

SAINT ANTHONY FALLS HERITAGE BOARD
Friday, Monday, July 14, 2025, 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm
In Person: Mill City Museum, ADM Conference Room, 6th floor
Virtual Option

Board Members Present

Al Bangoura, Superintendent, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Edna Brazaitis, Citizen Member, Minnesota Historical Society Appointee
Doron Clark, Minnesota State Senate
John Crippen, Hennepin History Museum
Meg Forney, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Sally Grans Korsh, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Appointee
Sydney Jordan, Minnesota House of Representatives
David Kellilher, Minnesota Historical Society
Amy Lucas, Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office Appointee
Kelly Mastin, Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission Appointee
Billy Menz, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Mohamud Noor, Minnesota House of Representatives
Michael Rainville, Council Member, Minneapolis City Council
Elizabeth Shaffer, Commissioner, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Mona Smith, Citizen Member, Minnesota Historical Society Appointee
Kent Whitworth (Chair), Director and CEO, Minnesota Historical Society

Board Members Absent

Katie Cashman, Council Member, Minneapolis City Council
Bobby Joe Champion, Minnesota State Senate
Irene Fernando, Hennepin County Board of Commissioners
Jacob Frey, Mayor, City of Minneapolis
Marion Greene, Hennepin County Board of Commissioners

Heritage Board-Affiliated Organizational Representatives Present

Shameka Bogan (Senator Champion's office), Ed Eiffer Jaramillo (Mayor Frey's office), Andrew Gillett (Hennepin County), Colleen O'Dell (MPRB), Tyler Pederson (MPRB), MaryLynn Pulscher (Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board), Kevin Reich (Mississippi Watershed Management Organization), David Stevens (MNHS), Taylor Tidwell-Bennett (Senator Champion's office), Aaron Williams (MNHS)

Other Organizational Representatives and Guests Present

Tucker Blythe (National Park Service), Jason Benjamin (Citizen), Shelley Buck (Owámniyomni Okhódayapi), Ann Calvert (Citizen), Bruce Chamberlain (TLÁL-LI Collaborative), Kjersti Duval (Owámniyomni Okhódayapi), Barry Hand (Owámniyomni Okhódayapi), Tim Nelson, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Jade Ryerson (National Park Service), Amy Spong (MN State Historic Preservation Office), Ted Tucker (Citizen), Angela Two Stars (Native American Community Development Institute), Carol Zoff (MN Department of Transportation),

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm

II. *Approval of the February 28, 2025 minutes, 3:30-3:35

After a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes for February 28, 2025 were approved.

III. Stone Arch Bridge repair project update, Tim Nelson, Minnesota Department of Transportation

Tim Nelson, construction engineer with the Minnesota Department of Transportation provided an update on the Stone Arch Bridge repair project, which was recently completed ahead of schedule. The work included:

- Repair of 1965 concrete pier encasements with a concrete to match as closely as possible to the existing stained and multi-colored concrete.
- Pier Repointing & Grouting
- Spandrel & Arch Repointing
- Stone removal and replacement

The grand reopening celebration will take place on August 9 from 11 am to 1 pm

IV. The Falls Initiative, Upper Lock progress update, with Owámmiyomni Okhódayapi, with Kjersti Duval and Barry Hand

Kjertsi Duval provided the following update on Upper Lock planning:

Dakota tribes support land conveyance to OO. There is an exclusive rights agreement between the City of Minneapolis, the Park Board and OO regarding conveyance. The Park Board partnership expands the site to 8 acres. Conveyance is anticipated in 2026.

Design for the site is being led by Dakota Knowledge Keepers based on a consensus decision-making model. They have completed 35% design for the full project area, & 65% design for Phase 1.

Phase 1 - Design and Construction planned for 2026. It is limited to Upton Island and includes: demolition, grading, installation of an upland prairie, oak savanna, trail, a multipurpose path (vehicle accessible), and Mother Gardens.

Barry Hand provided an update about OO programming, which includes restoring Dakota lifeways through interpretive tours and audio tours, and a video series.

Owámmiyomni Okhódayapi is beginning a fundraising campaign for full implementation. An

\$8 million trust to care for the restoration has been fully raised.

V. Updates on Pioneers Monument in B.F. Nelson Park, 4:00-4:20

Angela Two Stars of the Native American Community Development Institute presented the findings from the final report *Pioneers Monument: Remove, Recontextualize or Reinterpret*. She explained the pros and cons of three primary different approaches: remove, recontextualize, reinterpret. The report also explored repurposing the art and restoring the landscape.

The report recommended:

- Decommission Pioneers monument
- Remove monument
- Repurpose monument material into landscape design plan.
- Policy creation evaluating and assessing works through a current lens that represents who we are today.
- Re-establish the natural environment through landscape design.

The report also recommends the use of Augmented Reality Art, which can include all narratives, is an optional vs. a forced experience, respects the land, and is user friendly.

Colleen O'Dell, Senior Planner and Landscape Architect with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board provided an update about the Park Board's process to consider the recommendation of removing the statue.

The board has been wrestling with the issue of the statue since 2018-19, because it has been the target for vandalism, especially the back panel. Native voices needed to be heard which was accomplished with the 2024 project. The neighborhood did a lot of community engagement.

The Saint Anthony West Neighborhood Organization has voted to support the recommendation to remove. The Minneapolis Public Art Advisory Council recommended deaccessioning the art, but not breaking it up. The Park Board is working on finding family members of the artist John Karl Daniels to consult with them. Park Board staff are thinking about what would happen at the site if it were removed. There is an upcoming project to do shoreline restoration nearby in 2026.

Staff is updating the Park Board's public art policy. The current policy from 1988 does not address deaccessioning.

The next steps for the Park Board are to vote on the public art policy update, then make a decision about the monument.

Sally Grans Korsh moved that the Heritage Board approve the NACDI 2025 recommendations because the Pioneers Monument supports the inaccurate representation of history. Mona Smith seconded.

Billy Menz stated that in his district, the monument is harmful. A resolution in support of deaccession by this board could support future action by the Park Board.

After a discussion about the precise language of the resolution, Billy Menz moved that the board approve the following revised resolution:

“The St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board supports the 2025 recommendation by the Native American Community Development Institute to decommission and remove the Pioneers Monument at B.F. Nelson Park because of its inaccurate representation of history.”

The motion was seconded by Sydney Jordan.

The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. Update and Next Steps Discussion: St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board Strategic Directions project, with Bruce Chamberlain of TLÂL-LI Collaborative

Bruce Chamberlain reminded that board that at its February meeting the Heritage Board reviewed and approved the recommendations for revitalizing the board. The implementation steps will follow the appointment of the new administrative support position for the Heritage Board.

Kent Whitworth provided a status update on that position. We want that person to be part of the initial next steps with other agencies and organizations to implement the recommendations to revitalize the board. MNHS is committed to enhanced administration. MNHS is currently working through budget decisions, but expects to appoint someone to its team at the end of summer, early fall. We are anxious to get an advisory committee seated and ready to go once an administrative person is on board.

David Kelliher reminded the board that a number of issues will need to be discussed and agreed upon by the board before proposing any changes to the Heritage Board portion of state statute in Chapter 138.

VII. New Business & Announcements

St. Anthony Falls Cutoff Wall Project. An update will be scheduled for the November meeting.

History Leadership Institute. The Minnesota Historical Society recently hosted The History Leadership Institute for two weeks in June. The History Leadership Institute is a program of the American Association of State and Local History. Since 1959, the History Leadership Institute (HLI) has helped history professionals develop the tools, ideas, and connections they need to enhance their ability to lead institutions and the field. location because of the cultural and historical resources. The HLI was held at Mill City Museum, because its organizers valued the proximity to the cultural and historical resources of the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Zone and the museum.

Save the Date: Owamni Festival, Saturday, October 18, 2025

MNHS Councils Social. This end-of-summer social event will take place at Mill City Museum on August 27, 2025, 6:00-8:00 pm. St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board members are invited to attend a social event with the Minnesota Historical Society's Executive Council.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 pm

Remaining 2025 Board Meetings:

Monday November 17, 2025

3:30 - 5:00 pm

Location to be determined