

PRESS RELEASE TO SE MINNESOTA NEWS MEDIA

October 13, 2011

The Board of Directors of the History Center of Olmsted County (HCOC) has called a special meeting of the membership for Wednesday, October 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the History Center to approve a strategic collaboration between HCOC and Mayo Clinic for the restoration, long-term operation and maintenance of Historic Mayowood Mansion.

The issue of the stewardship, care, and maintenance of Historic Mayowood Mansion has been a topic of discussion by the Board of Directors of HCOC for several decades. The agreement which has been reached between HCOC and Mayo Clinic was achieved only after protracted, thoughtful discussions between representatives of each organization over the past several years, together with invaluable input from local members of the Mayo family. The end result will allow the restoration of the mansion and ensure its long-term care and maintenance.

In 1965, Dr. Charles W. Mayo and Alice P. Mayo transferred the Historic Mayowood Mansion and 10 surrounding acres to HCOC. It was the intent of the Mayos that HCOC hold the house and land as an historic site, open to the public, and as a memorial to the entire Mayo family. In the succeeding 46 years, HCOC has operated tours for the general public and has cared for the associated buildings. However, not surprisingly, the restoration needs for the 100-year-old structure continued to mount. Maintenance needs had to be prioritized, with many of the less pressing needs deferred because of cost.

Recently, the Historic Mayowood District, which includes the Mansion, was named by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota as one of the ten state sites most in need of public support and advocacy. As the dominant structure of the district, Historic Mayowood Mansion needs substantial work to bring it back to a semblance of the home built 100 years ago. Like many non-profits, HCOC did not have the means to cover the expense of doing so. The Board has considered a number of options over the years and consulted with the membership and with members of the philanthropic community, all of which has led to a more formal arrangement with Mayo Clinic for the use and care of Historic Mayowood Mansion.

An architectural survey indicates that up to \$3,000,000 is needed in the very near future to stabilize and provide basic restoration of Historic Mayowood Mansion. The HCOC Board has concluded that the best way of resolving the issues of restoration, maintenance, public use and access is to enter into a joint enterprise with Mayo Clinic. The method of doing so includes a transfer of title to the real estate to Mayo Clinic, together with the responsibility for all repair, restoration, and future maintenance. The transfer does not take place until Mayo Clinic has completed an initial \$2,000,000 in repairs and restoration.

HCOC met with local representatives of the heirs of Dr. Charles W. Mayo and Alice P. Mayo who have responded enthusiastically to the proposal. Their valuable input significantly improved the final version of the agreement and they have urged the remaining heirs to join in their embrace of the project.

The specific details of the proposal are as follows:

1. Mayowood shall be preserved as an historic site, as well as the final resting place of Dr. Charles W. Mayo and Alice P. Mayo. In keeping with the Mayos' intentions, Mayowood shall be open for public use and shall be held as a memorial to the Mayo family. The overall accessibility of the premises to the public shall be improved, consistent with the historical nature of Mayowood.
2. Mayo Clinic shall pay for and complete initial planned improvements on the Historic Mayowood Mansion, not to exceed \$3,000,000. All repairs and restoration shall be mutually agreed to by Mayo Clinic and HCOC.
3. Title to the Historic Mayowood Mansion and its grounds shall be transferred from HCOC to Mayo Clinic following completion of at least \$2,000,000 in repairs and restoration. Thereafter, Mayo Clinic will have the exclusive responsibility of maintaining Mayowood in good condition and repair.
4. HCOC shall retain ownership, title and responsibility for all historical personal property associated with Historic Mayowood Mansion which it presently owns.
5. Historic Mayowood Mansion is presently open to the public approximately 140 days per year. HCOC shall be entitled to open Historic Mayowood Mansion to the public at least 160 days per year pursuant to a perpetual calendar which is integral to the agreement. HCOC and Mayo Clinic shall each designate one individual as a coordinator of the use of the property. The coordinators will act in conjunction upon requests for public use. As a result, the Agreement permits HCOC to continue keeping Mayowood open to the public to an extent somewhat greater than in the past.
6. Private use of Historic Mayowood Mansion shall have lower priority than tours and other events which are open to the public. HCOC shall have access for private rentals on a minimum of 10 days per year, if not otherwise in use. Mayo Clinic's use of Historic Mayowood Mansion shall be subject to the public use schedule.
7. Mayo Clinic shall insure Historic Mayowood Mansion and associated structures against loss or structural damage by fire, wind or other events. If the structure sustains damage of less than fifty percent, Mayo Clinic is obliged to rebuild. If the structure sustains damage in excess of fifty percent or is a total loss, Mayo Clinic shall not be obliged to re-build, at which point the future use of Mayowood shall be jointly agreed upon by HCOC and Mayo Clinic. However, in such event,

recognizing that Mayowood is the final resting place of Dr. Charles W. Mayo and Alice P. Mayo, Mayo Clinic and HCOC shall jointly ensure that any future use of the property following loss of the Historic Mayowood Mansion shall include maintaining the property as the memorial it was meant to be.

For further information, please consult the website of the History Center of Olmsted County for the terms of the agreement and a detailed historical structure report, including photos of Mayowood, past and more recent, or contact its director, James Lundgren at (507) 282-9447, ext. 115. Requests for more information from Mayo Clinic may be directed to Bryan Anderson of Mayo Communications at (507) 284-5005.

Christopher Colby
President, Board of Directors
History Center of Olmsted County