

Press Release

For Immediate Release

May 16, 2014

Kasson, Minnesota: On Monday May 12 the 1918 Kasson School Turn The Lights On organization hosted an open house to discuss the effort to purchase the historic school for \$240,000 from the City of Kasson. Approximately 50 people attended. Kenton Spading opened the meeting with a discussion of the importance of the school to Kasson's historic fabric and sense of community. He provided an update on the fund raising effort within which \$200,000 has been either donated or invested. The deadline for collecting the funds is May 30. Citizens can donate funds, or purchase investment shares in the school for \$500 per piece, thru a Limited Liability Limited Partnership.

Erin Hanafin-Berg from the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota discussed the economic advantages of historic preservation and rehabilitation versus new construction. Historic buildings are energy efficient and constructed to last much longer than new construction.

Clint Jayne from the development firm Cohen-Esrey discussed his plan to purchase the school from the Limited Partnership for \$265,000 contingent on securing Minnesota housing tax credits. Mr. Jayne has proposed a plan to rehabilitate the school into apartments. Mr. Jayne provided details on how the apartments and the overall building would be managed.

The Kasson Public School was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007. A large group of Kasson's citizens has been working diligently since 2006 to save the school. If you are interested in a donation or investment opportunity to help save this historic resource please call 651-272-7970 or mail a check to: Turn The Lights On, P.O. Box 103, Kasson, MN 55944. Addition information can be found at: <http://www.mnpreservation.org/kasson-school/>

End