



HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION

ADDRESS: St. Anthony Avenue from Western Avenue to Rice Street
DATE: January 29, 2024

Memorializing the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission's January 29, 2024, decision concurring with the renaming of St. Anthony Avenue from Western Avenue to Rice Street to Rondo Avenue.

WHEREAS, the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) is authorized by Chapter 73 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code to review and comment on any proposed name change for a city street which has had its current name for fifty (50) years or more before action on the name change by the city council; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Anika Bowie has requested the HPC review a proposal to rename the portion of St. Anthony Avenue from Western Avenue to Rice Street; and

WHEREAS, St. Anthony Avenue has held its name for more than 50 years and therefore requires review and comment by the HPC before City Council consideration; and

WHEREAS, the following is the citation in the City's Legislative Code concerning HPC review of street name changes:

Chapter 73.04 (10) Street name changes. The commission shall review and comment on any proposed name change for a city street which has had its current name for fifty (50) years or more prior to action on the name change by the city council. In their review of and recommendations on such street name changes, the commission shall utilize guidelines and criteria as adopted by the commission on March 22, 2018.

*The Policy and Procedure dated March 22, 2018, states the following:
Statement of Policy*

- 1. The relationship and appropriateness of both the existing and proposed names to the city's cultural, social, economic, and political history; and*
- 2. The significance of both the existing and proposed names and their relationship to the location and prominence of the place, building or object that is the subject of the proposed renaming; and*
- 3. The representation of both the existing and proposed names in the names of other places, buildings, and objects in Saint Paul; and*
- 4. Once a renaming is recommended by the HPC, any possible future renaming of that particular place, building or object shall also be considered by the HPC.*

WHEREAS, the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission, based upon the evidence presented at the November 20, 2023, meeting, made the following comments concerning the proposed street name changes:

1. The relationship of both the existing and proposed names to the city's cultural, social, economic, and political history.

By the mid-1900s, the Rondo neighborhood was the thriving center of African American life in Minnesota. This neighborhood was home to important historical St. Paul commerce and culture. In the 1960s, with the construction of Interstate 94, hundreds of homes and businesses along Rondo Avenue were destroyed. In January 1964, a resolution was introduced to rename the southern frontage road of the newly constructed interstate to Concordia Avenue. After no public discussion, the resolution passed. The once-thriving community that was destroyed by the interstate was now erased in name too.



2. The significance of both the existing and proposed names and their relationship to the location and prominence of the street; and

In November of 2023, the Heritage Preservation Commission approved a proposal that would rename Concordia Avenue back to Rondo Avenue, from Griggs Street to Kellogg Boulevard. But present-day Concordia Avenue isn't the only street that once bore the name Rondo Avenue. As I-94 stretches east, it curves just past Mackubin Street and just before Western Avenue. This means that after Mackubin Street, Rondo Avenue would have continued on the northern side of the highway, on what is now St. Anthony Avenue. This new proposal intends to better reflect the history of the neighborhood and have Rondo Avenue continue from Western Avenue to Rice Street on St. Anthony Avenue.

3. The representation of both the existing and proposed names in the names of other places, buildings, and objects in St. Paul.

The current name, St. Anthony Avenue, would continue to be represented west of Western Avenue, as well as in the name of the St. Anthony Park neighborhood. Beginning in 2024, Rondo Avenue will be represented on what is currently Concordia Avenue, from Griggs Street to Mackubin Street, as well as at the Rondo Commemorative Plaza.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, based on the above findings, the Heritage Preservation Commission finds the proposed renaming will generally not harm the city's cultural, social, economic, and political history in Saint Paul; now

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, based on the above findings, the Heritage Preservation Commission recommends approval of renaming St. Anthony Avenue from Western Avenue to Rice Street to Rondo Avenue.

MOVED BY Osten
SECONDED BY George

IN FAVOR 7
AGAINST 0
ABSTAIN 0