

Twin Cities German Immersion School / Save Historic St. Andrew's Timeline

- October 4, 2017: Twin Cities German Immersion School announces it is exploring a building addition to meet increasing enrollment needs. Options include extensive renovation or replacement of the former St. Andrew's church building.
- March 2018: School announces that its preferred alternative is a new building that will replace the former church. School board calls this the most-effective plan, and intends to begin construction in May 2019.
- April 2018: Save Historic St. Andrew's forms; Facebook page goes live May 11, 2018.
- May 2, 2018: Land Use Committee of District 10 Como Community Council holds informational meeting attended by more than 125 people, with staff from city's zoning, planning, and finance departments, and Heritage Preservation Commission.
- May 8, 2018: SHSA asks school to delay its plans for a year to explore options to demolishing the church building.
- May 23, 2018: TCGIS school board delays decision on construction project to explore purchasing Central Lutheran property.
- July 30, 2018: TCGIS school board concludes Central Lutheran site is not feasible and approves building plan that includes tearing down former St. Andrew's church building.
- Oct. 1, 2018: SHSA submits application to have former church building added to city's historic registry.
- Oct. 3, 2018: At District 10 Land Use meeting, TCGIS facilities committee chair Nic Ludwig says school has applied for demolition permit to take down bell tower during MEA break.
- Oct. 4, 2018: SHSA files data practices request of TCGIS plans to demolish bell tower.
- Oct. 10, 2018: SHSA files court papers to block demolition of bell tower.
- Oct. 11, 2018 (morning): D10 Land Use chair facilitates informal discussion among about half-dozen representatives each from SHSA and TCGIS.
- Oct. 11, 2018 (evening): SHSA holds community forum.
- Oct. 12, 2018: TCGIS convenes meeting on traffic and pedestrian issues.
- Oct. 23, 2018: TCGIS submits initial site plan to city.
- Nov. 5, 2018: Heritage Preservation Commission holds public hearing on application for local historic designation for former St. Andrew's church building. Votes 8-1 that the building is eligible for historic designation, meeting four of the seven possible criteria.
- Nov. 13, 2018: City staff convene first Site Plan Review for TCGIS construction proposal.
- Dec. 3, 2018: TCGIS files initial variance requests for parking, height, and lot coverage.
- Dec. 5, 2018: District 10 Land Use committee meets on TCGIS variance requests. More than 230 people attend; D10 residents vote 100-74 to support a lot coverage variance of 1%; 96-76 to support of height variance of 3 feet-1 inch; and 101-76 to support a parking variance of up to 37 spaces.
- Dec. 12, 2018: Planning Commission's Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee votes 5-0 against historic designation, saying designation would not be compatible with the city's Comprehensive Plan.
- Dec. 14, 2018: Planning Commission votes 12-1 against historic designation.

- Dec. 18, 2018: District 10 board votes to support school's variance requests and seek delays in approval of proposed site plan. Vote is 14-1 on lot coverage variance, 14-1 on height variance, and 8-7 on parking variance (each with two abstentions).
- Dec. 20, 2018: Planning Commission's Zoning Committee delays vote on school's variance requests and site plan until Jan. 17.
- Jan. 14, 2019: Heritage Preservation Commission votes 6-2 to approve proposed boundaries and preservation program for former church building. This moves decision about historic designation to City Council.
- Jan. 17, 2019: On identical 5-1 votes, Planning Commission's Zoning Committee rejects all three of the school's variance requests, and rejects the latest site plan.
- Jan. 25, 2019: Planning Commission, on identical 6-6 votes, fails to reject the school's variance requests, and fails to approve the school's variance requests. On a 5-7 vote, the commission fails to accept its Zoning Committee recommendation to reject the school's site plan. On a 7-5 vote, the commission approves the school's site plan, which contains variances that were not approved separately. Various anomalies surround these votes; the city attorney's office later says these votes are not valid.
- Feb. 8, 2019: Planning Commission votes 9-2 against reopening its votes from Jan. 25. That means the school's initial site plan would take effect on March 6 through "operation of law" under state statute 15.99. The school's initial variance requests would take effect March 26 through "operation of law."
- Feb. 15, 2019: Kevin Anderson, on behalf of SHSA, appeals the Planning Commission vote.
- Feb. 19, 2019: The District 10 Como Community Council appeals the Planning Commission vote.
- Feb. 22, 2019: Roy Neal, on behalf of SHSA, files a citizen's petition seeking an Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the proposed construction project. This wipes out timelines for site plan and variance approvals, and delays hearings on the Planning Commission appeals.
- March 21, 2019: State Historic Preservation Office says distinctive architecture makes the church building eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- April 9, 2019: Department of Planning and Economic Development says an Environmental Assessment Worksheet is not required or needed for the school's proposed construction project. This decision restarts the Section 15.99 timelines for school's variance and site plan applications.
- May 22, 2019: City Council delays vote on historic designation to allow attempt at alternative dispute resolution.
- June 1, 2019: Aimee Gourlay of The Mediation Center issues a report after a week of "conflict assessment." Concludes "there is insufficient time to address issues productively" and "There is little likelihood of a useful mediation at this point."
- June 3, 2019: SHSA seeks injunction in Ramsey County District Court blocking demolition of church building.
- June 5, 2019: City Council votes 5-0 against granting church building local historic designation. Council also votes 5-0 to approve school's variances on height, lot coverage, and parking; and 5-0 to approve construction site plan for proposed school addition.