

June 15, 2011

Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
Dept. Of Planning and Economic Development  
25 Fourth Street West, Suite 1400  
St. Paul MN 55102

Re: House of Hope Presb. Church

Dear Ms. Spong:

We wish to appeal the decision to allow an application to install a fence on a pivotal property on Summit Ave., file #11-137888 House of Hope.

The grounds for appeal are that HPC staff erred in approving this application as they did not follow the Secretary of Interior's Standards under the Historic Hill District Guidelines, Section II Restoration and Rehabilitation, Paragraph A - General Principles, Items 1&2, which state:

1. Every reasonable effort shall be made to provide a compatible use for a property which requires minimal alteration of the building, structure, or site and its environment, or to use a property for its originally intended purpose.
2. The distinguishing original qualities or character of a building, structure, or site and its environment shall not be destroyed. The removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural features should be avoided when possible.

In addition per Paragraph F - Site, Item 2 states:

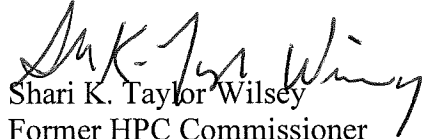
2. Landscaping: ... The buildings, landscaping elements in front yards, and boulevard trees together provide a "wall of enclosure" for the street "room".  
Generally, landscaping which respects the street as a public room is encouraged.


Based on the HPC staff findings such a corral style or rabbit fence type enclosures have never been allowed on Summit Ave. In addition the materials that were used in this structure do not comply with the guidelines and what has been previously approved.

As many of the council members know, in your districts, residents have had to comply with the standards set forth in the Historic Hill District Guidelines. We have had residents who have had to remove retaining walls, fences, etc. that did not comply with the guidelines.

We propose removal of the fencing and compost silos based on the guidelines that state the property is to be used for its originally intended purpose. Such a structure is not in keeping with the design and look of this historic property and street. An application for a proper permit for fencing can be made to the HPC. For now, the garden should be removed or relocated to the back area of the property as House of Hope has plenty of alternative space to develop such a site.

Sincerely,

  
Shari K. Taylor Wilsey  
Former HPC Commissioner  
955 Summit Ave.  
St. Paul MN 55105

  
Susan B. Foote  
Former HPC Chairman  
#9 Crocus Hill  
St. Paul MN 55102