at (507) 285-7619.**

**For more information, go to [Postbulletin.com/weblinks](http://Postbulletin.com/weblinks).**

**Kasson Alliance for Restoration <http://www.kassonalliance.org>**

**City of Kasson <http://www.cityofkasson.com>**

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