

KARE Email News, Vol. 2, No. 4, 11 February 2008: Kasson School Negotiation Meeting

Kasson Alliance for Restoration (KARE) Supporters:

On Monday February 11, representatives from the city council, city staff, KARE member/volunteers and legal council for both parties assembled at 10:00 AM in the Kasson City Hall to explore common ground related to the historic Kasson School.

Each group had its own conference room to encourage discussion within each team and proposals were shuttled back and forth between the two rooms. The ensuing discussion was a good first step toward understanding each stakeholder's position and interests. The process adjourned at approximately 1:00 PM. Proposals from both groups were traded and discussed.

As part of KARE's proposal, KARE requested a response to their January 7 letter to Mayor Tjosaas. This letter became public information after it was presented at a City Council meeting on January 9 and later published as a letter to the editor (see your ENews Vol. 2, No. 1 or go to <http://www.kassonalliance.org/news.htm>). The document requests the city to partner with KARE volunteers to submit a building reuse study grant application to the Minnesota Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The Minnesota Historical Society is encouraging KARE to pursue this option. This is a commonly accepted process for pursuing adaptive reuses for historic buildings. A reuse study, for example, was used as part of the reuse and restoration of the Red Wing, MN school (see http://www.kassonalliance.org/kassonschool_reuse_study.htm) as well as others. Additional information about KARE's proposal will be released at the appropriate time. KARE is not at liberty to discuss the cities' proposal.

No date was set for a future meeting. However, it is anticipated that the stakeholders will trade information and ideas over the coming weeks.

We will issue another update as the process continues. Your email questions, input and suggestions are welcome. We appreciate your continued support.

The trial, if necessary, is scheduled for August 18, 19 and 20 starting at 9:00 AM on Monday August 18 (Dodge County Court House, Mantorville, MN).

Thank you,

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The Kasson Alliance for Restoration (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.

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

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