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Sent: Monday, June 04, 2007 11:36 PM
To: KARE Supporters
Subject: KARE Email News, Vol 1, No. 1, 04 June 2007: Save the Kasson School

Hello,

Welcome to the Kasson Alliance for Restoration email list. This is the inaugural message. We will use this forum and our newsletters and website to communicate to our supporters. Most of you contacted us due to your interesting in saving the Kasson Public/Elementary School. KARE has been very busy since January working to save the school and other historic resources in Kasson. I won't go into all details of the past 6 months here, however the following is an update on recent activities. You can find additional details on our website at <http://www.kassonalliance.org>.

KARE representatives attended both the city council meetings in April 2007 and asked the council to delay the demolition to give us a chance to explore reuse options for the school. The council rejected our request, informed us that demolition would start in July and told us to communicate with them in the future thru their lawyer. The city further stated that they plan to construct a library on the site (however, no plans or details exist for this).

Subsequent to this, demolition bids were opened on May 23 with the low bid coming in at around \$200,000. However, earlier that day KARE filed an injunction order in the Dodge County Court House in an effort to stop the demolition. As a result, the council was unable to award the demolition contract. The court house has set the hearing date for Tuesday June 5 at 1:30 PM in the court house in Mantorville, MN. Both the KARE lawyers and the cities' lawyer will present their cases. The judge will then decide to either delay the demolition to allow time for a reuse study to materialize or allow the demolition to proceed. Obviously we think our case is very strong.

For the most part, the case will hinge on whether or not the school is a Historic Resource as defined by Minnesota law. You can find information on the case we have built for that on our website. On the main page look for the two documents titled "Final Citizen's Petition Part 1" and "Final Citizen's Petition Part 2". Part 1 contains a lot of history about the school (some of you alumni may find your year book picture in here?). Part 2 contains letters of support, petition signatures and legal information. These documents are part of a Citizen's Petition asking the city to conduct a Historic/Enviro Resource Assessment on the school (under MN law). The city has since predictably ruled negative on the need to conduct an historic assessment which we may or may not end up appealing in court (more on that later).

If you can, you are welcome to attend the court hearing on Tuesday June 5 at 1:30 PM in Mantorville. Sorry for the short notice, we only recently got our Kasson Alliance email address set up and working. Our website is in the construction page. It is mostly a list of documents. It will contain more information on our mission in the coming months.

Thank you for your support.

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