A COMPLETE LISTING OF COMMENTS SUBMITTED DURING THE MARCH 31 TO MAY 5, 2025, PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND MAY 15, 2025, PUBLIC HEARING, CONDUCTED BY CAPITOL AREA ARCHITECTURAL AND PLANNING BOARD (CAAPB) STAFF FOR THE APPLICATION TO ADD A NEW COMMEMORATIVE WORK: THE PILLBOX.

Comments were submitted to provide input on whether conditions have been met for the CAAPB to review an application to add a new Commemorative Work at the State Capitol Grounds: The Pillbox Ballpark.

COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE MARCH 31 TO MAY 5, 2025, PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD			
Comment no.	**Date**	**Comment**	**Mode of Submission**
1	4/18/2025	I strongly and enthusiastically support this request. I have read the rules and regulations and feel this meets all requirements	Email
2	4/18/2025	As a resident of St Paul and a baseball fan, I would like to express my support for placing commemorative work to remember an historic venue and those that made St Paul such a baseball city. Thanks	Email
3	4/18/2025	I am writing to express my support for commemorating the Pillbox ballpark on the MN State Capitol campus. I believe that the proposed commemorative plaque will have lasting statewide significance for all Minnesotans, respects the diversity of Minnesota, and is key to all Minnesotans understanding of our shared history, heritage, and culture. I hope the board recognizes the importance of memorializing the hidden history of black baseball in Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration,	Email
4	4/18/2025	I just read an article on the Minnesota Public Radio website about the proposed sign commemorating the Pillbox Stadium. Not especially a baseball fan, I nevertheless found myself admiring the history of “The Black Gophers.” What an amazing story, well worth learning about more than a century after what must have been such exciting baseball games.	Email

		My experience, as a St Paul resident of 40+ years, is that Minnesota is much too quick to tear down historic buildings and replace them with soulless structures with no meaning. Here's a chance to pay tribute to a really happy piece of history without even constructing a new building! I, for one, anticipate that this artwork will provide "a rich experience to broaden the understanding of Minnesota's shared history, heritage, and culture."	
5	4/21/2025	I am writing to you today to give my comment about the Pillbox Baseball Park plaque. I support the plaque. I believe that we should be able to see the hidden history of Black Minnesotans. I think a plaque is a perfect way to signify the former location. Thank you.	Email
6	4/21/2025	To the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, please consider this email in support of the proposed historical marker for the Pill Box, also known as the Downtown Baseball Park. As a Minnesota resident, and member of the local chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR), I am writing to express my support for the placing of a historic marker on the Capitol campus to commerate the site of the Pill Box Ballpark. It is my opinion that venues such as the Pill Box played an important role in the development of the city of St. Paul as they provided much needed recreational and entertainment spaces in a rapidly growing Victorian city during the late 19th century. As a community gathering place, the park contributed to the growth, stability, and popularity of the professional St. Paul Saints and the St. Paul Colored Gophers baseball clubs, and was also used as an ice skating rink during the winter months, all this at a time when greater leisure time activities were becoming more available to St. Paul's population. In the contemporary urban environment where extant historic places are becoming fewer and fewer, we can, at least, try to honor those that have been lost. It is my hope that you will approve this request.	Email
7	4/24/2025	I am in favor of placing a commemorative plaque or marker to show the spot of the Pillbox baseball park. All of the former and historic ballparks in the Metro area all have markers. This little-known ballpark should not be overlooked. Interest in the history of baseball remains strong and there is interest among all ages. The marker will be small but will tell a big and important story.	Email

8	4/29/2025	I just wanted write in and voice my support for the Pillbox commemorative work near the state capitol.	Email
9	5/2/2025	Baseball has a long history in Minnesota, and it's worth commemorating the stadiums Minnesotans played at. Before Metro Stadium was built, there were a large number of smaller stadiums that were used by various teams, and I do not believe that heritage should be lost. The plaque would not only be respectful of Minnesotan diversity, it would emphasize it. The St. Paul Gophers played at the Pillbox, and the history of black baseball is frequently glossed over. I consider it more important to commemorate stadiums where black teams played than stadiums used only by whites, for that reason. Just viewing the plaque would give Minnesotans a view of Minnesota's history that is not widely known, and broaden their knowledge of Minnesota's history and heritage. It is for those reasons that I think the plaque would be a worthwhile addition to the state.	Email
10	5/3/2025	Thank so very much, in advance, for supporting the installation of a memorial commemorating the site of what was known as The Pillbox baseball field & stadium. Baseball has such a long, deeply ingrained history in the Twin Cities and national sports culture. As you know. This Memorial will contribute to informing folks of local sports history for generations to come.	Email
11	5/5/2025	After reading through the application submitted for the Pillbox Plaque and the four conditions (listed below) for adding new artwork in the capitol area, I am confident that the application has met these four requirements. A. there has been documented public support of the artwork; B. the artwork has lasting statewide significance for Minnesotans; C. the artwork is respectful of the diversity of Minnesotans; D. viewing the artwork provides a rich experience to broaden the understanding of Minnesota's shared history, heritage, and culture;” Public support has been shown both informally within our local SABR (Society for	Email

		American Baseball Research) chapter and formally at the March meeting of the Capital Area Architecture and Planning Board. The subject of the plaque has been discussed at various chapter meetings (Board of Directors, Research Committe, Spring Chapter meeting) where it has been enthusiastically supported. Also, at the March CAAPB meeting (where you and I met briefly in the building lobby), support for the plaque was very evident. There is no doubt that the plaque will have a lasting significance for Minnesotans. Baseball in its various current formats within the state (major league, minor league, town ball, American Legion ball, Little Leagues, various local youth baseball leagues) has broad appeal across the state. The history of the game in the state is revered as evident by the historical displays at Target Field, the museum at CHS Field and the plaques commemorating the minor league ballparks of the St. Paul Saints and the Minneapolis Millers. The Pillbox Plaque will be a significant addition to commemorate the history of baseball in Minnesota. The plaque will further highlight the diversity of the early years of baseball in Minnesota. It will add to the history of baseball within the state that while segregation existed in many forms including baseball, this didn't prevent Black players from embracing the game to the best of their ability. The plaque will in its own way, keep alive the early history of baseball as played by people, both Black and white. The plaque will be a permanent and significant marker as to this part of Minnesota history. Baseball was and is a game for all, regardless of the race, culture or heritage of its participants. It will provide a significant notification that baseball had in its early years, a universal appeal across various racial and ethnic boundaries. I'm confident that we'll all be able to take pride in this significant addition to the history of this state that we all call home. Please reach out to me if you have any questions of comments. I plan on attending the public hearing on May 15 and hope to see you there.	

12	5/5/2025	I am honored to serve as the President of the Halsey Hall Chapter of the Society of American Baseball Research. There are 197 members of the national association who identify the Halsey Hall Chapter as their primary chapter, and we have been honored over the past two years as the only two-time MVP chapter of all chapters in the national Society of American Baseball Research to receive this recently created award. Although this supporting submission is my own personal statement, I can state that this proposal has over-whelming support from the Chapter's Board and membership. In offering my personal endorsement of the Pillbox proposal, I reviewed Minnesota Administrative Rules2400.2703 - Standards for Commemorative Artwork. In particular, I concentrated on the following four requirements: "A. there has been documented public support of the artwork; B. the artwork has lasting statewide significance for Minnesotans; C. the artwork is respectful of the diversity of Minnesotans; D. viewing the artwork provides a rich experience to broaden the understanding of Minnesota's shared history, heritage, and culture" The Pillbox served for nearly a decade as the primary home baseball park of the St. Paul Saints, a legendary minor league team and long-time rivals of the Minneapolis Millers. The Pillbox also hosted numerous contests for the St. Paul Gophers, an all-African American team, in an era of segregated baseball. Even during this period of segregation, the Gophers did participate in integrated exhibition games. Furthermore, Andrew "Rube" Foster, Negro League pioneer and member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame (class of1981) pitched for the Gophers. These factors support both of the middle two requirements listed above. Baseball has a long history as sport's National Pastime. In Minnesota, where Townball, currently operated by the Minnesota Baseball Association, has held a statewide tournament for over 100 years, the game has "lasting statewide significance." Providing a commemorative plaque memorializing the importance of the Pillbox to the history of baseball in Minnesota seems entirely appropriate.	Letter via Email

COMMENTS RECEIVED PRIOR TO OR DURING THE PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 15, 2025			
13	5/14/2025	I believe the Pillbox should be memorialized with a monumental work of art. BUT ! The State Capitol Mall is NOT the place for it. Unless you'd like to create a memorial for Lexington Park. And Nicollet Park. And... all the other great ballparks in the history of Minnesota Baseball.... (Many). I do not think the Pillbox fits the mall memorial criteria.	Email
14	5/15/2025	It's Dave Lande and I am a member of the Halsey Hall chapter, Sabr chapter along with Stewart Thornley and I sent, Tina sent you an e-mail a couple weeks ago outlining the reasons why I believe this plaque should be supported and eventually installed. There is 4 criteria in there as outlined by the state requirements and I believe the application that Stu put together find all four of those. And I wrote the e-mail also in support of what Stew had written, and the fact that it's my opinion and believes that the application does meet all the all four requirements. It's obviously of interest anybody interested in the history of baseball which Saber chapter is Saber is a long, long-established organization of about 50 years supporting baseball in all of its various many forms in the United States. So it has support from the local Sabr chapter. Also, it's the does support the diversity requirements as outlined in the application in terms of this is the ballpark that is used by at the time by the segregated teams, both black and white and they often played each other.	In person

		It does add to the history of Saint Paul and the history of baseball in Minnesota and in Saint Paul. So again, I won't go into a lot of detail as outlined in my e-mail I sent you, but I I believe that this is being a real good step to go forward and memorialize that history of baseball in Saint Paul.	
15	4/15/2025	Hi, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I'm the current president of the Halsey Hall chapter of the Society of American Baseball Research. And Dave mentioned the 50-year history. The organization nationally has a little over 7500 members. The Halsey Hall chapter is we think the strongest of all and noted by comments that I sent in my letter to Tina that we've been the only chapter twice recognized with the Most Valuable Player award that was recently established by the National Society of American Baseball Research. I just wanted to add a couple of things with respect to Part C, with respect to the diversity of this proposal to Minnesotans. I think it gives a very good opportunity to have some artwork that explains a little bit about the segregated nature of baseball. Unfortunately, it's part of its history, but the fact that the pillbox was a ballpark used by both African Americans and Caucasian Americans playing baseball creates an opportunity to present to the public a little bit of an educational chance to understand how that was at the time. And the progress has been made in the future. And there were a couple of very important African Americans, Rube Foster that was mentioned and Marshall and other early baseball, football hockey player in history here in the Twin Cities. The other thing I kind of wanted to mention was that with respect to statewide significance is that Minnesota has a 100 plus year history of town ball that relates to both the large urban communities and some of the really smaller towns throughout the state.	Online

		And this 100-year history of town ball that still exists today played by citizens of each of these communities across the state, I think points to really a very strong statewide history of playing baseball and interest in baseball that really brought everybody from those communities into playing the game. And that was an entertainment value to the citizens of all of those smaller communities as well as of the largest cities like Saint Paul and Duluth and Minneapolis. So thank you for the opportunity to kind of address this proposal and to say that it has a strong support of the other two members that are obviously in the room from the Halsey Hall chapter, but from the board and the general membership which is close to 200 here in the Twin Cities.	
16	5/15/2025	I'm also with Sabr Twin Cities Halsey Hall chapter. I would just mention to you should be directed to the e-mail that I had sent I believe last month in support of this here though. And I think what I had stressed in there is that this is a Victorian, late Victorian entertainment center of the Twin Cities. And, you know, it's not extinct at all though. And I think that we need to give recognition to those entertainment facilities that are long gone, that served the thousands, if not 10s of thousands of, you know, Minnesotans that attended events, not only attended events there, but remember this was also used as an ice skating facility in, in the. So I would just once again, thanks for the opportunity for us to comment.	Online