August 11, 2015

Dear Historic Preservation Commission,

My name is Bruce Ye, and I am a BIM Modeling Supervisor at Martinez Geospatial, a laser scanning company which did the laser scan of the Minnesota State Capitol. I graduated in Architecture with a Bachelor of Art at the University of Minnesota. In 2013, I worked for John Yust, AIA, the architect who has been in charge of the current renovation of the Stone Saloon. I helped Mr. Yust to generate a few drawings and renderings of the saloon to study the site massing of the project. Mr. Yust is an experienced architect and has passion on historic preservation, especially for this project. He will only bring good to the neighborhood because he lives nearby the stone saloon and he is part of the neighborhood. Together with the owner Thomas Schroeder, they share the same vivid and historic vision and form a strong team to create such a unique and historic place for the community. This idea not only preserves this historic building but brings back the unique understandings of a past time to the public. I am proud to be a small part of this project. I hope you would support this project. It will prove itself to be a successful sustainable model for historic preservation and to be a nice place for the community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce Ye

Home Address: 514 Huron Blvd, Apt 3 Minneapolis, MN 55414

August 10, 2015

Dear Amy,

I am writing to express our support for the renovating and re-opening the Stone Saloon as a tap house and microbrewery.

From reading the website blog and touring the building, it's clear that the work to date has been a labor of love on the part of people who want to preserve St. Paul's history and share it with future patrons. We think that it a worthy goal and one that we hope you will support.

Best regards,

Connie Dickson and Stephan Weingarten 1466 Rocky Lane Eagan, MN

August 12, 2015

Dear Historic Preservation Commission,

My name is Anthony Alan Rodriguez, and I am an Architecture Student at the University of Minnesota. In 2013 I worked for Greg Bemis, a brick mason, and helped build a new brick chimney at the Stone Saloon using hand made brick and soft lime mortar. These experiences have been very important to me on the path of becoming an architect. I have learned about class A chimney codes, proportion of banding and corbeling. It was an an excellent experience in understanding historic preservation and I am proud to have played a small part in the project. I support this project and encourage the Commission to do so as well.

Sincerely, Anthony Alan Rodriguez 263 16th AVE SW New Brighton MN 55112

August 7, 2015

Amy, I support the Stone Saloon and hope you do too. Thanks,

Chris 202 Crestwood, Stillwater, MN 55082

August 13, 2015

Hello Amy-

I am writing to urge you to support the historic designation and variance request for the Stone Saloon project. I learned of the project through a recent Star Tribune article which was quite informative and very interesting.

I grew up in St. Paul, and last year my son bought a rather neglected house on West 7th Street. He is working diligently (with some help from his father and I) to restore it and make it a comfortable home. Throughout this process my husband and I have come to love this particular area, and are strongly considering a return to St. Paul after nearly twenty years in Afton. I believe that this project enhances the appeal of West 7th by providing a social venue with deep roots to the community, and preserving an important part of Minnesota's heritage. I do not know Mr. Schroeder, but I'm quite impressed with the scope of his efforts and have no doubt the Stone Saloon will become a landmark venue.

Minnesotans value their history, and the wonderful limestone buildings in St. Paul add a richness through their character and presence. Please vote to forward this project. I wish I could attend the meeting tonight, but will be there in spirit!

Kind Regards, Julia Welter 15045 45th Street South Afton MN 55001

August 14, 2015

Amy,

I'm writing to express my support of Tom Schroeder's restoration and future plans for 445 Smith Ave. (The Stone Saloon)

As a stone carver/mason I've had the privilege of working on many historic projects, and I produced the window sills for 445 Smith Ave. I felt that a lot of research and effort had gone ensuring the integrity of the design.

Too many historic buildings fall into disrepair, often close to the point of demolition. 445 Smith Ave is a case in point. I feel strongly that in the interest of the preservation of older buildings throughout the state, we need to support those prepared to fund such projects in anyway we can.

I look forward to your comments at the public hearing on Thursday.

Yours sincerely, -Kay

Kay Owen

**Stone Carver & Restoration Mason** 

Owen Masonry

612.817.9439 | omasonry.com

August 12, 2015

Ms Spong,

I wanted to drop you a note to express my support for the Stone Saloon project coming up for your review this Thursday August 13.

I've lived in Minnesota my entire live with the exception of a stint in the military stationed in England.

After 3 years in England you come to appreciate all the old architecture and the vast history the these old buildings represent.

Wouldn't it be nice if we too could save our old building.

I think we could, if there were someway that the owners could restore these structures without having to go bankrupt in the process. Or tearing them down to make room for a parking lot or other business.

By granting Stone Saloon (and other sites) a historic use variance you would be giving owners of these historic site the ability to financially afford to restore them to their former glory.

Please approve the Stone Saloon's request for a historic use variance this Thursday.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brad Turbes 11560 195th St W Lakeville, MN 55044 952-913-8728

August 10, 2015

Hi Amy,

I wanted to send this short email to express my full support for the Stone Saloon. I strongly believe the work that Tom Schroeder is doing with this historic place will add value to the historical legacy of the city.

As a regular visitor to MN, I plan to make this saloon a meeting place for my brothers-in-law when visiting family. We all appreciate history and a good beer.

I truly appreciate your consideration on this matter.

Warm regards, Santiago Davila 1550 Clarendon Blvd Arlington, VA 22209

August 12,2015

Dear Mr. Counts,

Please consider this email in support of tomorrow's Heritage Preservation Commission hearing to grant the Stone Saloon a Historic Use Variance. I grew up less than a block from the building and after college lived within a block of the structure until I was 28. I renovated an 1870's house at 151 Goodrich Ave. (<a href="http://www.yusthaus.com/project/yusthaus">http://www.yusthaus.com/project/yusthaus</a> - also about a block from the Stone Saloon) for over 2 years, returning the structure to it's original glory by restoring the wooden clapboard siding, original floors, original decorative wood trim and detailing, etc... I have also helped my parents, who have lived in the neighborhood since the early 1970's, with multiple 19th century home restoration projects, all keeping with the history and character of one of the most historic neighborhoods in Minnesota. My Dad always insisted on the most historically accurate decisions for these buildings - like real wooden shingles - even if it meant more maintenance and money in the long run. While growing up I also witnessed my parents unrelenting dedication to this historic neighborhood. As past executives of the Fort Road Federation they fought redlining initiatives, trucking routes, etc... which if successful would have torn the neighborhood apart and led to more degradation of the historic homes in the area.

My Dad, John Yust, is the architect of the Stone Saloon, he is a former employee at the Minnesota Historical Society, and probably done more 19th century restoration design work and advocacy than any other architect in the state. His efforts in support of Tom Schroeder mean the Stone Saloon is in the safe hands of a bona fide historic preservation dream team.

My work has subsequently led me to New York and San Francisco which are places dense with historic structures and preservation efforts. I can safely say that this project and its authenticity will put many of them to shame. I mention the project to each new colleague and friend I connect with in my travels and have only ever received a response of "How soon can I visit?". I believe this speaks to the reach this project will have beyond Minnesota.

Please grant this variance, there are few words to describe how much this project means to the neighborhood, to historic preservation in MN, and to all the people who have unflinchingly poured so much time, money, sweat, craftsmanship, and historical research into the building.

Sincerely, Charles Yust 380 Frederick St. San Francisco, CA 94117

And up until the beginning of July I owned the house about a block away at: 151 Goodrich Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55102

# counted but not copied

#### Spong, Amy (CI-StPaul)

From:

Robert Van Nelson <robertvannelson@hotmail.com>

Sent:

Thursday, August 13, 2015 4:24 PM

To:

Spong, Amy (CI-StPaul)

Subject:

RE: Support for Stone Saloon

My address is:

1215 west 31st street Minneapolis, mm 55408

From: amy.spong@ci.stpaul.mn.us To: robertvannelson@hotmail.com Subject: RE: Support for Stone Saloon Date: Thu, 13 Aug 2015 20:26:47 +0000

Can you please provide your address. This will not make it into the public record if received after 3:45 pm. We are preparing for the meeting now.

Thanks,



### Amy H. Spong

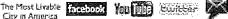
#### Historic Preservation Specialist

Planning and Economic Development 1400 City Hall Annex, 25 West Fourth Street Saint Paul, MN 55102

P: 651.266.6714 F: 651.228.3220

amy.spong@ci.stpaul.mn.us







Making Saint Paul the Most Livable City in America

From: Robert Van Nelson [mailto:robertvannelson@hotmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 2:43 PM

To: Spong, Amy (CI-StPaul)

Subject: Support for Stone Saloon

Amy,

I am writing in support of the Stone Saloon receiving an Historic Use Variance to develop the property at 445 Smith Avenue as a historical interpretive center and microbrewery/taproom.

I believe that it is a great opportunity to draw attention the history of the city of St. Paul as well as strengthen its connection to the modern era.

http://m.startribune.com/business/320960021.html

Best regards, Robert Van Nelson Dear Members of the Heritage Preservation Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for providing an Historic Use Variance for the Stone Saloon and also the historic designation for the Saloon and the other 4 limestone buildings in the proposed historic district.

Both the Stone Saloon and the Martin Weber House at 202 McBoal St. were built by my stone mason great-great-grandfather, Jacob Amos, who was also a Union Captain in the Civil War. One building was built before the Civil War and the other after.

I have been a participant in two tours of the Stone Saloon and can attest to the intense interest, both in the history and restoration of the building and in the chance to one day taste a lager beer brewed in 1850s style and be able to sit and drink it in a location that will be such a re-creation of the atmosphere of that time, something that other microbrew pubs in the area cannot offer - the saloon equivalent of the Gibbs Farm Museum perhaps?

Since the proposed historic district, I have taken several groups of friends and relatives on walks through the neighborhood to visit the 5 stone houses. People are immediately impressed not only with the history of those buildings, but also the chance to see the neighborhood and many of the other old buildings still standing at an up-close walking pace. The re-opening of the Stone Saloon for its earliest use will exponentially increase its exposure to the public and their knowledge and appreciate of these precious limestone buildings.

Jacob would be proud. His descendants are eager to someday toast the HPC—and City of St. Paul-in the Stone Saloon.

Regards.

Frank Trnka

### Spong, Amy (CI-StPaul)

From:

Frank Trnka <franktrnka1@gmail.com>

Sent:

Thursday, August 13, 2015 3:54 PM

To:

Spong, Amy (CI-StPaul)

Subject:

Re: Support for an Historic Use Variance for the Stone Saloon

2520 28th Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55406

Sorry to not have included it in my letter.

Thanks.

Frank Trnka

On Thu, Aug 13, 2015 at 3:35 PM, Spong, Amy (CI-StPaul) < amy.spong@ci.stpaul.mn.us > wrote:

Hello Frank,

Can you provide your address? For public record purposes.

Thanks,



### Amy H. Spong Historic Preservation Specialist

Planning and Economic Development 1400 City Hall Annex, 25 West Fourth Street Saint Paul, MN 55102

P: <u>651.266.6714</u> F: 651.228.3220

amy.spong@ci.stpaul.mn.us





Making Saint Paul the Most Livable City in America

**From:** Frank Trnka [mailto:franktrnka1@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, August 09, 2015 11:19 AM

To: Spong, Amy (CI-StPaul)

**Cc:** Schroeder, Thomas S. (tom.schroeder@FaegreBD.com)

Subject: Support for an Historic Use Variance for the Stone Saloon

Barbara Wencl, Chair, Planning Commission Gaius Nelson, Chair, Zoning Committee

c/o Bill Dermody, City Planner

As I am not able to attend the St. Paul Zoning Committee meeting this coming Thursday, August 27, I am writing in support of the Stone Saloon application for a Historical Use Variance..

I have known and worked closely with Tom Schroeder for 6+ years. I became aware of his work on the Stone Saloon during this time and have closely followed the evolution of the Stone Saloon building.

The Stone Saloon - and the other limestone houses - are important remnants that illustrate the history of St. Paul beyond that of the great ox cart merchants and railway industrialists. Don't get me wrong, those individuals and their buildings contributed greatly to the City. It is important to preserve these buildings for future generations as they represent those who provided the labor for the city's builders.

The plans proposed for the Stone Saloon, to make it a living historical site, are ambitious and will be a great addition to the community along West 7th. The plans to make the Stone Saloon a functioning commercial building, contributing to the economy of the neighborhood, are fantastic! Putting the building to work is greatly preferable to a site that receives historical designation, then is put on the proverbial mantle to collect dust with a placard saying, "look but don't touch".

Without the historic designation and historic use variance, these plans for the building and the community are for naught. What's left you ask? Another historical building placed on the mantle to collect dust.

Specifically, I ask that the St. Paul Zoning Commission approve and recommend to the St. Paul Planning Commission:

- the historic designation of the Stone Saloon (and four other small limestone houses); and
- the granting of a "historic use variance" to allow the Stone Saloon to re-open as a historically-themed, Civil War era beer-only neighborhood tap house and microbrewery.

Thank you.

Robert Sannerud 6613 Hillside Lane Edina, MN 55439 (952) 564-1528

Bill,

As Executive Director of the Minnesota Craft Brewers Guild, I heartily encourage the Zoning Committee to approve the Stone Saloon's application.

The Stone Saloon will be a wonderful addition to St.Paul!

Phil Platt 1334 Osceola Avenue St. Paul MN 55105

Thanks and Cheers!

Phil Platt
Executive Director
Minnesota Craft Brewers Guild
651-500-2279
www.mncraftbrew.org

Attention: Barbara Wencl, Chair, Planning Commission Gaius Nelson, Chair, Zoning Committee c/o Bill Dermody, City Planner

Hello. I live in the West 7th neighborhood and have been watching, with interest, the work Tom has done on the future Stone Saloon. The amount of work and effort that he has put in is a reflection of his respect of our whole city. I love that his intention is to (hopefully) pave the way for more historic renovation. Our city has such a cool past, and the more businesses and buildings like the Stone Saloon we have, the more that history is preserved, recognized, and appreciated.

The building is a gem, and the owner seems to be so innovative and creative in his process. I can't wait for it to become a place that also fosters community, just as it always has. I love the idea of another space that creates connections between neighbors ... while also creating a destination for the entire metro, and positively impacting tourism.

Lori Karis 514 View Street Saint Paul MN 612-516-1525 Home Away From Home

Barbara Wencl, Chair, Planning Commission Gaius Nelson, Chair, Zoning Committee c/o Bill Dermody, City Planner

Dear Barbara, Gaius and Bill,

I am writing to express our support for the renovating and re-opening the Stone Saloon as a tap house and microbrewery.

From reading the website blog and touring the building, it's clear that the work to date has been a labor of love on the part of people who want to preserve St. Paul's history and share it with future patrons. We think that it a worthy goal and one that we hope you will support.

Best regards,

Connie Dickson and Stephan Weingarten

1466 Rocky Lane Eagan, MN

Connie Dickson, FCSI

Principal

Robert Rippe & Associates, Inc.

Foodservice Design and Consulting 6117 Blue Circle Drive, Suite 100 Minneapolis, MN 55343 Office 952.933.0313 ext. 119 Direct 952.955.8053

Dear Ms. Wencl and Mr. Nelson:

I am writing to express my support for zoning approval for the proposed Stone Saloon in St. Paul. I drive by this area fairly frequently and really admire the work the two owners are putting into this historic old building. This is a wonderful old neighborhood and I believe the Stone Saloon will fit right in.

I understand there is a Zoning Committee meeting this week where you will assess the project's compatibility with the surrounding area, and consistency with the city's comprehensive plan. With the great amount of local business new microbreweries are bringing into St. Paul and indeed, the entire Metro Area, I believe this project deserves everyone's support—not to mention that it will resurrect a very historic old building to its original purpose!

I will not be able to attend your upcoming meeting due to work conflicts, but please do know that this project has my support, and I hope the Zoning Committee will also consider the benefits for the area.

Thank you for taking time to read my email.

Sincerely,

Jackie LaVaque 210 Co. Rd. B2 E. #21 Little Canada, MN 55117

Dear Members of the St. Paul Zoning Committee,

I am writing to express my support for approval of the historic use variance for the Stone Saloon by the St. Paul Zoning Committee. It is a unique and historically significant project that will help tell the story of St. Paul's early life, as well as revive one of this building's earliest uses as a saloon.

Sincerely,

Tom Keyser

cell: <u>612-616-7267</u> email: <u>keysert@me.com</u>

Home:

5251 W Bald Eagle Blvd White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Cabin:

6601 N Datka Rd Duluth, MN 55803

Dear Barbara Wencl, Chair, Planning Commission Gaius Nelson, Chair, Zoning Committee,

I am writing to you in support and friend of The Stone Saloon near West 7th in St. Paul. Unfortunately I am not able to attend the hearing before the Zoning Committee this Thursday, August 27, at 3:30. As someone who lives outside the immediate community, I wanted to share with you the benefits of neighborhoods like West 7th leveraging their history and heritage to present a new face to the broader community, attracting new individuals and families to our urban communities. Being a resident of Minneapolis for 20 years I have witnessed a transformation within our own neighborhood of quaint establishments that bring people together and help contribute to a tight nit community. It has been wonderful!! I personally spend a lot of time in St. Paul particularly the West 7th neighborhood. I am a volunteer with Serving our Troops and much of it's success is due to Mancini's, not far from The Historic Stone Saloon. You certainly know the historic value of Mancini's in St. Paul and how positive that establishment has been for West 7th and St. Paul. Mr. Schroeder's passion for the history and integrity of the neighborhood is first and foremost. Bringing back to life a building such as this is a gift to all who love St. Paul. It is truly a one of a kind establishment not to be imitated or reproduced anywhere. I can only imagine how beneficial The Stone Saloon would be to the area bringing together community members, neighbors and those who want to feel history during a time when we all need that. Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Best Regards,

Minneapolis Resident 5432 Knox Ave. South, MPLS, MN 55419

Chad N. Norling, CFP®
President
Executive Financial Services, Inc.
Registered Representative\*
Investment Advisor Representative\*
AdvisorNet Financial\*
4200 West Old Shakopee Road, Suite 245
Bloomington, MN 55437
952-884-3326 (phone)

Ms. Wencl and Mr. Nelson:

This message is sent to lend my support to the Stone Saloon's application for approval from the Planning Commission for an Historic Use Variance.

I regret that I can't be present at the Planning Commission meeting on September 4, but I want to add my voice to those who hope the Commission will recognize the benefit to the City of St. Paul and its neighboring residents that would come from the having the historic Stone Saloon open as its planners intend.

Irreplaceable buildings of the Saloon's era are becoming ever more rare. Saving this one and returning it to its original use (and in enhanced fashion!) is a unique opportunity.

I heartily encourage the Commission to grant an Historic Use Variance for this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Louise Benson Griffin 8950 Stonebrooke Trail Woodbury MN 55125

Yes! Sorry the address did not come through!

Charles Stephens & Laurel Gamm 151 Goodrich Ave St Paul

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 26, 2015, at 3:14 PM, Dermody, Bill (CI-StPaul) < bill.dermody@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Could you please provide your address for the record?

From: Chasx's [mailto:chasx00@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 2:07 PM

**To:** Dermody, Bill (CI-StPaul) **Subject:** "Stone Saloon" zoning

To:

Barbara Wencl, Chair, Planning Commission Gaius Nelson, Chair, Zoning Committee Re: Zoning for the Stone Saloon at 445 Smith Ave, St Paul

Dear Chairs,

The West Seventh Street district of St Paul is a really interesting and mixed place, in all kinds of ways. That is a big reason that we chose to live here when we moved to the Twin Cities from out-state over a year ago. We are both still working and physically active. We

find the district great for what it has to offer locally, as well as its access to other areas of the region via bike trails and roads. We are here for the long haul.

Part of our attraction to the area is the historic feel of the place, both its residences and businesses and the people who inhabit them, all

in the setting of steadily progressing modern city. Progress means change and change always comes with a tinge of sadness for the loss of what had been before. Alas, I am still sorely grieving the loss of Seven Corners Hardware!

Turning the building at <u>445 Smith Ave</u> (back) into a business by creating the Stone Saloon will be a big change for the building and that particular block. Having sat through the Historic Preservation Commission meeting recently, I know that some of the neighbors living closest to the building are concerned about what the change might bring, with most worries centered on the sort of people and noise that will accompany a new "bar" on the block. I sympathize with their concerns.

That portion of Smith is a very busy trunk highway (try crossing the street around  $\underline{4:30~PM}$  some weekday!), so is already an active and often noisy street. The Saloon is envisioned as more than a bar, more like a community gathering place. The fact that it is a historical structure being re-done in a painstakingly historical manner is also a difference. Most importantly, the owner, Tom Schroeder, is a big difference and a gem for the city. He himself is a close-by neighbor of the Saloon and has made huge and continuing efforts to reach out to all of the neighbors about this project. Maintaining a great life for the neighborhood is what he and this project are all about. We are lucky to be part of such a neighborhood and to be able to know Tom, who cares so deeply about the continuing improvement of the West Seventh district.

We encourage the City to allow this interesting and historic business to take shape in our neighborhood.

Charles Stephens Laurel Gamm

Hello,

I am writing you to show my support for the Stone Saloon. I currently rent an apartment very close to the Stone Saloon and feel it would be only positive things to the neighborhood. One of the main draws to St. Paul, and particularily this neighborhood, was the mix of residential with businesses within close walking distance. I work from home quite a bit, and having a variety of options to frequent has been great. Being a young working professional it definately helps to maintain a healthy work life balance having places within walking distance.

To speak directly about the Stone Saloon, I feel as though this is a casual place where neighbors can visit a piece of St. Paul history. I personally do not see this establishment as being a normal bar persay, in terms of it causing distruption in the streets and harm to our homes. Of course as we are in a city, there may be some, but that is what makes this neighborhood. I also feel as though Mr. Schroeder, being from the neighborhood, has a greater investment in making a better place. He has taken great lengths to adress concerns that are manageable. I feel this would be a great addition to an already great neighborhood.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Vanessa Trobec 208 Mc Boal St. #1 St. Paul, MN 55102

Barbara Wencl, Chair, Planning Commission Gaius Nelson, Chair, Zoning Committee c/o Bill Dermody, City Planner

My name is Katie Swanson and I am writing on behalf of my 6 year old son Lochlan Swanson. I will be submitting my own testimony and hope to attend the meeting in person. We live about 150 feet from the stone Saloon at 201 McBoal and my son wanted his testimony to be considered separate.

Lochlan has an affinity for history, specifically the Civil War. This love has come to life through the Stone Saloon. Lochlan heard my husband and I discussing the Historic variance meeting as well as this zoning meeting. Lochlan asked if HE could also testify. Although we thought it was a passing notion, he then proceeded to write his own speech, used our phones to practice and record himself and in the end ended up delivering his speech at the historic use meeting in front of a room of almost 100 people. He was a bit thrown by his voice in a microphone and did insert a few robot noises (he IS 6 still) but at the end of the day he delivered his thoughts and words. Please find his speech attached to this email. I wanted them included as I think they show that this is NOT a Bar and really is something much much bigger. We are very grateful to the things the Stone Saloon has contributed to both our boys.

Thank you
Katie and more importantly Lochlan Swanson

[Handwritten speech is printed separately]

Barbara Wencl, Chair, Planning Commission Gaius Nelson, Chair, Zoning Committee c/o Bill Dermody, City Planner

My name is Katie Swanson, my family and I have lived at 201 McBoal street for almost ten years. Although I hope to make it to the zoning meeting, I am concerned that a 6 and 2 year old might not respect the process as much as most who attend. In the event I am unable to attend (or a child does not allow me to finish a thought) please consider the below as the testimony, as a very close and direct neighbor to the Stone Saloon.

We are literally a Stones throw from the Stone Saloon. My husband, Jason, and I have 2 young sons, Lochlan (6yrs) and Crosby (almost 2), we

live at 201 McBoal st, just around the corner from the Stone Saloon. We have been in full support of the Stone Saloon since the projects beginning and have already found it very enriching to our lives. When we moved into this neighborhood almost ten years ago, from the heart of North Minneapolis, we were drawn to the very central location and the mixed use factors of the neighborhood. Our house, when we bought it, was (and is) nestled between Bonfes Auto Body to one side and The Women Of Nations (a domestic abuse shelter) on the other, and directly behind us was a vacant auto shop. Since moving in we have welcomed The Holy Mackerel tattoo and piercing shop, a project many neighbors fought, sighting many of the same concerns I am hearing from a select few, such as transient traffic, noise, parking, and general low caliber of clientele. Those concerns have been found to be baseless and we have never regretted welcoming the Holy Mackerel. We knew we were not moving into a traditional residential neighborhood and have adored living here. We love that we can walk to get coffee, or out to dinner as a family, we have family memberships and walk to the Childrens Museum, Science museum and the history center, we attend concerts and the occasional hockey game, we walk to our favorite bars and restaurants for date night, our home has been on the Mpls Saint Paul home tour and we love welcoming people to our neighborhood for the garden tour each year, Art is everywhere around us-working and showing across from the Stone Saloon, our kids see diversity and culture yet we still feel like we live in the best small town ever.

One of our main reasons for supporting the Stone Saloon is seeing the project through my sons eyes. My son Lochan has an affinity for history, the Civil War specifically, and to him he has watched history come to life; and that is what this project is about. My almost two year old can sing the Battle Cry of Freedom (Civil War song) and only because of the Stone Saloon. I have at no time seen ANYTHING that would make me think that this is a bar that will lead to wild parties, smoking, vomiting, peeing or any of the other fears I have heard a few neighbors voice. This is about saving a tiny piece of long gone history and keeping it alive. Most of the concerns that I have heard from some of my fellow neighbors seem fear based and not based on the business plan or model, many of the same concerns were brought forward about a Tattoo Parlor going in. People were afraid of experiences in the past and stigma; not looking at the specific project.

There will always be hiccups, parking is an issue during the Winter Carnival, Garden tour, the home tour, art openings and showings at Claddagh and others, Xcel events, Crashed ice and snow emergencies, to name a few. Noise is an issue during the Winter carnival. Irish fair. Crashed ice, the salvation army, neighborhood dogs, social gatherings, traffic from Smith Ave and West 7th, all hour tow truck drop offs at Bonfes, We have noises at all hours of the day from traffic. Bonfes may be closed by 5pm, however tow trucks deliver new business at ALL hours and days of the week and at times, helicopters seem to clip our hedges delivering or transferring people in desperate need of help from the hospitals. Some neighbors work and live odd hours and have been known to do yard work at 3am. We have pedestrian non resident traffic from Women of Nations, The Salvation Army, people attending events, or just dinner, workers from the hospital and other businesses, as well as tourists. We have motor traffic from tow trucks, delivery drivers, the hospitals and commuters and even bus tours. Winter carnival season and high school tournament time brings their own set of adjustments that need to be made. These are all normal things that come with the territory and can be expected living in a multi use neighborhood;

and are FAR out weighed by the awesome aspects. I truly could spend ten minuets talking about the things and people that make this particular nitch of a neighborhood amazing and make those issues worthwhile. In fact, we welcome most of them! For any one to claim that this has ever been a purely residential neighborhood is just inaccurate

We are a young and professional family. I am a Stay at Home Mom and an Artist, My husband is a corporate professional and musician. We are Ecstatic about the Stone Saloon and so are our friends and family. We are excited to see the history of old Saint Paul not only persevered but to be brought back to life in full color.

Recently, when a friend was moving to Minnesota from Chicago for work, she chose not only Saint Paul but this neighborhood, 208 McBoal (Paulett Myers Rich's building). She chose this neighborhood for its walkability to coffee, food and entertainment and largely due to the Stone Saloon and Bad Weather Projects. As a young professional, walkability to elevated drinking establiments (not bars) and dining, as well as other culture is a draw. She was so excited about the Stone Saloon that she came to the Historic Preservation meeting in support of the Stone Saloon and sat through all three and half hours.

These projects are just the things we have been fighting for, wishing for, to show our neighborhood as being vibrant, relevant and forward thinking while not losing our historic identity or quality of life. I am so excited that people are starting to see the gem we saw 10 years ago. In my experience the majority of my neighbors have been in overwhelming support of the Stone Saloon. I have enjoyed numerous boulevard talks and extended dog walks talking about this project, even at the cost of getting dinner on the table late.

This neighborhood is diverse and has seen its far share of growing pains. many have been here longer than us and I understand their fear and trepidation. I challenge people to change their filter. This is a different project at a different time and can mean amazing things for our families and property values. The wonderful thing is: Although I may not agree with all my neighbors, we are united in our love of this place and our wish for wanting what is best for not just us, not just our family or our brief window in its history, but for those who will come long after. This neighborhood is the oldest in the city and we are all just stewards carrying it on for the next generation.

My son Lochlan is excited about the Stone Saloon and "getting a root beer with Daddy and learning about history." After hearing my husband and I discuss the zoning process he asked if he could speak too. He wrote his own speech and got up in front of a room of almost 100 strangers to talk about what this project means to him.

This is NOT just another bar. This humble little building is rising up out of what was almost ruble because of a dream and someone who had the guts push forward and take their time to do things the right way, to make something very special happen. To see this dream come to fruition will give others a success story to say, "YES we can!". Anyone who refers to those involved in this project as hobbyists or amateurs is not only wrong but insulting to the research, love, work, money and tears that have been put into this project. This is not just another bar, this is not just a hobby project. This project is bigger than just one stone building and obviously means a lot to many. We are excited about the people an

establishment like the stone Saloon will bring to the neighborhood and showing off what an amazing historic nitch we have adopted as home. My family and more importantly my kids see home as not only the four walls of our house but also Irvine Park (family walks), Claddagh Coffee (almost every day), The Sculpture Park, Bonfes Parking lot (after hours bike

lessons), Burger Moes (burgers and family walk malts) and we look forward to including another family living room into our definition of home. Thank you, Katie Swanson 201 McBoal St

I am writing to express support of Tom Schroeder's Historic Use Variance application for the Stone Saloon. Mr. Schroeder's rehabilitation goals will revive the original character and purpose of the Stone Saloon, the oldest extant commercial building in St. Paul.

The project is compatible with its neighborhood, a vibrant community with a healthy mix of commercial and residential spaces. The Stone Saloon will provide locals and visitors alike with an educational yet social historic experience, not only complementing but enhancing its neighborhood.

The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota is committed to promoting community assets and neighborhood engagement. The Schroeders' passion for the Stone Saloon has generated overwhelming support from neighbors and a renewed interest in a forgotten piece of local history.

On behalf of the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, I am proud to add my support to this project and request that you recommend approval of the Historic Use Variance.

#### **Doug Gasek**

Executive Director | Preservation Alliance of Minnesota

(w) 651.293.9047 <u>dgasek@mnpreservation.org</u> <u>www.mnpreservation.org</u> | <u>Like us on Facebook</u> To: Barbara Wencl, Chair, Planning Commission Gaius Nelson, Chair, Zoning Committee c/o Bill Dermody, City Planner

From: Jason Rogers Swanson 201 Mcboal St St. Paul MN 55102 614-670-2768

Barbara, Gaius, Bill, Planning Commission, and Zoning Committee, I live with my family (wife and 2 young boys) at 201 McBoal St (less than 200 feet from the Stone Saloon), and have for the past 10 years. I am sending this letter in strong support of the Stone Saloon being located in my neighborhood.

Please consider my points below as I am unable to attend the meeting today as a result of business travel:

- We purchased our house, ten years ago, in a historically mixed use neighborhood (nestled among bars, restaurants, coffee shops, small businesses, etc...) with the understanding that we live in the city, that all of these businesses existed, and that over time they would change.
- Any person that has purchased a house in the immediate neighborhood should have understood the same - I don't think there has been a point in the history of St. Paul that the West 7th / Smith Ave. corridor has been strictly residential.
- I chose to raise my family here. There is diversity. There is positive change. There are amazing neighbors. There are great businesses. We have the ability to walk to nearly any amenity that we need (including professional sports, nationally recognized museums, shopping, eating, nightlife, and in my opinion, one of the best coffee shops in the world (Claddagh) and I welcome the Stone Saloon to be on that list. I will gladly bring my children there to experience history.
- Our neighbor, Vanessa Trobec (who lives in the first floor apartment of 208 McBoal), moved back
  to St. Paul, and to this neighborhood because of the vibrance that is growing through businesses
  such as the Stone Saloon and Bad Weather Brewing. She cites that they are two of the deciding
  factors for moving to this neighborhood. She is a "young professional" and welcomes the
  opportunity to gather at these upscale locations with friends and neighbors.
- The Stone Saloon, like Bad Weather, is not a "bar" as many have stated. The Stone Saloon will operate with earlier hours (from my understanding the same as an upscale restaurant closing before midnight). The clientele that the Stone Saloon will attract will not be people that will be "vomiting on the blvd", "urinating in the alley", or a variety of other stereotypical activities that have been unfairly associated with this (and other) establishments
- Since we have been in the neighborhood, we have seen a dramatic amount of positive change the tire shop turning into a micro-brewery, the adult bookstore turning into a coffee shop, the historic house across the street from 201 McBoal stripped of its historic guts and turned into a modern rental property. a speedometer repair shop turned into an award winning tattoo and piercing parlor. Prior to us moving in, Bonfe's added an addition to a parking lot. A service station on Smith Ave. was turned into a residence and art studio, and the list can go on... We need to embrace change, challenge the status quo, and not be frightened of what *might* happen.
- The stone saloon is being brought back to life and bringing more life to the neighborhood by a group of award winning researchers, architects, designers, and builders this is no hobby, and these are not amateurs.
- The neighborhood should welcome the opportunity to host such a historically significant property
  operating as it originally operated, serving the original lagers that were served during the Civil
  War, and sharing the history with as many as possible.

• There are only a handful of establishments similar to this in the United States (most are located on the East Coast). I am confident that the addition of the Stone Saloon to the neighborhood will only have a positive effect on not only the neighborhood, but on the City of St. Paul.

I could go on to list and refute arguments about noise and people coming into the neighborhood, but I am confident that all of you understand that we live in the city, there will be traffic (both on foot, and by vehicle) and there will be noise at all hours of the day. Everyone in the neighborhood bought a house in the city and understands that - whether they choose to admit that or not!

My family welcomes the Stone Saloon, my neighbors welcome the Stone Saloon, my friends and family welcome the Stone Saloon. We are all excited for the positive changes that it will bring to our vibrant, thriving neighborhood and city.

I am excited to continue to raise my family in the neighborhood within a stone's throw of the Stone Saloon.

Jason Swanson CFI
Asset Protection
Abercrombie & Fitch
Jason Swanson@abercrombie.com
Fax - 614.283.8278
Cell - 614.670.2768

Dear Ms. Wencl, Mr. Nelson and Mr. Dermody,

I am writing on behalf, and in strong support, of The Stone Saloon project. This is the limestone structure at 445 Smith Avenue being meticulously restored and refurbished with hopes of re-opening as a German lager taproom, it's original purpose. As the chairs of the Planning Commission and Zoning Committee, and the City Planner for the City of St. Paul respectively, I most strongly urge you to vote in favor of this project. I think you will find it to be not only compatible with it's neighborhood but complementary to it. I also firmly believe that this project will sensitively spur interest in local preservation and the history of both it's immediate neighborhood and the greater Saint Paul area.

I am a life long resident of the Twin Cities, and a ~23 year resident of Saint Paul. For the last 15 years, I have lived on the West Side, just over the High Bridge from the Stone Saloon. Not only am I a resident, I am an amateur historian, and a local booster of the region. A house is nothing without it's foundation, and a city is nothing without it's history. I have passed the Stone Saloon a couple of times a day for 15 years, and have been intrigued by it's story. It stands out from it's neighbors not just because of the size and architecture, but also because of the medium with which it was built. To say that it has captivated me would be an understatement.

With the daily traffic over the High Bridge, The Stone Saloon is perfectly poised to capture the attention of the commuting public. With it's prime location next to the river, I feel it will captivate others as it did me. Actually, it already has. Visitors and neighbors have asked me about it. Then, by tying that "eye catch" back into the history of the region by resurrecting it's original function, I am certain that this will generate an intense interest in not only the structure itself, but the history of the neighborhood and the greater city. Yes, I really do think that re-opening this unique, highly visible, highly accessible structure for it's original purpose will benefit historical interest in the region and assist preservation efforts for future projects.

As I am sure you are aware, the Heritage Preservation Commission unanimously supported this project just two weeks ago by recommending historic designation (along with it's sister structures) and an historic use variance (the first for the City of Saint Paul) to re-open as a German lager saloon, it's original purpose. By doing so, they recognized it's significance not only to the past, but the the future of the City of Saint Paul.

I think the word "saloon" brings up certain stereotypes. Although that is the appropriate name for this project, given it's historical meaning, I don't feel that it accurately represents the type of business it will become. Given it's "bones," I think that the Stone Saloon will be more of neighborhood taproom, microbrewery, and "intellectual salon;" a place where neighbors can gather and exchange ideas over a local beer. Having a taproom like the Stone Saloon will be a complement to the area. Of course, it's architecture and location make it stand out. However, it's focus on historic German lager will give it a niche unoccupied by other establishments, and directly ties into the immigrants who settled the region. In addition, it's small size helps set it apart. People will be drawn to it for all of these reasons, but I expect it's atmosphere to be more like the salons of the Enlightenment or the coffee houses of Vienna at the turn of the last century or even like "Cheers...[a bar] where everybody knows your name" than like the atmosphere at other taprooms, pubs, or bars. I think this because the space and the history will nudge it's patrons in that direction. They will be inspired by their surroundings to imbibe, yes, but also to contemplate and to connect. Isn't this what architecture and history are supposed to do?! Well, the Stone Saloon easily does both.

Saint Paul is a city. Uppertown is an urban community within Saint Paul. All across the country, including the Twin Cities, people are moving back into once neglected urban cores. One reason for this re-population is the desire to live in a dynamic place. More and more people, including millenials and retirees, want to live in mixed-use communities, where they can safely and comfortably walk from their home to their favorite coffee shop, deli, boutique, and "watering hole." The uniqueness of the Stone Saloon project will offer just that kind of opportunity for the citizens of Uppertown and the West Seventh area.

Thomas Schroeder, the owner of the property, lives within a block of this project and has for a very long time. He has long been committed to the best interests of the City of Saint Paul, and the Uppertown community. Indeed, he has chosen to raise is family in that community. Not only is Mr. Schroeder been a friendly and supportive neighbor, he has been a good steward of it's history. He has gone to great lengths to carefully research this project and has been sensitive and transparent to the community. His patronage of the Stone Saloon has resurrected a unique part of Saint Paul's history, and his intentions to re-open it for it's original purpose will ensure it's rightful place of honor long into the future. Without his efforts, this property would have continued to languish as just another relic of the past, eventually succumbing to neglect and gravity. This gentrification will ultimately make Uppertown a safer, more vibrant community, a place where people will want to live and work and relax.

I appreciate the task in front of you. Please support the Stone Saloon and this unique opportunity to reopen a formerly dilapidated historic gem as a tap house and microbrewery. You will be doing Uppertown and Saint Paul a great favor. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Most sincerely,

Tony Lewno 220 King Street W Saint Paul, MN 55107 To: Barbara Wencl, Chair, Planning Commission Gaius Nelson, Chair, Zoning Committee c/o Bill Dermody, City Planner bill.dermody@ci.stpaul.mn.us

August 27, 2015, We hoped to attend the meeting today in support but sadly cannot.

Dear St Paul Planning Commmission/Zoning Committees:

We are writing in support of the new use and variances applied for by Tom Schroeder and the proposed Stone Saloon new use at 445 Smith Ave.

We have lived at 434 Cherokee Ave (within 1/2 mile of 445 Smith Ave.) for 30 years and have been hopeful that

this limestone building will be saved and have a new use as an historic lagar saloon!

- We feel the Stone Saloon meets all the criteria of the historic use variance and passage in favor of the Stone Saloon is vital to the cause of Historic Preservation in St Paul.
- We support the use of the building as an "historic saloon" and urge you to say YES and grant the variances.
- The Stone Saloon is a vital component of the new collective of historic structures for preservation as the oldest
- business structure of limestone still standing in St Paul.
- The historic use/re-use as a saloon is compatible with the historic zoning and the surrounding mixed-use business zoning area.
- It will provide a museum-like atmosphere where families can gather to learn about the early settlement of Upper Town and Fort Road.
- The unique proposal of serving German Lagar that is prepared using historic techniques will be educational and an enhancement as well as a needed alternative to the already existing the mix of businesses and restaurants in the immediate area.
- The proposal of providing hand brewed non-alcoholic Root Beer will be fun for children and families to consume there.
- An historic saloon will NOT attract hooligans or disruptive persons to the neighborhood because those problem folks typically are not interested in a museum-like atmosphere or family-oriented drinking establishments and will want to go elsewhere.
- Many people will arrive by walking and bicycling to the saloon as we plan to do.

Thank you for supporting this new use as a saloon and for saving 445 Smith Ave for future generations to enjoy!

Gayle Whitney and Steven Komula 434 Cherokee Ave St Paul, MN 55107 Please consider this email in support of today's Zoning Committee hearing to grant the Stone Saloon a zoning change. I grew up less than a block from the building and after college lived within a block of the structure until I was 28. I renovated an 1870's house at 151 Goodrich Ave. (<a href="http://www.yusthaus.com/project/yusthaus">http://www.yusthaus.com/project/yusthaus</a> - also about a block from the Stone Saloon) for over 2 years, returning the structure to it's original glory by restoring the wooden clapboard siding, original floors, original decorative wood trim and detailing, etc... I have also helped my parents, who have lived in the neighborhood since the early 1970's, with multiple 19th century home restoration projects, all keeping with the history and character of one of the most historic neighborhoods in Minnesota. My Dad always insisted on the most historically accurate decisions for these buildings - like real wooden shingles - even if it meant more maintenance and money in the long run.

While growing up I also witnessed my parents unrelenting dedication to this historic neighborhood. As past executives of the Fort Road Federation they fought redlining initiatives, trucking routes, etc... which if successful would have torn the neighborhood apart and led to more degradation of the historic homes in the area.

My Dad, John Yust, is the architect of the Stone Saloon, he is a former employee at the Minnesota Historical Society, and probably done more 19th century restoration design work and advocacy than any other architect in the state. His efforts in support of Tom Schroeder mean the Stone Saloon is in the safe hands of a bona fide historic preservation dream team.

My work has subsequently led me to New York and San Francisco which are places dense with historic structures and preservation efforts. I can safely say that this project and its authenticity will put many of them to shame. I mention the project to each new colleague and friend I connect with in my travels and have only ever received a response of "How soon can I visit?". I believe this speaks to the reach this project will have beyond Minnesota.

Please grant this zoning change, there are few words to describe how much this project means to the neighborhood, to historic preservation in MN, and to all the people who have unflinchingly poured so much time, money, sweat, craftsmanship, and historical research into the building.

Sincerely, Charles Yust

380 Frederick St. San Francisco, CA 94117

www.yusthaus.com

 To: Barbara Wencl, Chair, Planning Commission Gaius Nelson, Chair, Zoning Committee c/o Bill Dermody, City Planner bill.dermody@ci.stpaul.mn.us

To Zoning Committee Members;

As a long time 40 year resident of the neighborhood in which the old Stone Saloon stands, ,I wish to add my voice to the chorus asking you to act to allow this remarkable project to proceed. As you seek to come to a just decision, we trust that you will not be unduely swayed by critics and nay-sayers who contrive to place fearful real and imagined obstacles in the path of this project. We are a diverse community. There is room for many more flowers to blossom here.

Thank You, David Christofferson 267 Goodhue To: Barbara Wencl, Chair, Planning Commission Gaius Nelson, Chair, Zoning Committee c/o Bill Dermody, City Planner

We've been following the progress of the Stone Saloon project and we felt we should send a message to communicate our support of this interesting and important project in the City of St. Paul, and specifically, the West End.

This project builds on the opportunity to experience history in a way that St. Paul does so well, with venues such as the Alexander Ramsey House, the James J. Hill House, The Minnesota History Center, to name just a few. And the West 7th neighborhood is a community that's always been especially proud of its cultural heritage. Witness the German Fest, the Czech and Slovak Festival, and the Italian-American traditions of Mancini's and Cossetta's.

St. Paul has always had a reputation for valuing and appreciating its history. Some historical experiences in the city have an emphasis on food, others have an emphasis on architecture. This project combines the best of both of those worlds. It is a revival of an important piece of St. Paul's history — one that will attract aficionados, not rowdy crowds. We're not aware of any other venue in the Twin Cities where the food and beverages are also true to the period, either, and this provides another layer to the historical experience.

There are so many improvements to existing buildings (The Pilney Building and the Schmidt Artist Lofts), and new buildings (The Peter King Health Center and the West 7th Fire Station), that this project feels right at home.

Chris and Michele Boone
Owners of the Pilney Building
1032 West Seventh Street
Saint Paul 55102
651-274-3054

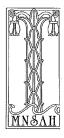
To: Barbara Wencl (chair of the planning commission) And Gaius Nelson (zoning committee) And Bill Dermody (city planner)

I'm writing in support of the Stone Saloon. The owner Tom Schroeder has been my dear friend for over thirty years and his dedication to historical landmarks and restoring them is remarkable! Having a friendly neighborhood watering hole (that will only serve beer by the way) will be an asset to the community and I'm 100% confident that Tom will ensure that it will follow all rules, regulations and laws and the neighbors near by will grow to love having it there. I am an ECFE teacher and have taught for 29 years. I know the importance of community and strong neighborhoods. Families nowadays need to feel connected to the people around them and I know that having a friendly place close by will give the area near the Stone Saloon a place to visit and catch up in these hectic times and so often extended families live far away so your neighbors become very close. I whole heartily endorse the Saloon opening for business soon!

Please contact me for any further questions. Kris Ferguson 2600 7th St S Minneapolis, MN 55454 612-359-9966

Sent from my iPad

MINDY MARCHINA Lacking I am en e 18-010 CJ100 CJ100 BY THE ENDING T Love History AND THE GIVIL MX L love 1/15, 17109 the Stoke Skloon RUN Exulla Attour HICOLOW. IPHUR 4001 FOR HETBINS GAND THE GLONE CHEP



August 26, 2015

Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians 275 Market Street, Suite 54 Minneapolis, MN 55405

Barbara Wencl, Chair, Planning Commission Gaius Nelson, Chair, Zoning Committee c/o Bill Dermody, City Planner

Re: Variance request for the Stone Saloon

Dear Barbara Wencl and Gaius Nelson:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (MNSAH) in support of the request for a variance for the Stone Saloon, also known as the Anthony and Wilhelmina Waldman house.

The St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission recently approved the historic designation of the Stone Saloon as well as an historic use variance. The Stone Saloon is an architecturally and historically significant building from St. Paul's Pioneer Era and the request to return the building to its original use presents a rare opportunity to fully experience a building from the 1850s.

We believe the recent approval of the Historic Use Variance Ordinance 15-26 is an important tool in promoting the preservation of historic buildings in St. Paul. MNSAH supports the variance for the Stone Saloon and we believe its proposed use will be a compatible and important addition to the West 7<sup>th</sup> Street neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Rolf T. Anderson MNSAH Board of Directors