

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary Jane [<mailto:mjwwd@aol.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 2:37 PM

To: Sanders, Donna (CI-StPaul) <donna.sanders@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Saving St. Andrews Church

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

I am writing to support St. Andrews Church. My Mother and her 5 siblings attended the school & graduated from the parish school. My Grandparents who were Hungarian immigrants were very involved in the church and their social life was St. Andrews. My parents were married in St. Andrews and also all my aunts, uncles, cousins. My Grandparents' funerals were in St. Andrews and they renewed their 50th wedding anniversary there too. I was their flower girl. There is a picture of them & their attendants on the front steps of St. Andrews, and I am in front of them. St. Andrews was the center of the community and holds many memories for so many people. Please save St. Andrews, it is a beautiful church in so many ways.

As a long term resident of Summit Hill I advocate strongly for preserving the historic integrity of this structure.

May 21, 2019

City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 310 City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Re: Ord. 19-1, St. Andrew's Church Heritage Preservation Site Designation

Dear Council Members:

As of this writing, the visualization video shown at last Wednesday's City Council hearing has received more than 11,000 views on Facebook!

(See https://www.facebook.com/439410143168667/posts/658020624640950/?comment_id=658045937971752&reply_comment_id=660562614386751.)

While some of those views may represent individuals looking at the video more than once, you don't get 11,000 online impressions unless there's significant public interest.

The question for us is why the City Council is not similarly curious?

We thought that a video presenting a visualization of what might be possible for repurposing the interior of the St. Andrew's sanctuary would, at the very least, provide a logical jumping-off point for exploring alternatives to demolition.

After all, wouldn't an ideal solution be one that would enable the school to meet its space needs while also preserving an iconic neighborhood landmark that has stood for 92 years?

Instead, when we completed our presentation, the hearing immediately veered off into a discussion about "property rights."

Why?

A charter school funded with public dollars that uses lease aid from the state to pay off HRA conduit bonds is nothing like a private developer--even if, sadly, it behaves like one.

As Council Member Prince noted at the hearing, the school is already planning to request \$4.2 million in additional conduit bond funding. Why wouldn't a proposal that very likely will cost less than that even be discussed?

The City's own comprehensive plan states, in part, that:

"There are a finite number of irreplaceable historic resources in Saint Paul. Historic resources are focal points of the community that create a strong sense of place and instill a sense of pride and ownership in residents of Saint Paul. While there will always be loss over time due to natural disasters and other unforeseen events, **neglect, inappropriate alterations, and purposeful removal are all avoidable conditions.** Policies under this strategy focus on how to preserve, protect, and maintain the unique character of Saint Paul's historic resources."

Although economic considerations are not integral to the historic designation process, we think it's clear that the simulation is the tip of the iceberg in what might be possible for repurposing the church--with no additional financial burden on the school.

But we can't explore those alternatives in a vacuum.

Please support historic designation of the St. Andrew's Church, as recommended by both the HPC and SHPO, so that we can finally have a dialogue with the school that might lead to an outcome which will begin the healing process in our neighborhood.

Voting against designation--which in effect will be an endorsement of demolition--will do exactly the opposite.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Teri Alberico, President
Bonnie Youngquist, Vice-President
Friends of Warrendale/Save Historic St. Andrew's

Council members:

As you address the question of designating the St. Andrew's Church building as a St. Paul Cultural Heritage Site, I hope you will recognize the substantial support within the surrounding neighborhoods for a compromise approach that would enable the reuse of this iconic and beautiful building. As a District 10 resident, I've watch the TCGIS lobby very effectively for its expansion, without showing any interest in working with the preservation advocates and their architectural advisors. Acquiring a building for a specific purpose, intentionally outgrowing the capacity of the building, and then proposing to demolish the most significant portion of the building to add capacity seems to me to be a classic case of a "self-created hardship." If you continue to allow charter schools like TCGIS to manipulate the public process, I foresee more problems ahead for St. Paul public schools and for neighborhoods that must host these expanding charters.

I hope you will approve the proposed designation and enable a negotiated solution that preserves St. Andrews.

thank you,

Suzanne Rhees
1220 Hoyt Ave. W.

Please vote to save St. Andrews church tomorrow. I was baptized, made my first communion, confirmation and graduated 8th grade from that church and it needs to be put on the registry of historical buildings.

Let's be like Europe and save our old beautiful buildings and not tear them down.

I love St. Paul and I hope you do to and you do the right thing and save the church.

Nora Ivory 2123 E. Geranium, St. Paul MN 55119.

From: Sandra Peterson [<mailto:Churchillsa@comcast.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 3:53 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: SHSA - SAVE HISTORIC ST. ANDREWS

Dear Amy,

When the neighborhood learned about the TCGIS plan to tear down the old Saint Andrew's building, my choice was to remain neutral.

Now, 14 months later, I **am squarely on the SHSA side**. TCGIS has displayed nothing but complete and callous disregard for our (very small) Warrendale neighborhood. Complete and callous disregard, I can't see it any other way.

One thing that I have disagreed with is your choice to to be completely on the sidelines. I do not understand why you were not the right person to bring the school and neighborhood together. Your participation would have made a huge and positive factor, I believe. As a mediator, I hope it still can.

Tomorrow, there will be a vote for Historic Preservation. SHSA Group has definitely convinced me that the Historic St. Andrew's Church Building definitely deserves to be saved. The neighborhood should continue to have this beautiful, unique building as our center. Please vote for Historic Preservation! 🙏

Thank you,
Sandra Peterson

1179 Churchill Street

P.S. I was most struck by a figure that Bob Spaulding communicated on Facebook ... school population relative to neighborhood population. TCGIS has by far the largest school population ratio in, I believe, the Twin Cities. (I can't find the post and number numbers now - I remember being disturbed by it though.)

From: Sandra Peterson [<mailto:Churchillsa@comcast.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 4:00 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: SHSA 2

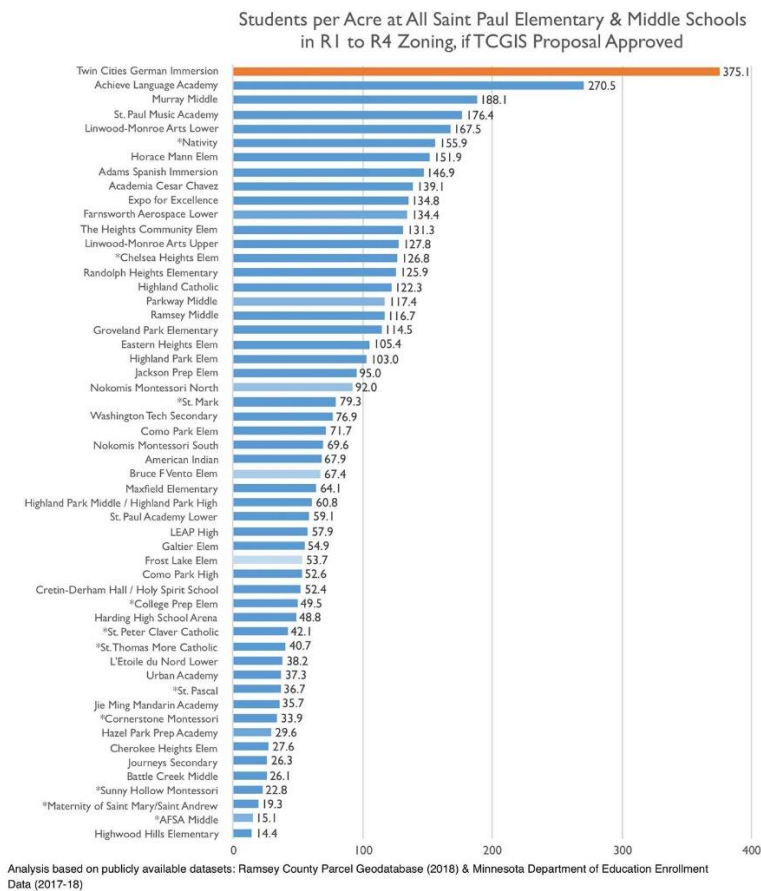
Hello Amy,

I think this is what I tried to explain in my first email.

Obviously, this impacts traffic and safety. As well as parking. I'm not against TCGIS and it's students. But these are factors that demand consideration.

I'd like to see Historic Preservation and Compromise!

Sandra



From: Dianne Miron [<mailto:ddmiron22@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 4:07 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Beautiful historic architecture must not be destroyed

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

To Whom It May Concern:

In my life I have studied art and majored in elementary education. I spent the majority of my career, however, in leadership positions in healthcare with a Master's degree in Nonprofit and Public Administration.

I am deeply concerned that an architectural gem in the Como Lake and Park community, St. Andrew's Church structure, could even be considered for demolition.

Those who are fortunate enough to travel throughout the world learn that history, community and architecture are connected and valued. Churches are often the foundation and center in building the community. This is especially true of St. Andrew's.

To tear down this amazing structure is an insult to our values. The architectural beauty is apparent, and the fact that other buildings designed by the same architect have been designated historical, one is the St Anthony Park Public Library, beautiful and still fully functional and thriving in the community, and another is Corpus Christi Church which has been respectfully preserved in the exterior, but functionally repurposed and designed for the Emily Program.

It will be extremely sad and, I believe, a huge mistake to demolish this unique artistic piece of our history. There is no way to rebuild or replace our history.

Thank you,
Dianne Miron

Members of the City Council,

I attended the public hearing on May 15. As a supporter of the effort to preserve the former Saint Andrews Church as a historic site, I was troubled by some of what I heard from certain council members.

Both Council members Brendmoen and Tobert expressed concern that there is a tremendous financial burden placed on the school to maintain the building. Have you considered that they have plenty of money to tear down a building and reconstruct a new one? I know that when I need to re-roof my house I don't tear down the whole structure and start over because it costs less. This justification is patently absurd.

Council members Brendmoen and Tobert also cited the concern over a number of other churches in the city where difficult decisions will need to be made in the future. However, those are not buildings currently under consideration here. I don't know how many other churches in Saint Paul are legitimately historic.

But this one is legitimately historic as has been suggested by the Heritage Preservation Commission.

There is a church right across the street from Saint Andrews. If (hypothetically) the school were to purchase it with plans to tear it down and replace it, I sincerely doubt anyone in the neighborhood would object at all. That's because the church across the street is far less significant in terms of history, architecture and beauty.

It should also be pointed out that L'Etoile Du Nord French Immersion School occupied this same location. Though they did not occupy the church at the time, when they outgrew the building they moved to east Saint Paul; and again to Maplewood with a split campus. To say that TCGIS has "no other choice" but to tear down a historic building is also patently absurd.

It appeared as though at least these two Council members have already made up their mind; thus nullifying any need for a public hearing. I hope the rest of the Council were receptive to all perspectives and took them to heart.

Every day I look out my back porch to see the bell tower of the former Saint Andrews church and marvel at its beauty. I truly believe that if TCGIS is allowed to demolish this historic landmark, our neighborhood would be ruined and any hopes of healing would be lost.

I strongly recommend preserving this important building.

Sincerely,

Kristi Donahue

From: Marge Ross [<mailto:marger1962@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 11:27 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: St. Andrew's Church

Amy, I am strongly urging you to vote to designate St. Andrew's Church as a Saint Paul Cultural Heritage Site.

"There are a finite number of irreplaceable historic resources in Saint Paul. Historic resources are focal points of the community that create a strong sense of place and instill a sense of pride and ownership in residents of Saint Paul. While there will always be loss over time due to natural disasters and other unforeseen events, neglect, inappropriate alterations, and purposeful removal are all avoidable conditions. Policies under this strategy focus on how to preserve, protect, and maintain the unique character of Saint Paul's historic resources."

This is your Ward - your people and your city are counting on your to make the right choice: to preserve a historical building the is a landmark for a community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marge Ross

From: Craig David [<mailto:artdavidii@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 10:12 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Noecker, Rebecca (CI-StPaul) <Rebecca.Noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: Craig David <artdavidii@yahoo.com>
Subject: St. Andrews

Hello Amy,

As a life long resident of St. Paul, and artist of the Wellstone Murals on the facade of the Wellstone Center, and the Workers Memorial on the Capitol Mall, I implore you to allow the church to receive historic designation. The building is presently the greenest of green, because it exists, and thus it's demolition is in total opposition to any sustainable process and philosophy you currently embrace. That is to say nothing about the hand made energy that exists within the current building, as well as the historical and spiritual content that will be gutted from your neighborhood with the demolition. Leave it be. The church building has many profound reasons to exist, and those reasons stand well above the those of the German Immersion School's logic.

Sincerely yours, Craig David.

From: Marietta McCullough [<mailto:mcculloughm@mmsaschool.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 9:53 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Vote YES for Historic Designation

Dear St. Paul City Council,

We are writing to you regarding the upcoming Historical Preservation Site designation vote on the former Church of St. Andrew building in Como Park. As you know this has been a long and controversial project and I want to emphasize that your decision on this matter will no doubt greatly impact the immediate neighborhood and the history of St. Paul. Our relatives living far and wide also support the Historic Designation. This matter touches many people.

We urge you to vote **YES** for historic designation.

The Heritage Preservation Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office both concur that the building is historic and should be granted protection. The consideration that you have before you on this vote is only in the framework of historic designation which has been clearly extensively studied, confirmed and recommended by an independent commission and many qualified individuals on historic eligibility.

Sincerely,
Michael and Marietta McCullough
1251 N. Victoria St.
St. Paul, MN 55117

Eva Tone
1063 17th Ave SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

City Council of Saint Paul
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Council Member:

As a parent of a student at the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to oppose the historic designation of the former church that is currently part of TCGIS.

Although our family lives outside of Saint Paul, we decided to have our child attend school in Saint Paul because of the academic reputation TCGIS has in the Twin Cities and beyond. Many families like ours enjoy what the City of Saint Paul has to offer. We have a vested interest in the development of the city as the school brings us to Saint Paul every day.

I urge you to vote down the historic designation and vote for children's education. While the church might be something that people enjoy looking at, the inside of the building has been altered and does not resemble of what it used to be. This space has been expensive to maintain and does not serve well for current student needs. Also, each year the maintenance expenses keep increasing, as the building was not built efficiently. Would you rather see the educational tax dollars go to support an old building, versus have the dollars go towards actual education? Every building is built for a purpose, as was former St. Andrews, but this purpose has passed with the sale of this church by Archdiocese.

Our family has been with school for over 6 years and we hope the school can provide the space needed for the students to learn and thrive going forward. In fall of 2019, we have an incoming Kindergartener and we hope he gets to experience all the good things TCGIS has to offer. We are planning to stay with the school for next 9-10 years and our interests do reside with the neighborhood to keep it safe, vibrant and diverse. TCGIS provides a great education for children in Twin cities; and St. Paul can be proud to have a school, like TCGIS in their city.

I ask that the Saint Paul city council oppose historic designation as this issue would likely cause the school to suffer insurmountable financial hardships and drive families away from Saint Paul.

Most respectfully,

Eva Tone

St. Andrew's is a historical building in the city of St. Paul. This is structure , which depicts the historical history of St. Paul. Tearing it down would be a crime. In 10, 20, 50 years, what will St. Paul have to show? Keep St. Paul history alive and quit demolishing buildings.

Lewis Hohenthauer
Jan Cooper

Please show our youth, and our wise, wise seniors that history is important to who we are. As we push forward into this ever technical world, I pray we can also hold onto & establish a hold upon our ever important roots. Let's find ways to meld old and emerging new, giving hope to this bright questioning and yet struggling young generation. St Paul can be a beacon of constancy and beauty in a fast moving confusing world. Thank you, Nancy Petrun Kilburn St . I can hear the school from my house 😊

Petition by "Save Historic Saint Andrew's" (SHSA)

- St. Andrew's has long been a treasured part of the Como neighborhood. We ask that our public officials vote against destroying a piece of St. Paul's history worthy of protection.
- We ask the City Council to approve the HPC findings that the building be designated a Heritage Preservation Site consistent with the existing City of Saint Paul's Comprehensive Plan.
- The project would have a long-term negative impact on the historic and residential character of the neighborhood. To reduce this impact we ask City Officials to require TCGIS to develop a no-demolition alternative. This is a required consideration in all thorough planning processes.

Link to the 413 signatures:

<https://www.gopetition.com/signatures/save-historic-st-andrews-in-como-park.html>

Saint Andrew's Church site Historic designation - follow up and response to the the City Council Meeting's discussion of Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Dear Council Members and Mayor Carter,

I was deeply concerned and startled by the tone of the conversation at the City Council Board Meeting last week. I don't feel like this debate should be about whether the two side are adversarial or willing to compromise, but whether the argument to save this historic building has merit and is realistic. The vote before you is, after all, whether to accept the Historic Preservation Commission and the State Historic

Preservation Office's recommendations to save this site for posterity. Do we choose to respect the recommendations provided by these non-partisan groups we ourselves appointed? Or do we choose to ignore all the valid arguments for preservation that lie at the core of how we define ourselves as a city and a community?

There were several arguments put forth during the German Immersion's presentation which need to be challenged.

If you have questions about the maintenance costs and sustainability of the former church building, just look at the presentation on YouTube of the 10-11-18 Save Historic St. Andrew's Forum - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkpsiTli-o&t=1s> especially videos 2/6 and 3/6. The exorbitant costs quoted at the Council meeting for replacing the roof were disingenuous. Tile roofs are meant to last. This is not something that needs to be replaced every 30 years or even every 50 years.

If you have questions about the reasonability of the school's needs for building improvements, just talk to the Facilities Department at Saint Paul Public Schools - Hearing things at the City Council meeting like - "Our kids currently have to suffer through lunches in a dark, windowless cafeteria." or "Our kids have to sit in the hallway and suffer the humiliation of being singled out for additional tutoring because there is no private space for students to work one-on-one with an adult." or even still, "Our teachers don't have a decent staff lounge." ... made me cringe. I worked closely with the Facilities department in SPPS for over a year during the first remodel of the school now owned by TGIS and know that tax dollars spent on public schools are highly prioritized - Staff lounge - not a priority. Small break out rooms for tutorials - not a priority. Windows in the lunchroom - not a priority. I am currently working in a school that has a windowless cafeteria, has teachers providing one-on-one service in the hallways, and an unused teachers' lounge. This is common in Saint Paul. The kids don't seem to suffer. No one is talking about tearing down a building based on these arguments. Kids do eat lunch at crazy, ungodly hours in some of our schools - but this is due mainly to the size of the schools and the number of students at these schools. Justifying tearing down a landmark to increase a school's enrollment does nothing to alleviate this problem.

Someone pointed out at last week's meeting that charter schools, including the German Immersion School - are publicly funded. Students don't pay tuition to attend. When we're talking about the cost of building a brand-new state of the art facility that would rival any college campus, we are talking about tax dollars - your money and mine - to tear down a building that does serve its function as a gym and cafeteria better than many other schools I've worked in, attended or visited. When it was home to the French Immersion Magnet School (SPPS), the Saint Andrew's gym had to serve as a cafeteria as well, so there were no gym classes offered before, during or after lunch time, since the cafeteria had to be set up prior to lunch and cleaned up afterwards. The current facilities are so much nicer, it's hard to compare. These tax dollars need to go to the education of the kids, and not to creating a "building of your dreams" structure that only needs a helicopter pad on the roof to match the "world of the future" movies they used to show us in my high school social studies classes.

Spinning an image of students in dire straits and educations compromised seemed like a major part of the German Immersion School's argument to the board last week. Even going so far as to mention that kids have to put on their snow pants to walk across the street to get to the rented classroom space in yet another church building. It all sounds much worse than it is in reality. Let me give you some perspective. One former school where I worked - Highland Park Elementary (also part of SPPS) had "pods" out in the courtyard to provide additional classroom space. I remember a conversation with a

teacher who had used one of these pods for years and was being reassigned to an “indoor” classroom. She was actually sad to say goodbye to the pod. Teaching in that self-contained classroom had been an overall good experience for her and her students. The kids had to go into the school building to use the bathroom, eat in the cafeteria, go to specialists or work with other staff for any special, individualized lessons. Every time the classroom door was opened in winter, there was a burst of cold air that sent chills to every student.

It sounds like Little House on the Prairie compared to the current situation at the German Immersion School where the additional classrooms are fully-enclosed in a well-built, permanent structure right across a very quiet street. The classrooms and bathrooms are connected by a hallway, and the building is centrally heated.

I’m not suggesting that we all need to go back to the days where we walked 5-miles to school and back every day, uphill both ways, or that we need to impose hardship on our students or deny them any modern conveniences. I am simply suggesting, by offering some existing public schools as comparisons, that there is a big difference between what we deem as necessary for students to have a good education and what we think we’d like, if the sky were the limit. As one of the German Immersion parents pointed out in her presentation to your board, “We need to focus our monies on the students’ education and not on building costs.” By tearing down the existing building, the German Immersion will incur huge debt and will be struggling for years to pay that off. That money - our tax dollars - is money that is not going toward meeting the basic costs of these students’ education.

When we talk about unfunded mandates and reasonable costs, maybe another look at Saint Paul Public Schools is useful. There is a pool of money dedicated to buildings and maintenance, and another pool of money that is designated for recurring educational costs - teachers’ salaries, books, technology, lets. While I’m not telling the German Immersion School how to balance their budget, I do challenge their claim that saving the Historic Saint Andrew’s church building is going to rob their students of a good education. Again, if this debate were taking place at the Saint Paul School Board instead of the City Council, much of the German Immersion School’s case would simply be thrown out. Let’s get back to the real issue - if this building is torn down, it will never, ever be replaced by something of comparable worth.

The cost of tearing down the existing structure is phenomenal - both economically and environmentally, not to mention the loss of an irreplaceable historical landmark. The cost to the neighborhood must be considered to have an even greater impact than the cost to the school, because the German Immersion School can pick up and move at any time - if not five years from now, then 20 or 30. This has been hinted at several times in the meetings I’ve attended, and I heard it again last week at the Council meeting. It may have been a veiled threat - “if we don’t get what we want, we could move, and it would be your loss” - but the possibility is real and can not be ignored. There is nothing preventing the German Immersion school from selling off and moving to a new site at any time. Once we’ve given them whatever they want, they are under no obligation to hold onto it. We, however, are stuck with whatever they choose to leave behind. Will it be a beautiful landmark which has many years of use left in it, or will it be a behemoth which swallows up all the quaintness and “livability” of its surrounding neighborhood?

If you have any questions about “unfunded mandates” or whether the City Council can justify imposing restrictions with financial repercussions on privately owned properties, all you have to do is look at your own meeting minutes over the last several years. In the Council meetings I’ve attended, sometimes it seems like that is all you do. I remember the businessman who testified about an unusually large tax

assessment for road construction in front of his business. He and other business owners had asked the city for some kind of street improvements to make it easier for their trucks to get in and out of their lots. The city came up with a plan that ended up costing these businesses in the form of a huge tax assessment - I want to say tens of thousands of dollars, maybe more, could have been over a hundred thousand, all I know is I was shocked at the figure. The council's reply was basically, "Tough." "You chose to build your companies on that particular road, you are stuck with the bill." "This roads improvement decision was made for the good of the whole community, not just for you." "The fact that you own frontage property means that you foot a significant chunk of the bill, but road improvements are designed to serve the community at large."

When I talked with historic conservationists recently, their response to the German Immersion school's "financial burden" argument was basically the same. The German Immersion school chose to purchase this particular property, now they need to be good stewards and good neighbors, maintain this property and not destroy something of great intrinsic value that is a core piece of the neighborhood's identity.

In a city such as ours, people don't get to do anything they want with their property. That's what makes it a good place to live. Try going to a place where cities impose no rules and restrictions or where developers rule instead of the City Councils. Bad things happen and people suffer. City Councils and the laws they impose are meant to serve the common good, not any one particular individual or entity.

When I heard, once again at last week's board meeting, the German Immersion school's argument that having the former Catholic Church building as part of their school was offensive and traumatic to many of the students and did not coincide with the school's values of inclusiveness and tolerance, I have to ask them why they bought this site in the first place. Certainly they have been "forcing" students to attend gym classes and eat lunch in this building for over 5 years. Why the sudden change now? Painting this former church in such bad light - the trauma, the poor facilities, the suffering of students and staff - is clearly intended to distract from the issue of whether or not the neighborhood has the right to protect this building.

I've toured this building. It's beautiful inside and out. The cafeteria and gym are much nicer than many, many schools I've been in, and the exterior is in very good shape. The ONLY reason to tear down this building is to replace it with something bigger. And that would require several variances - total lot usage, lack of parking, height variances - and the fact that they want to squeeze more kids - from all over the Twin Cities, and their parents, and their cars, into this quiet residential neighborhood ... this whole vividly painted tableau of an inadequate, antiquated and dilapidated building needing to be torn down to make way for progress is intended to detract from the real issue - what we would be losing. The building they want to tear down is of irreplaceable beauty and historic significance. It is a focal point, architecturally, of the neighborhood, and give us a great sense of place. Much like on Summit Hill or in the Hamline preservation area, or the neighborhoods around some of our other local college campuses, citizens have fought to preserve what they have. We are not against progress, but we do know that once these significant places are gone, so is the sense of place and the unique feel of individual neighborhoods. What we're left with is simply "progress" and "development." There's no more "home."

These and many other intertwining issues of concern can't really be separated out from the "historic designation" debate, and that was clear during the discussion period of the board.

1.) Whether the City Council should impose a restriction or designation on a property against the will of the property owners. - Yes, of course, you do it all the time. And there is precedent in Saint Paul as well as many other areas in the region, where significant architectural structures - including churches - have been successfully saved and repurposed. I visited Prairie du Chien this past weekend to see many of the historic homes preserved from the fur trade era and beyond. Just a few hours down river from us here in Saint Paul, it were a stopping point for many of our own city's famous historical figures. I happened upon the oldest "extant" church in Wisconsin, the oldest having been repurposed as a museum. I saw another beautiful old church on the way down that was serving as a Main Street gift shop. People in those communities see the value of saving and maintaining these beautiful buildings - not because they were once considered sacred, but because they are beautiful and functional today, right now.

2.) Whether local designation is an "unfunded mandate" that brings an undue burden to the property owners. - Buildings need to be maintained and money spent regardless of the structure. Many features of this building - the tile roofs, the excellent structural design, the general good condition of the building currently - are a financial asset. Tearing it down and building from scratch especially their proposed design which adds a higher roof and more classrooms, is certainly more expensive.

While the current focus of this debate has been on whether the community has a right to expect this building to be saved over the desires of the owners, there is no reason why the community would not be willing to help the owners fund preservation efforts. That's just not where we're at right now in the process. SPARK and other local funding paths are just one piece of the puzzle. If the building were falling down, fundraising would be a much more urgent issue. This building is in good shape. We have a solid, well-built structure in good condition. There is no need for any kind of urgent repairs. A few tiles, perhaps some flashing here and there - this is common to any maintenance plan.

3.) Whether the German Immersion school can do what it needs to do to be successful without tearing down this landmark. - They have considered many options. Several were presented at a public meeting they held last summer. I didn't hear a lot of weight being given to a split campus. This has been a successful format for many schools with a much longer run than the German Immersion school has had so far. A split campus would ease congestion and neighborhood concerns about our streets being overrun by cars lined up and down the block in all directions as parents from Minneapolis, Woodbury and Maple Grove wait to pick up their kids every afternoon.

4.) Whether the building - one church amongst a city full of churches - merits preserving, regardless of its historical significance. - Again, look to the historians' and the architects' assessments of the value this property. It is special. It hits 4 separated designated areas of significance for historical value. This is exceptional even for historic sites. Making the grade in just one or two categories is already significant - this site has 4!

5.) Whether this isn't really an issue about letting go of the past to make way for the future. I don't think a "coming to terms" or "making peace with the past and letting go" is what we're really talking about here. This isn't about moving over and making way for the wave of the future. The past belongs to all of us. Without our significant places, we run the risk of becoming just one more suburb of Minneapolis. Saint Paul has a uniqueness of time, place and history that must be saved to be honored. Whether the next generation of families is Catholic, Muslim or agnostic, whether they have roots in Europe, Asia or Africa, the sense of place we value here in Saint Paul belongs to all of us. This is our history and our legacy. Let's preserve it for our children.

6.) And whether the vote to deny historic designation will compel the City Council to approve the numerous building variances when they come up this summer.

Tearing down the St. Andrew's church site just makes way to add more students on an already crowded city lot. We're talking about cutting out a large portion of the mandated parking spots, cutting down on the green space - basically turning this little spot of our neighborhood community into a high-density building.

At all of the meetings I've attended, someone from the German Immersion School has alluded to the offensiveness of having to subject kids to a "Catholic" building - that this somehow traumatizes kids because the Catholic Church may not fit their present schema of inclusiveness or diversity. ... You would base your argument to tear down a historic landmark on the fact that it once served as a Catholic Church!!? Replace the word "Catholic" by another ethnic or religious community designation and you quickly dive into ethically charged issues of racism and/or cultural intolerance. Do we really want to go down that road?

TGIS knew they were buying a property from the Catholic Archdiocese which had served, until recently, as an functioning Catholic church. I heard no qualms about this purchase until now that they want to build their state-of-the art addition. By devaluing the history of the building because it served as a church formerly, are they saying that they would be interested in saving the building had it not been a church? The fact that they included this argument in their presentation is simply offensive and should not be tolerated. Religious freedom means that we respect each other's rights to practice one's faith and we tolerate differences. This is not the French Revolution where we justify destruction of churches because they represented ruthless power to the starving, oppressed mob.

When this property was bought by TGIS, they were fully cognizant of its former use and have used it as a school for over 5 years now. Is it really appropriate to throw Catholic bashing into the mix at this point?

They bought the property. Now that it's theirs, they need to be good stewards. The building has been successfully repurposed. It contains a beautiful gym - more beautiful than most I've seen, and a stage area - both upstairs and down. It has a good-sized cafeteria. The use of this building has allowed them to turn the former St. Andrew's gym/cafeteria into additional classroom space. There are good things happening at this school and we want to keep it in the neighborhood. But we also want to keep our neighborhood.

Thank you for your careful consideration of all the long-term consequences of this very important vote.

Sincerely,
Gayle Middlecamp
1077 Barrett Street
Saint Paul, MN 55103

Dear Members of the City Council:

Please include the following letter as part of the public testimony regarding the variance applications and local historic designation for the property at 1031 Como Ave, the current Twin Cities German Immersion School and former St Andrews Church.

I watched the live stream of last week's city council hearing with much interest. From our city council, I heard a lot of compassionate grappling with the difficult and complicated land use issues raised by the property at 1031 Como. There were two topics of discussion to which I would like to add a little background.

The case of Victoria Theatre was drawn as a parallel, because designation was initially sought against the wishes of the owner, Bee Vue. That was eventually settled when a non-profit, Minneapolis-based Twin Cities Community Land Bank, bought the property from Mr. Vue for \$275,000.

It is also worth noting that the Victoria Theatre is not yet rehabilitated. It has been vacant for over a decade. A January 2018 article in *The Monitor* reports on the approval of City funding for Victoria Theatre and lists several grants, that while significant do not add up to the \$3.2 million needed for rehabilitation. And that number is likely too low: it was based on "2015 estimates from Miller Dunwiddie Architecture and Flannery Construction."

CM Noecker and CM Thao brought up the topic of what it means to alter rules, such as zoning, to limit property rights on existing properties. I have on my shelf the wonderful book on Summit Avenue by Ernest Sandeen. The Sandeen book is a lively mix of history and advocacy. It has a chapter on zoning that I think has bearing on these comments. In 1915, a brand new Minnesota law established "Residential Districts." A group of Summit Avenue residents successfully petitioned and Summit became a Residential District on August 4th, 1916. This predated (and helped lead to) the first zoning code in St Paul, which came about in 1922. Some property owners along Summit successfully argued that they "suffered damages arising from the abrogation of their right to build apartment buildings on their property." They prevailed; and the remaining properties within the boundaries of the district were assessed for compensation--in plain English, they had to pay damages. There are a lot more twist and turns to the story as told in Sandeen's book, including that some properties were eventually allowed to retain their right to build apartments. One of these was the neocolonial condominium building at 456 Summit that was constructed a full half century later, in 1966. The relevant portion is this: compensation had to be paid due to the abrogation of property rights.

Sincerely,
Sonja Mason
St Albans St
St Paul MN

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

I am writing in regards to the upcoming decision to designate the St. Andrews Church in Como Park as a Historical Building.

I moved to St. Paul last summer and visited Como Park for the first time. I was so excited with the parks and area surrounding Como Lake that I decided to move to this neighborhood. I distinctly remember driving past St Andrews and being taken aback by its beauty and unique architecture. While I am not a native to the area, it is very clear that this is a special building and one that must be preserved for future generations. Replacing this historical aspect of the city with a modern school building would truly be a huge blow to the community. Modern schools can be built anywhere without having to take away important cultural sites such as this building. Please vote with the community in making this building a historical site and preserving it for future generations.

Sincerely,
Ryan Werdon
560 Como Ave, fl2
St Paul, MN

St Paul City Council, specifically Tolbert, Brendmoen, Noecker, & Thao:

Not sure what logic you four were channelling on 5/15/19 when you questioned Historical Designation over property "owner" rights as it pertained to Saint Andrews Church. TCGIS has repeatedly said they "own" the property, though state law prohibits it. They've presented themselves as the property owners in the way a private school would. GIS is a tuition free, public school. Completely & wholly paid for & supported by taxpayer \$. There is no "owner" other than the very taxpayers who pay for it through compulsory taxes.

W/ your flawed logic, conveniently displayed AFTER public comment, you've conflated private, property ownership rights, a cornerstone of our Republic, w/ that of public bldngs. Even more abhorrent: You're considering voting against OVERWHELMING PUBLICLY Supported, Historical Designation; & for, making that very same public pay for something it clearly does not want & is prohibited from voting against (demolition), & contradicts YOUR very own HPC, as well as the state HP.

Pull your collective heads out of your collective ass: Vote for Historic St. Andrews Designation, worthy of preservation, on 5/22/19.

Regards,

Corey Plath
1065 Chatsworth St No.
St. Paul, MN 55103

Please vote to make St. Andrews church a historical landmark and save the building from demolition. We need to save beautiful architecture like this church.

Council-members,

Please heed the recommendations of the city's Heritage Preservation Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office and vote YES to include the building on the National Registry of Historic Places. This is a beautiful, historic building with rich history and it would be a shame to destroy such beauty for the sake of expedience.

Adaptive reuse IS POSSIBLE! Please watch this [video](#) which showcases those possibilities.

Joe McCullough
1645 Fernwood Street
St Paul, MN 55108

From: Jake Seltz [<mailto:jakeseltz77@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 10:14 AM

To: ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Vote tonight

Dear Councilmembers,

Tonight's vote for historic preservation is no doubt weighing heavy on our community. As a parent of two TCGIS students and resident of St Paul, I can appreciate both sides of the argument. When it comes down to the bottom line, however, there are many reasons why I am asking you to **vote AGAINST the historic preservation for St Andrews church.**

First, **TCGIS is in desperate need for suitable instruction space**, including special education, which in many instances is done in cramped hallways now. It is important to have dedicated spaces for art, music, and technology as well. The school needs a larger gym space to accommodate the growing student population, as well as a suitable event space for the many performances that take place at our thriving K-8 school. The aula in its current state, does not meet those needs, as it is a very inefficient structure. Pretty roof, yes, but that doesn't help the need of this vibrant and growing school.

Second, as part of the school's Finance Committee, I know the bottom line impact to the school for required maintenance would be devastating. The aula is a large, inefficient structure in its current state and will need millions of dollars of repairs over the next several years. It would be unfair to burden the school with this extra financial responsibility causing funds destined for the education of students to repair an old structure that was abandoned by the Catholic church. SHSA believes there are funds to help with the preservation, although these funds are likely to be insufficient to offset the major costs. **Bottom line: TCGIS needs to use its limited funds to support its students and teachers.**

Third, TCGIS owns the St Andrew's church building. **Allowing for historic preservation of a structure against its owner's wishes will set a hugely negative precedent for the community** and will likely cause future business owners to think twice before making a purchase of an older structure. This is not fair to place the burden of financial responsibility on the owner that does not want and cannot afford to accept it. The Catholic church abandoned this building many years ago, and the interior has subsequently been gutted and all stain-glass windows have been removed. All that is left is a brick shell and a cool-looking roof in need of repair. Thoughts of keeping the current structure and remodeling the indoors are just not feasible in terms of the space needed. Anyone that tells you otherwise does not understand the needs our of students and teachers.

In summary, **I ask that you reject the historic preservation status on St Andrews Church tonight**, knowing that it will help foster an incredible education experience for more than 600 students. Not only are they becoming fluent in German, they are learning to be global citizens through an understanding of the many cultures around the world. These students will make the world a better place, so it is imperative that TCGIS have the resources to help carry out its mission.

Sincerely,

Jake Seltz
1773 Laurel Ave
St Paul, MN 55104

For May 22, 2019 hearing. In response to the public hearing held May 15, 2019. The comments of most council members make it clear they will not support designation of St. Andrews Church as the historic landmark that it is. The positions I heard in support were the following:

1. The people in favor of not demolishing the historic landmark are anti-child. This is clearly dishonest, disingenuous and pathetic. Parents that would stoop to this behavior – in front of their children – show a complete lack of strength in their argument, and their character.
2. This is not “Kids vs. buildings”. This is supporting what amounts to modest school building improvements over saving a loved, historic, neighborhood landmark. The school is, and has been, flourishing since its beginning – all in the same building we are now told is inadequate. This is clearly dishonest and lacks any credibility. One proposed improvement would result in special education children not having to work in the hallways. This is a problem shared by likely over half the schools in the metro area. It's doubtful tearing down the building and building a new one is the only way to resolve this issue. All schools in the metro want improvements but tearing down a building is rare (none of which are historic landmarks).
3. This will “hamstrung” the “property owner” with unnecessary costs according to Chris Tolbert. Tolbert provided no factual support for this position. At today's hearing Tolbert can specify the costs he's alleged, otherwise his speculation appears uninformed. There are the significant costs in the several millions for demolishing the building and building a new, modern building, versus what? We have heard the roof needs work but have no **objective** information on what those costs will be, and over what amount of time. The school did not consider any alternatives, so we can't estimate the costs to improve the school within the current building.

Improvements can be made that will likely cost less than razing an historic landmark. And costs are covered by the tax-payers, not “school parents” or “school building owners”.

4. TCGIS threatened lawsuits and votes to oust council members. I’ve heard no threats from the neighborhood group (yet). The non-attorney, historic preservation representative that spoke throughout the hearing – and appeared to have knowledge well-beyond any council member – dismissed the “takings clause” argument. The city attorney also likely assured you that the threatened lawsuit by the school is completely without merit. But please understand, there are still many people out there who are unaware this landmark will be torn down. Once word gets out, those folks will be upset too. Including myself, there are many attorneys – some very well-respected – that are among the Save St. Andrews group. We will fight demolition. For council members who vote to demolish, we can also assure you that your election opponents will receive strong support, especially financially.

5. 99% of building owners are in favor of designation of their buildings. This argument should be flipped. With almost all building owners in favor of receiving historic designation, why is this school so opposed? Because these are parents that live mostly outside the neighborhood, and outside St. Paul. They are doing what they accuse others of – being selfish and entitled – and have never concerned themselves with the opinions of their neighbors.

Signed,

Douglas Mentis

Dear St. Paul City Council,

I am writing you today to stand-up and do the right thing to protect and preserve St. Andrew’s church and not allow this vital and iconic landmark to be destroyed, in order to build a charter school that serves a tiny population of students, many of whom come from outside of the city of St. Paul itself. This church has a remarkable history and represents what can be achieved when diverse community members come together to build in this case, a church of religious significance, that is truly irreplaceable. There are so many better, smarter, more creative options to remodel and adapt the interior of the church to serve the needs of the school; and at the same time preserving this beautiful and irreplaceable historic church for future generations.

Please vote to preserve this rare and beautiful church, that adds immeasurable intrinsic value to the surrounding community as well!

Thank you,

Sara Harrison

Dear Council members,

I write to you begging you to not delay the vote on St. Andrew's. Over time, even when discussion has been civil, hostility has just increased and has continued. In addition the erratic behavior of SHSA has continued and is even scary at times. From comparing our school and children to Nazis, to threatening them. In addition Council Members have been having private conversations and encouraging their family members to post on a certain view point. The longer this goes on the more these behaviors will continue. Please, please choose to vote today. TCGIS has explored the available options and has documented that. I beg you to not delay this decision and allow the community to move forward. Delaying will only cost both the school and it's opposition more money but will not result in a change.

Thank you,

Debra Verber - TCGIS Parent
659 Maryland Ave W.

From: Joel Erkinen <erkinen.joel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 11:30 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: The TCGIS vote today
Greetings Thao!

First I wanted to thank you for your thoughtful words in relation to the TCGIS historical preservation issue that will be voted on today. I want to implore you to vote against the historical designation. I am the proud parent of 3rd grader Greta Erkinen. She has attended TCGIS since kindergarten. She adores her school and is thriving in the nurturing environment. Greta did not speak German growing up but has been fluent since 1st grade! We are so proud of her. Her brother Gavin will be attending TCGIS in the fall and he is so excited! We live not far from the State Fair and moved there in order to be closer to our children's school and really do not want the school to leave as they may have to if this designation goes through.

In relation to the historical designation the SHSA group has been fairly fast and loose with facts. I have had many conversations with them on their Facebook page. I have been cordial and kind in presenting my case and a number of them have been very rude and disrespectful calling me an "idiot" and a "dumbass". What I have found out through conversations with the group is that a number of them simply do not want a school in their neighborhood. They are using the historical designation as simply a way to get the school to move. I can provide screen grabs of the conversations if needed. One of their main points is that architectural historian Rolf Anderson believes the building to have historical significance. But in describing this he said in a Star Tribune article that the old church built by the architect Charles Hausler was responsible for "High quality designs". This to me is not the best argument to keep the structure. The models that SHSA had rendered to show that the space could be utilized do not show at all a functional school space.

Our children are our future. Please vote "no" on the historic preservation. Allow our children to flourish in a well designed educational space that meets their needs.

Thank you!
Joel Erkinen, TCGIS Parent

-----Original Message-----

From: Kimerly Miller [<mailto:kimerly@mac.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 8:36 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: St Andrews Church

Dear Rebecca,

As the parent of former language immersion students and a language teacher myself I have always been very proud of the work that St Paul's language immersion schools do to educate our children. However, I cannot agree with the decision of the Twin Cities German Immersion School to demolish an architectural gem near the shores of Como Lake. I worked for a period of time in the adjacent school building when it briefly housed L'Etoile du Nord, the French immersion school, and was in the church with students for group activities. Like other former church buildings, such as one in my neighborhood that was converted to condos years ago, St Andrews could also be repurposed with architectural integrity. Please vote to give the building historic designation.

Kimerly Miller

Honorable Councilmembers,

I do not envy your difficult work in making a decision to declare the former St. Andrew's Church a historic structure over the wishes of the current occupant/owner, the Twin Cities German Immersion School. But this issue needs to move forward. It is insulting that it continues to be insinuated that the school made the decision to replace the building lightly and uninformatively. The situation is most definitely affecting the students and it needs to end. Not every old building is beautiful, functional, and historical. Not every piece of history is so important that no expense be spared to its upkeep. No one has the right to demand that others respect (and fund) their family's memories or legacy. An unfunded property mandate to please a small group of people is unheard of in city policies. Let's not make St. Paul the first to dive in to these murky waters.

The woefully low funding of public schools and public places means very hard, often sad, decisions need to be made. Let us make them based on living, thriving places that will create future opportunities and legacies. Let us put our funds towards children's futures and towards entities already working to make our community a better place. Tonight, please move forward to vote no to historic designation, and let's not let this unfortunate situation drag on further. I thank you for your attention and service.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Miller
Roseville, MN
Parent of two TCGIS students

From: Anthony Radecki [<mailto:aradecki@benefitcomply.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 12:08 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: Sanders, Donna (CI-StPaul) <donna.sanders@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: No delay on Saint Andrews vote!

Council President Brendmoen,

I strongly urge you to reconsider calling for a delay on the vote of Historic Designation for the former Saint Andrews Church. An 11th hour mediation is not going to solve the acrimony or mistrust that has developed over what has already been an obscenely long process - a process through which all aspects have been litigated and re-litigated through a stifling array of committees, commissions, sub-committees and councils.

I understand your desire to find an amicable solution, but in this particular case, what both sides need in order to move forward is closure.

Thank you,

Anthony Radecki

From: Mike Hayes [<mailto:mhayes6851@comcast.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 12:05 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Vote on Historic designation

Dear Amy,

I ask you to reconsider today your idea to delay the council's vote on historic designation.

SHSA has long ceased to be a credible partner in this process. Once you file a motion behind someone's back, make threatening remarks about the kids, coordinate well-orchestrated hit jobs by having your friends write a "journalistic" piece in City Pages...your credibility is gone

Please let today's vote proceed.

Best Regards,
Mike Hayes
TCGIS parent

From: Thoreen, Timothy <tthoreen@hrgreen.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 11:56 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: TCGIS vote - support schools, deny historic designation

Hi Councilmember Jalali Nelson,

I am a resident of Ward 4 and my two children are students at the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS).

I know you are faced with a vote this afternoon regarding historic designation of the former church building. I want to express my support for the school's position and desire to create a new building that will serve the school and community for years to come. Our time at TCGIS has been life-changing for our family; after five years (with several more to go), we truly feel like we have a village of support for our family. We are truly grateful for the friendships and experiences we have been able to nurture while at TCGIS. The school is an asset for the City of Saint Paul, it's immediate community, and beyond. We are lucky to have the school here.

For this reason, I hope you and the rest of the City Council make a determination that historic designation of the property is not appropriate.

Thank you, and best wishes.

Tim Thoreen
1892 Ashland Avenue

Dear Council Members,

I beg of you to vote on the proposals before you, which have already been repeatedly rescheduled and derailed.

Councilwoman Brendmoen's suggestion that some final "good faith" mediation would fix everything is ridiculous. The zealots opposing the school's plans have never indicated any desire to do anything other than getting their way.

TCGIS has had open meetings; SHSA did not bother to go to them until after the process started.

TCGIS hired architects to consider multiple ideas; SHSA lies and says they didn't.

TCGIS has students from around St. Paul; SHSA lies and says they don't.

TCGIS is a non-profit school; SHSA lies and says they aren't.

TCGIS has a public budget; SHSA lies and says they don't.

TCGIS complies with all state regulations for charter schools. SHSA does not even know what the laws are.

SHSA's members have sued the school and then lied about the school refusing to speak publically about a legal case that those members filed.

SHSA's member cannot decide what drives them: on-street parking; playground noise, traffic, historical preservation, discrimination, charter school laws, etc.

The only thing SHSA has done is wring their hands and cry about someone getting married there. They have done nothing to help the school keep the building; they've just whined about it from across the street, rather than get their hands dirty or pocketbooks empty to help what they claim is such an important building to them.

There can be no good-faith effort with zealots.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Tobias

From: Lora Murtha [<mailto:lora.murtha@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 12:22 PM
To: Kim, Hwa Jeong (CI-StPaul) <Hwa.Jeong.Kim@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Re: TCGIS historic preservation

Dear Councilmember Amy,

Thank you for your email earlier and considerations on this project. I am emailing you now though to ask you to please reconsider tabling this discussion. This needs to be decided soon so that if construction is going to happen it can happen as soon as school gets out so as to make the least amount of impact on our children next year. Tabling this discussion is not going to magically get everyone to come together. It's only going to push the groups further away. The time to come together was a year ago and I don't think anything is going to change anyone's minds. You can't make square footage appear out of nowhere by keeping the building as is and it is incredibly impractical to think that adding a second floor to the Aula is going to solve all the problems. This building was purchased with NO conditions attached that they must keep it standing.

This has been a frustrating year to the parents, staff, and children. Let's just get this done!

Thank you for your consideration.

Lora Murtha
341 Rose Ave. E.
St. Paul, MN 55130

On Thu, May 16, 2019, 3:03 PM Kim, Hwa Jeong (CI-StPaul) <Hwa.Jeong.Kim@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Hi Lora,

Thank you for your recent email regarding the former Saint Andrews Church building. Currently both a proposed ordinance for historic designation another for several zoning variance decisions remain unresolved for this property. The historic designation ordinance is now scheduled to come before the City Council in the month of May and the three appeals regarding zoning will be heard together in June. As such, we will be submitting your email for the public record.

This matter has been discussed in many different formats and venues over the past year including the Como Park Community Council (District 10), the Historic Preservation Commission, the Planning Commission, as well as different subcommittees and many informal conversations. People on all sides of the issue have weighed in, and the differing opinions have understandably caused tension and disagreement in the immediate neighborhood. What is clear to me across these differences is that people care deeply about their community.

When this conversation started last year, I was advised not to prejudice my “quasi-judicial” role considering a zoning appeal by taking a public position about the building in advance of a formal action before the Saint Paul City Council. I would never have dreamed it would have taken the better part of a year before it reached the council, and it has been very frustrating and atypical for me to be on the sidelines. That said, my Ward 5 staff or I have been to the majority of meetings and hearings to keep apprised along the way. To us, the sides appear resolute in their positions, and frustrated that the *other* side is unwilling to step off their position to find compromise. The passing of time has seemingly caused stakeholders to dig in deeper to their stances rather than seek an opportunity to find a consensus path forward.

As sides have not been able to reach agreement and as the City’s advisory commissions are divided, the matter is now before the City Council. The public hearing regarding historic designation is scheduled for May 15th at 5:30pm. The hearing will take place in City Hall in the Council Chambers on the 3rd floor. The final vote will take place on May 22 at 3:30pm. The City Council will be holding the public hearing and final vote for the three zoning appeals regarding requests for variances on June 5th at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers.

I thank you for sharing your perspective.

Amy
Amy Brendmoen | Saint Paul City Council President

From: Alyssa Landberg [<mailto:alyssaldlandberg@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 12:55 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; *CI-StPaul_Mayor <Mayor@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Vote on Twin Cities German Immersion School building

To Councilmembers and Mayor Carter:

I understand that the vote today on historic designation for the current Twin Cities German Immersion School/ former St. Andrew’s church will be asked to be postponed in order to try to reach an agreement between the two parties. I am a current parent of students at TCGIS, and I am so disappointed to hear this news. The neighborhood voted on variances for the new building and they overwhelmingly supported the new construction with the variances necessary. I understand that SHSA and their supporters want a compromise in theory, but in practice they have been trying every method possible to

make this process difficult and expensive for TCGIS as possible. They keep throwing around the term "good faith", but they only have one idea in mind and negotiation is not possible. SHSA is portraying themselves as the victim in media pieces and TCGIS as the bully. We just want what is best for our kids.

Plain and simple, the old church building is not functional for the school. Forcing historic designation on a public charter school puts funds towards the building and not students' education. It is not sustainable in the long term. Each day that the process is prolonged the more money the school spends on things other than education. The building was bought without stipulations for historic designation so forcing designation now sets a dangerous precedent in St. Paul. There are simply not enough grants and funds available if historic designation is granted to keep the building in tact. There are other projects asking to use those funds and grants. TCGIS has been open throughout this process and followed what is asked of them during the process. There have been so many unnecessary delays in the process as SHSA has tried every avenue to delay this. It is unfair to ask for another delay.

I sincerely urge you to move this process forward. Each delay costs the school more money. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Landberg
Columbia Heights, MN

From: Candace Davis [<mailto:satyrn@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 12:55 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; ward3@ci.stpaul.us; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; *CI-StPaul_Mayor <Mayor@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: TCGIS building vote 5/22

Hello Mayor Carter and Saint Paul City Council,

My name is Candace Davis and I am a parent of a student at Twin Cities German Immersion School. There is a vote scheduled tonight for the City Council to decide on the historic designation of our building - the Aula. This has all gone on far too long and however the council decides to vote tonight, there is no need to prolong this matter.

I implore you to continue with the vote tonight. The posts and media that SHSA have been throwing towards TCGIS in the last week are last ditch efforts to paint our school in a bad light and misinform the public and you, the city council. There have been threats towards our children and flat out lies about what we are doing and how the school functions.

I would like to say that most of the neighborhood is very fond of our school and the kids and like having us there. The variances passed at the local level and we have had many people speak in support of us as well as many neighbors come to us to let us know how much they support us in building a new space. The fact is, there is a small amount of people that have taken it upon them to charge against us, and it would seem that now it has almost nothing to do with the building and more to do with the fact that we are a charter school.

There have been previous attempts at a "coming together," and while there have been some good conversations, SHSA has made it clear as of late that they will not budge on anything besides us just leaving the neighborhood. We don't want to do that. We love the neighborhood and many have moved into the neighborhood to be close to the school.

I imagine there has been a last minute effort on SHSA's behalf to get this vote postponed. But fact is that this is our building. Sure, it's pretty, but the Diocese did not think it historic or necessary to keep, neither did the historic committee, nor did any of these neighbors when the building was purchased. In it's current state, it does not suit the needs of the kids. In my opinion, it really never has but the school was trying to make do with what it had. It's a nice building, but it isn't a great gym, or a cafeteria, and a terrible classroom.

This situation needs to come to a close.

I hope that you do continue the vote tonight and that you keep in mind the consequences of placing a historic designation on a property owner that does not ask for it.

Thank you very much,
Candace Davis
Roseville, MN

From: Joshua Carlyle <joshua.carlyle@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 12:47 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: No TCGIS Historic Preservation

Councilmember Nelson,

As a parent of two students at the Twin Cities German Immersion School, and a resident of Saint Paul for the vast majority of my life, I am writing to encourage you to vote NO on historic designation for the facility owned by the school. I have several concerns related to this designation, including the long-term survivability of the school if historic designation is granted, the precedent that the council would be setting and its long-term impacts on 2040 goals, as well as issues of equity for students at the school, and environmental issues.

My primary concern with historic designation is that it puts the long-term survivability of the school at risk. As the school has outlined in that past, and did so again at the Council's meeting last week, the significant costs that will be forced upon the school will come out of money intended to educate students. Maintaining the facility under the requirements of historic preservation will directly interfere with mission of the school, and divert limited education dollars from education to building maintenance. It seemed clear to me from the council meeting last week that there really is no city funding that could be used to cover these costs, and the 2040 plan specifically notes that city funds to maintain even basic infrastructure are diminishing. If this financial burden is too great for the school to sustain, the school could close. In addition to the city losing a high performing school, the city would have a vacant building on its hands. Given what has transpired over the last many months, I cannot imagine what other organization would be interested in purchasing this site.

I hope that the council is also considering the precedent that will be set if it allows an outside group to successfully get an historic designation placed on a property against the strong objection of the owner. Specifically, I am thinking of the work the city is doing in regards to the 2040 plan. As I read through the goals of that plan, I am concerned that approving historic designation will continue a process that I have seen through my several decades of living in this city. I see the city giving a new tool to well-funded groups opposed to new development in their neighborhoods, whether it be denser housing, commercial or other changes. I would like to highlight a quote in the StarTribune from a representative from the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association, referencing the 2040 plan. *"My overall take of it is we need to be very vigilant, we need to see what sort of development is going on and we need to make sure the historic preservation groups are at least weighing in..."* (St. Paulites call for more aggressive 2040 plan. StarTribune.com, February 2, 2019). I do not want to see the city create a situation where neighborhoods with resources are able to bring historic designation fights to development projects, while neighborhoods with fewer resources are not able to mount that same fight. I do not oppose more dense development in our city, but I don't want some neighborhoods to bear the brunt of that development, while others use the tools provided them to fight against it. I don't want to see some neighborhoods bear the brunt of issues associated with growth in density simply because residents of other areas of the city feel that this type development doesn't reflect the "historic character" of their buildings and neighborhoods.

My other concerns are more in regards to the building in its current form. It is not suitable for education. It was built to be a church. The Catholic Church moved the congregation elsewhere, deconsecrated the space, and sold the property. I do not know if the school intended to tear the building down when they originally purchased the property or decided to do that later on. To me it does not matter. The school is not under any legal obligation at this point to keep the facility, nor did they agree when they purchased the property to keep any of the buildings. I see that issue as a red herring promoted by the preservation group to paint the school in a negative light.

The facility does not provide an equitable learning environment for all students. As the school noted at the meeting last week, students requiring extra help with work through one-on-one sessions with teachers are meeting in the hallways. To me, this is not an acceptable situation, but the school has no options. Because the facility was built specifically to be a church, there is significant wasted space serving no purpose. The new building would provide those necessary meeting spaces as well as accommodate naturally matriculating middle schoolers. Unless the school begins to adopt a lottery process whereby certain middle schoolers are asked to continue their education elsewhere, additional classroom space is not something the school would like to have, but something it dearly needs. Our students deserve to have a space that meets their educational needs and not have to make due with an unsafe and inadequate facility, merely because some of the neighbors like how the current building looks.

Lastly, the City's 2040 plan is clearly concerned about the environment. I am as well. I have two young daughters and I am concerned about the environment they will inherit. The current building is not environmentally friendly. As I am sure you can see from pictures, the school is paying to heat an enormous room with large vaulted ceilings that serve absolutely no purpose. A new building would greatly reduce the school environmental footprint, ensuring that the site is far more efficient in its energy use.

I believe it is time for this project to move forward. The school has invested significant time and resources into the project, time and resources that should have gone into education. I do not believe there is any viable use for the current building on a school campus. I truly hope that you and the rest of

the city council will side with the school and deny the historic designation. I want to live in a city that looks to the future and what could be, and doesn't sacrifice that trying to hold on to memories of the past.

Sincerely,

Josh (and Maureen) Carlyle
644 Asbury St.

From: marijo schwiderski [<mailto:marijo1025@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 12:03 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject:

Dear council member Rebecca Noecker

In regards to **Ordinance 19-1, St.A.C. Heritage Preservation Site designation.**

I ask you to follow your heart, and if you cherish history to vote to designate St. Andrew's building as a historic site, as recommended by your Heritage Preservation Commission.

To do otherwise thumbs your nose at the HPC and the City's own Comprehensive Plan to "Preserve, protect and maintain the unique character of St. Paul's historic resources".

TCGIS and most council members looked bored at SHSA beautiful Visualization video shown to you at the City Council meeting last Wednesday, which proved a win win situation for everyone.

Voting to preserve this irreplaceable historic landmark will allow the community and school administration the opportunity to work together to save a piece of history and remodel the inside of the structure to give the school everything it needs, space wise, for their students. With your yes vote the outcome would be a **WIN WIN FOR TCGIS and SHSA.**

Respectfully submitted, Marijo Schwiderski, Como resident

From: Michael St George [<mailto:michaelstgeorge@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 1:58 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Please vote for historic preservation tonight

Dear Ms. Prince:

Please accept the Historic Preservation Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office's recommendations. Please vote in favor of historic preservation tonight and designate St. Andrew's Church a historic building.

I am in agreement with the mission of my kindly neighbors who have organized as Save Historic St. Andrew's. I heard their arguments at the public hearing at City Hall last Wednesday.

I am friends with neighbors who were once parishioners of St. Andrew's Church. I live less than two blocks from TCGIS. I do not oppose the school. I do oppose the demolition of this historic landmark.

Please say yes to historic preservation at tonight's vote.

Thank You,

Michael St George
1104 Churchill Street
Saint Paul, MN 55103

From: kristi.tillery@yahoo.com [<mailto:kristi.tillery@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 1:36 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: St Andrews

Hi, There have been some eloquent people speaking out for St Andrews. I am not one of them, but I care deeply. I love Europe, and I'm constantly hearing, why go there, we have so many beautiful things right here? Well, history. They respect it, preserve it and it's there comforting you, teaching you, reminding you. I live in Como. I love the character of the neighborhood. St Andrews is an anchor, a jewel. Judging from the previous addition, I hate to think what might replace that glorious church. My daughter went to French Immersion when it was housed in that space, when they needed more room they moved. The school is portable, St Andrews is not. City treasures belong to all of us. Please protect St Andrews, please protect St Paul.

From: Ellen Thomson <ellenmthomson@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 2:02 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Historic Designation / Please vote NO TCGIS

First of all, thank you for your service on the council.

I will keep this short, as I know you will be voting today on Historic Designation of the church building owned by TCGIS building corporation.

I learned about the building project, late in the game, about the time SHSA was formed.

At first, I sided with the neighbors. I'm a parent of an 11 year old who attends TCGIS and I also live in a historic home located in Cathedral Hill, so I understand both sides of the issue.

After much thought and gathering of information, I realized that the main issue at hand is money and also the rights of the school to do as they want with the building. I don't think it's fair to force the school into using money that could go towards my son's education, to preserve a structure that no longer meets the needs of the school.

My child was born with hearing loss and he struggles to hear in regular classrooms, but you can only imagine what it's like to be in a large open space. The acoustics in the former church building are awful and it's painful to spend any amount of time in the space, if with noise mitigation.

I ask that you vote NO to historic designation.

Thanks!
Ellen

From: mary gmitter <mgmitter@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 2:10 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: No historic designation for St. Andrews Church

Hello Councilmember Thao,

I am reaching out to send a quick message voicing my support for the Twin Cities German Immersion school in the Como Neighborhood of St. Paul. I am a resident of St. Paul in Ward 6 and I understand the importance of finding a balance between our past and future. I know there is a crucial vote coming up regarding historic designation for St. Andrews church. While I appreciate the neighborhood wanting to preserve its character; I think the school is an invaluable addition to the community and it should be supported.

I hope you vote no on historic designation for the church to allow the school to flourish and grow in the neighborhood.

Kind Regards,

Mary Gmitter
Orange Ave East, St. Paul

From: Cassie Morey Gillson <cassiegillson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 12:41 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: TCGIS historic designation

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Good afternoon,

I am sending this letter regarding the vote on an historic designation for the Twin Cities German Immersion School that was scheduled for this afternoon. I just learned that a postponement has been proposed.

My son, Julian, currently attends the school and my daughter, Genevieve, will be starting in the fall. It has been an amazing opportunity for our family and has been a needed challenge for my extremely

intelligent son. We feel blessed to live in our neighborhood with my husband working in St. Paul and our children attending such a excellent, well-known school so close to us.

Learning of another postponement in this lengthy and stressful situation is very disheartening. I would like to encourage the council to continue with the vote today if possible. The construction has already been delayed a year and the cost of this project is growing daily. The school attempted to sit down with those opposing the construction a year ago and no resolution was found. TCGIS has been researching this project for over two years now. They have looked for other property, looked into alternative additions and remodels and were not able to find any other solution that gained the necessary space for the school at a cost that the school could afford. Drawing out this situation will only add to the cost and hard feelings between the parties. The school and community have already been in limbo for too long.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cassie Gillson
126 Kent Street

Dear Council Members,

To the few council members who were conflicted about infringing upon property owners rights by designating as historical the landmark assembly hall, formerly known as St Andrews Church. I am not from that exact community, but I am whole heartedly in support of preserving and adapting the monumental space for reuse; which is why I wanted to remind you of some key pieces of evidence which surfaced last Wednesday, during Kelly Laudon testimony for the TCGIS.

The Catholic Diocese in 2013, when they were looking to sell it, went through a vetting process with potential buyers of the landmark property; This is known to have occurred; Kelly Laudon of TCGIS alluded to this in her testimony last Wednesday.

The Catholic Diocese understood they would not get much money for the property, but they understood what they had. For all their shortcomings the Catholic Church throughout history have done one thing very well; they have been unrivaled curators of exquisite architecture and fine arts. And they understood that in this community landmark, they were leaving behind a gem of a place. And, so naturally, they wanted to ensure that the buyer would not tear it down to put up condos, or retail or (heaven forbid) a precast basketball shed.

And so now, there is also evidence of an agreement that was in place; a mandate even, that the buyer would continue to use the historic landmark as a school. Kelly Laudon testified to this last Wednesday as well. She was giving a spiel about how great the TCGIS was, and in that context, she mentioned the mandate from the Diocese to use the site as a school. Her emphasis was not on the words *continue to use* but on the word *school*, it was a desperate re-spinning of the agreement to rationalize the demolition of the landmark building, as if by virtue of operating scholastic endeavors within the invisible boundaries of the parcel, they were satisfying the terms of the agreement, and acting in good faith with regards to that agreement.

It was a verbal agreement and verbal agreements are binding in many legal transactions; but unfortunately not in real estate transactions.

Unfortunately the Catholic Diocese have never been savvy with the nuances of modern Law; their knowledge of the law does not extend much further than the book Genesis; and they made the sad mistake of not getting it down in writing. Shameful, (but they can be forgiven for that)

Before you rule against Historic Designation, on grounds that a property owners rights might be infringed upon, please consider this information. Ask the Board of TCGIS to clarify how their version of the mandate makes any sense what so ever, and cross-reference the Diocese to clarify their intension for this mandate.

There can be no other reasonable explanation for this Verbal Agreement other than to protect the Historic Landmark.

And the TCGIS group entered into this agreement willfully upon the purchase of the Property in 2013.

Thank you

David Koenen

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to to express my concerns about the possible destruction of St. Andrew's Church. I vehemently OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT TO DEMOLISH rather than re-purpose the historic St. Andrew's building. The church's rich history is a tapestry woven into our community. It is heartbreaking to think of demolishing this sacred space. We should honor and value our historic buildings. Why can't the school look for another location? DEMOLITION IS FOREVER.

The TCGIS plans for demolition are not in alignment with Saint Paul's Comprehensive Plan which states the city will: "prioritize the retention of designated historic resources (or those determined eligible for historic designation) over demolition when evaluating planning and the development projects that require or request City action, involvement, or funding." I respectfully urge all council members to find a solution to save St.Andrew's Church!

Thank you for consideration of my thoughts on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Howard
171 McKnight Road North
Apt 209
St .Paul, MN 55119
District 67 /67B

Robert Roscoe / Design for Preservation

1401 East River Parkway, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414 612.317.0989 broscoc@earthlink.net

May 20, 2019

Council Members of the Saint Paul City Council:

Council President Amy Brendmoen

Dear Council President Amy Brendmoen :

With regards to the Saint Andrews Building issue on Como Avenue, I am asking the Saint Paul City Council to recognize that TCGIS has chosen not to engage with the Save Historic Saint Andrews group. Compromise is the art of the political process, and compromise is not part of TCGIS operating procedure.

As recommended by CM Jane Prince and Tom Schroeder, in hopes that by temporarily suspending our pursuit of historic designation, TCGIS would agree to not seek permits and come to the bargaining table. My request is that If TCGIS chooses not to do so, the Saint Paul City Council should not engage with development operations with TCGIS.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,



Bob Roscoe

From: Sara Cox [<mailto:sara.cox12@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 9:31 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Thank You

Hi Amy,

Thank you for your comments today, for holding over the historic designation vote and for facilitating an opportunity for the neighbors and the school to come together to work towards a win win solution. We couldn't agree more that this needs to include folks who can look at this in a new way. We truly believe the neighbors will embrace this opportunity, and hope the school will as well.

Sara & Ryan

From: Kristine Vesley [<mailto:kristinevesley@icloud.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 3:03 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: The St. Andrew's Question: Please Don't Use a "No" Vote as a TCGIS Bailout

Hello, Councilmember Noecker —

I appreciated your questions at last week's hearings pertaining to the Twin Cities German Immersion School's plan to destroy St. Andrew's and build a new, modern campus with state-of-the-art facilities on the site. Property rights are indeed central to our nation. Increasingly, so are ideas such as "stewardship" and "commons," and these ideas come into play in the historic designation/heritage site recognition process.

I've been studying the correspondence and information the Council has received via Legistar, and my head is spinning. I'd be surprised if yours was not also! In truth, I would completely support the Council tabling the decision it is scheduled to make tomorrow, May 22, the better to sort through all the issues. But my own strong wish otherwise is that the recommendation of the Heritage Preservation Commission (President Brendmoen called it a 'committee' last week during the public hearing) be heeded. The integrity of the process is important; the standards for not approving a recommended building should be very high — higher than any reasons TCGIS has so far put forth.

At first, I didn't believe the school really hadn't tried to come up with alternatives to destroying the building it bought just a few years ago. But as I've spent more time reading through letters, emails, and Facebook page posts, it's become shockingly clear that the school really has not wanted to consider options such as those proposed in a talk last fall by Tom Fisher of the University of Minnesota, who described the planned new structure's design, including a gym with a blank wall facing the street, as "terrible." He does not use such words lightly. He suggests looking into adding a whole new floor in the Aula, among other things. The video of an example of the kind of space that could be created that was shown at last week's hearing was impressive to most viewers — inspiring — but not to anyone affiliated with TCGIS. Online, comments from TCGIS people and supporters were purely negative and kind of stubborn in insisting it was meant as a firm plan rather than a starting point. The door to discussing it was not even politely closed — it was slammed shut. Rudely.

When I learn about how much money the school has spent to fight the relatively small but hardy group SHSA, I am dismayed and I want to know more about the school's finances and sponsoring agent and the shell body that owns St. Andrew's. I want to know how it could have afforded a \$65 million tower demolition just to stop the historic designation effort. I want to know how it can afford the lawyers and PR firm it is using to fight the historic designation effort — but cannot afford to go back to the drawing board to come up with less destructive plans.

Some of the issues are complex, some aren't. To me, it boils down to: not in our city, you don't. Just don't come to a St. Paul neighborhood, attracted by its charms, and then destroy some of that charm just a few years later, acting like you are Amazon HQ in all the wonderful cultural and economic benefits you have brought. Destruction of a special building in our city is a last resort, and the school has not demonstrated that it has explored other options. This seems like its first and only resort, not its last. And that is just ugly and should not, in my opinion, be allowed.

TCGIS cried wolf at the hearing and in letters, claiming it might not "survive" if it can't destroy St. Andrew's. I don't believe that for a minute. I think the school will be just fine and will be able to stay in place successfully, if not with the kind of gymnasium it feels it requires, though NO gymnasium is mandated for a charter school at all. ***But if it can't, then it's not the solid institution it claims to be, and the City Council should not use a "no vote" on the HPC recommendation as a charter school bailout.***

Thank you for your attention. I hope the matter can be tabled for further discussion and study, but if not, I hope you weigh the evidence and issues and vote Yes on designating St. Andrew's as a heritage preservation site with all its honors and potential for school and community pride — and just a little more responsibility for the owner. Tearing down to build up is not always the path to development. To the school it must be said: Do not pick a prime site in St. Paul with a beautiful, high-quality building designed by a city architect and politician and think no one will mind when you aim to tear that building down because you thought you could get away with calling it old and decrepit, destroy it, and throw up a box — diminishing but still benefiting from a great location.

Sincerely,
Kay Vesley
1598 Edmund Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

From: Jeff Narabrook [<mailto:jeff.narabrook@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 12:48 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: vote against historic designation

Dear Councilmember,

I'm a constituent. I hope you will vote 'no' on the historic designation on June 5. If we have to choose between architectural preservation and education, education should win every time.

Thank you,

Jeff Narabrook
St. Paul, Minnesota

From: Save Historic St. Andrew's <savehistoricsaintandrews@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 27, 2019 7:47 PM

To: Brendmoen, Amy (CI-StPaul)

Cc: Kim, Hwa Jeong (CI-StPaul)

Subject: Re: ADR Contact

Dear Amy:

We appreciate your decision to engage the Mediation Center and hire its executive director, Aimee Gourlay, to serve as a mediator in the dispute between TCGIS and SHSA.

According to Ms. Gourlay's bio, she has extensive experience dealing with very high-level legislative matters and other controversial issues. Under "ordinary" circumstances, we would applaud the decision to engage someone with Ms. Gourlay's exceptional skills.

Unfortunately, these are not ordinary circumstances—and the parameters you have set up for the mediation process seem designed more to reinforce the impression of the parties being at impasse than utilizing Ms. Gourlay's talents to bring the sides together.

We understand that conducting an initial assessment of where the parties are at is an integral part of any successful mediation, and that by asking pertinent questions a mediator might uncover some crucial insights that have not been revealed publicly.

However, by starting this process a mere eight days before the Council is scheduled to consider both historic designation of the church and variances requested by the school, Ms. Gourlay's assessment will enable her to do little more than confirm what the Council already knows:

SHSA wants to save the former St. Andrew's Church and see it repurposed by the school so that they can meet their educational needs; TCGIS says that won't work and refuses to consider any alternatives apart from demolition of the church and constructing a new building in its place.

If that's the information being sought, Ms. Gourlay could ascertain these facts simply by reading the local newspapers and watching the Council hearing of May 15th.

What could make a difference is for you to do what we've requested for nearly a year: announce publicly that you will not support granting variances for the school building project unless TCGIS actively participates in an open, transparent, and thorough planning process designed to explore all adaptive re-use options for the church, something the school has clearly never attempted.

As you know, the former dean of the U of M School of Architecture offered the services of the Minnesota Design Center on a pro bono basis in a communication to you on May 21st. We do

not understand why you have not embraced such an exceptional offer, or why you failed to disclose it to your colleagues—and the public—at the May 22nd Council meeting.

If you are truly interested in solving the dispute that you have noted is “literally” in your own backyard, what better way to do that than have a mediator working with the parties at the same time that a design exercise is commenced to examine the many possibilities for repurposing the church to meet the school’s programmatic needs?

All of us involved with SHSA have been advocating for a “win-win” resolution to the conflict that has embroiled the neighborhood for more than a year; we urge you to immediately take the necessary steps that will provide a realistic timeline for doing so. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Teri Alberico, President
Bonnie Younquist, Vice-President
Friends of Warrendale/Save Historic St. Andrew’s

From: Neil Rangel [mailto:Neil.Rangel@mediclinic.ae]
Sent: Saturday, May 25, 2019 2:02 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: DR NEIL RANGEL/ ST ANDREW'S CHURCH - TCGIS

Subject: Preserving St [Andrew’s](#) Church/ TCGIS

Greetings

Kindly forward this communication for publication and to all those who may be interested

I believe the structure(former St [Andrew’s](#) Church in the TCGIS) should be preserved. Actually I had been in email communications some months back with the management of TCGIS and I found them very understanding, kind and reasonable. I had suggested they sell me just the Church part of the complex for a reasonable sum that I would strive to preserve and that they use the rest of the land for expanding the school; just that they felt it may not be feasible option. I can still suggest this option to TCGIS and all those who have a stake for reconsideration. I am of Indian origin based in the UAE and keenly interested in conservation Those interested may kindly get in touch with me.

Dr. Neil Rangel
Endocrinologist
[MEDICLINIC WELCARE HOSPITAL](#)

Al Garhoud, Dubai
PO Box 31500, Dubai, UAE

Dear Attorney Olson, Council President Brendmoen and members of the City Council,

I was disturbed to learn that council member Jane Prince has been advised by the City Attorney's office to recuse herself from voting on the TCGIS demolition issue. From the outside, I admit that I do not know all the working parts that went into that decision.

From what I have heard, council member Prince visited the school to look at the building. There she ran into retired priest John Forliti while doing so.

Prince mentioned the unplanned Forliti encounter at the May 15 council meeting, but said nothing regarding what they talked about. Does the mere fact of having contact with someone who cares about the building mean that a council member has to recuse herself?

If so, I want to call your attention to the following: On the evening of Friday, May 24, my wife and I attended a neighborhood party just down the street from the school. Many of the attendees were parents and supporters of the TCGIS demolition plans and one party-goer is a member of the TCGIS Board of Directors. Council President Brendmoen also attended the party.

I want to make it clear that I do not wish for Council President Brendmoen to be forced to recuse herself as well. "Talking to people" is part of the job as a member of the City Council. I do however feel that if there is a "no contact" rule, it should be enforced fairly and consistently.

I feel that both council members Prince and Brendmoen deserve the right to vote on this important issue. Recusal for "talking to" constituents and stakeholders seems counter-intuitive to the process of serving the public. I say this knowing that one of the two council members is likely to vote against my own personal wishes.

If any of these points are erroneous or false, please know that I am seeing it from the outside with limited access to the details. I am just a concerned citizen trying to insure a fair vote on this important issue.

Take care,

Michael Donahue

Submitted on Friday, May 24, 2019 - 12:19 Submitted by anonymous user: 97.116.88.226 Submitted values are:

==Personal Information==

Name: John Christian

Organization / Business: Mr.

Street Address: 33rd ave N8424 33rd ave N

City: New Hope

==Message Details==

Subject: St. Andrews Church

Your Comment:

Hello Mayor,

I am a Catholic from Minneapolis who grew up in the Ascension Church and to lose that Church or any Church of that age is really sad. Although this is part of History it's not like we can change the name and move on. Because you don't have enough room you want to tear a Church down? how sad is that. It is already sad that we have to tear everything thing down that pertains to History like nothing ever happened. A Church is a place of worship not to many people will be happy when they see what use to be is no longer. I really hope they can save what brings us together. Faith

From: James McCarthy [<mailto:jabramac@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, June 1, 2019 3:45 PM
To: Sanders, Donna (CI-StPaul) <donna.sanders@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Please preserve Historic St. Andrews

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Council President Brendmoen,

I am saddened to hear how the meditation between TCGIS and SHSA has panned out, and I am wondering how, given the clear public stance of each group, a mediator could make any progress when the stated goal for TCGIS is demolition of historic Saint Andrews.

Demolition is a permanent solution to a temporary problem that had other alternatives that will satisfy all concerned parties.

Please vote for historic designation and advocate for saving a St. Paul treasure for future generations.

James

From: Paul Nelson [<mailto:ashland1661@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019 10:31 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: St. Andrews

Dear Council members:

Property rights in NOT the issue. The school leaders bought the place subject to all city ordinances, including Chapter 73. Also, they knew exactly what they were doing.

The issue for you is what is best for the city. Please consider:

The neighborhood is forever.

The German immersion school is temporary.

Destruction is forever.

Also, isn't it clear that the school is a bad neighbor? The leaders are perfectly willing to disfigure the neighborhood and enrage the neighbors, for their own convenience.

Cheers,

Paul Nelson
1661 Ashland (Ward Four)
St. Paul

From: Dave Koenen [<mailto:koenend@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019 10:05 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Re: The Cost of throwing away - Save the historic landmark hall (formerly known as St Andrews Church)

It is painfully evident by now that the price we pay at the landfill does not really reflect the *true cost* of 'throwing away'.

It's been almost 50 years since the commercial about littering and pollution came out; you remember it; the Indian, a car drives by as the passenger throws trash from the window and it lands at the foot of the Indian; a tear rolls down his cheek as he looks at the camera. The commercial was successful in rallying a nation to hold on to their trash until they reached a waste bin. But years later we still have the phrase "*throw away*".

Let's finally rid our lexicon of this antiquated phrase "...to *Throw Away*". The term has no place in the 21st century; we have come to realize that we live in a finite world today and we are motivated by sustainable solutions.

Waste is a bad word. *Waste* is the unforgivable total failure to use, or reuse something.

The cost of throwing away in terms of simply dollars, has never reflected the true cost of the disposing of waste. Landfills take up valuable real estate (they're not making any more of that); they require sorting of toxics from recyclables, (least they should, but rarely don't), landfills deplete natural resources, they pollute storm water runoff and leach into the soil and pollute aquifers beneath. It is very very costly, especially to future generations. Kick the can down the road; someone else further on will pick it up the cost; someone from the future (our children).

We understand the ramifications of higher dollar costs for trash pick-up and landfill dumping; that if people were required to pay their trash hauler the *true cost* to dispose of their garbage, people would discontinue the service and dump their garbage in other people's dumpsters in the middle of the night. It happens today even with the reduced and highly subsidized trash hauling services. Similarly, if landfills charged the *true cost* of taking the loads, trucks would dump on the side of the road in the middle of the night. Quite simply, this would not be pretty, and so the out of pocket cost at the landfill is nothing; and *that* is the problem.

The Solution:

Be the Creative Council Member who spearheads this endeavor:

The Truth in Demolition Assessment.

The city can charge people and (would-be demolitionists) the *true cost* for their demolition permit. An inspector would show up on site to determine value, (the same guy they send out who might otherwise post a condemned sign.) A sliding scale of current value would be factored into the true cost of demolition, and the demolition permit would reflect this cost; and it would be a significant price tag. If builders could realize *the true cost* in their planning process we would never have the dilemma we have now; where the current occupant of this particular property has determined that it makes fiscal sense to demolish the historic landmark hall, so that it can erect a basketball shed. The current system in place is not just failing the Como community; it is failing all of humanity.

Thank you

Dave Koenen



From: Jeffery [<mailto:jthole@juno.com>]

Sent: Saturday, June 1, 2019 9:30 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Mediation ???

St. Paul City Council
15 W Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Council Member;

What happened to the mediation that Amy Brendomen offered to SHSA and TCGIS? Amy Brendmoen sent some one to do an "assessment", but what good was that? We already knew that the two sides do not agree. Real mediation is what's needed.

Why does the City Council not take this situation seriously?

Jeffery Thole
810 W Idaho Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55117

From: Michael J McGibbon <mickmcgibbon@me.com>

Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019 8:13 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Save Historic St Andrew's

Councilmember Thao,

Over forty years ago, in the fall of 1978, I got married in St Andrew's Catholic Church. And while I moved out of the St Andrew's parish in the early 1980's, I have remained a resident of St Paul, and have called St Paul my home my whole adult life.

Because of my affinity for St Andrew's, and over forty-five years of residing in St Paul, I cannot ask you strongly enough to make the difficult, but most community friendly, decision to designate St Andrew's a St Paul Heritage Preservation Site.

This is an excellent opportunity to show that St Paul listens to its neighborhoods, and not just to well funded and well organized outside developers. Neighborhoods deserve to have their concerns met, not just heard. And the opportunity to save an aesthetic, and unique piece of architecture in one of the most beautiful neighborhoods of St Paul should not be squandered.

Thank you for your time,
Mick McGibbon
78 E 10th Street Apt #2207
St Paul, Minnesota 55101

From: George Schooley <schooleyksa@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019 9:48 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Saint Andrew's

Dear Councilman Thao:

I urge you to vote to grant Saint Andrew's Church historic preservation status. It is an important part of Como Lake's history and is so beautiful that losing it would destroy the beauty and integrity of that area of St Paul. So many historic areas of the Twin Cities have already been lost to development that it is vital we preserve the few remaining gems we have. That is one reason I love St Paul is that it still retains the character that comes from old traditions and historic buildings.

Thank you for considering this issue.

George Schooley
767 Charles Ave
St Paul, MN 55104

To Councilmember Nelson and the St. Paul City Council,
I am writing to ask you to please help save historic St. Andrews Church. I am a lifelong resident of St. Paul and have lived in Como park over 15 years. The church holds no personal historical significance for me, but I have appreciated the facade since the first time I saw it. Varied historic character such as this is why I choose to live in Como. My own house was built just two years after St. Andrew's. While not everyone might want to live in a little house of this era, we can all be glad that representative buildings are still here. Too much of our past gets torn down in the name of progress.

Certainly progress is important, but there are lots of opportunities for progress and improvement in our neighborhoods and city for those who seek it. Tearing down a beautiful building of such significance to the neighborhood is the opposite of progress. Once gone, it can never be replaced. While this decision is now in the hands of certain decision makers today, it will affect the community for generations to come. Please vote to save St. Andrew's Church for our neighborhood.

Thanks for your service and consideration,
Molly Rosenberg

From: ronb2000@comcast.net <ronb2000@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019 9:41 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: St Andrew Church

6/3/19

Dear Councilmember Nelson

I write to you as a proud and grateful member of St Andrew's Class of 1957.

While I treasure my memories and experience at St Andrews, after reviewing the many reports and letters concerning the potential designation of the former St Andrew Church as an historical site, I am strongly supportive of the position taken by the Twin Cities German Immersion School.

Please vote against the motion to designate St Andrew's Church a St Paul Heritage Preservation Site.

Please support the future of St Paul by voting with the children and families who benefit by attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School.

Don't make St Paul the **Museum City of Abandoned Former Churches**. Please support today's students as I was supported many years ago by the then viable St Andrews parish.

Please don't burden the future for the nostalgia of a few.

Sincerely,

Ronald Bierbaum
St Andrew Class of 1957

From: Sarah Lukowski <slukowski4@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019 10:53 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Vote to give St. Andrew's historical designation

Hi there,

I can't claim to know the long history on this issue, but I saw today that St. Andrew's historical designation might be coming up for a vote this week and I would encourage Mitra to vote in favor of giving the building designation as historically and architecturally relevant.

There are only so many nearly 100 year old buildings in the city that are in relatively good shape and it's "old" anchor buildings like this that help us integrate the new and the old in developing our city. It seems a school should be encouraged to integrate the new and old in their buildings plans as well, and that demolition of functional historical structures is not aligned with the city's general plans for development.

Thanks for your time, I know you're looking at all angles of this important community development issue.

-Sarah Lukowski
1395 Jessamine Ave. W Apt 306
Saint Paul, MN 55108

From: Rosemary Kassekert [mailto:rosie960@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 12:37 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: St. Andrews Church

On reading a recent article in the Pioneer Press entitled "Omaha tries to recapture what it tore down three decades ago," I was struck by the following: "There are many tales in the U.S. of grand old historic buildings demolished in the name of progress only to have everyone decide afterward that losing them had been a huge step backward."

Incidentally, the buildings razed in the article were replaced by a food giant headquarters which years later relocated. I can envision the school wanting to expand years from now (like the School of Excellence which is adding another location in addition to its large new school) leaving St. Paul with another non-descript building. I think of all the wonderful historic buildings which have been demolished in our city and how the Landmark Center was almost destroyed.

In years to come, people may see pictures of St. Andrew's and wonder what happened. Oh, the city council headed by Amy Brendmoen decided to have it destroyed.