

HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW COMMISSION
232 N. Queen Street
July 07, 2014
Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM.
J. Oakley Seibert Council Chambers

With a quorum present, Chairman Gary Gimbel called the regular scheduled meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Commission to order at 7:00 pm. The following members were present: Gary Gimbel, Chris Cox, Hugh Harvey, Terry Colburn and Mark Jordan. Keven Walker, Steve Knipe, Ryan Perks and Nell Thompson were absent. Also in attendance were Legal Counsel Catie Delligatti, City Planner Tracy Smith and Planning Secretary Linda Fitzgerald.

APPROVAL OF April 07, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Cox made the motion to approve the minutes as they stand, Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous vote of "aye". Motion carried.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Read by Commissioner Gimbel. Zoning Ordinance Article 10

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **CASE #HP 14-022. 126 S. Raleigh Street. Public Hearing.** Application requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to install window decals. Dennis Grove II, applicant.

Dennis Grove, Jr. introduced himself and presented this request to approve already installed window decals.

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:05 pm.

- Dennis Grove, Sr. stated he is the owner of the building and inquired as to when the historic district was changed to include Raleigh Street. He went on to say he was unaware that Raleigh Street was in the district and that is why approval was not sought by the Historic District. City Planner, Ms. Smith replied it was changed in 2011 and includes the Raleigh portion between King Street and Race Street.

As no one else came forward to speak for or against this request, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:07 pm.

Commissioner Colburn made the motion to accept the proposal as submitted, Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion that was followed by a unanimous vote of "aye".

- 2. CASE #HP-14-023. 123 S. Maple Street. Public Hearing.** Application requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to install French patio doors and pergola. Lynn Gundry, applicant.

Lynn Gundry introduced herself stating she is the owner of 123 S. Maple Street. She then introduced her contractor Ron Stevens. She went on to say she is proposing to build a patio, install a pergola and from her back sun-room, she would like to put in French doors that step down to the patio, so she can use her backyard. She then added her front yard is right on the street.

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:09 pm, as no one came forward to speak for or against this request, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:09 pm.

There was inquiry about the windows being replaced by French doors and her patio will consist of brick pavers.

City Planner Ms. Smith added you cannot see the patio from the public right-a-way so this request is for consideration of the French doors and the top part of the pergola.

Commissioner Cox made the motion to accept the request as written, Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion that was followed by a unanimous vote of "aye".

Commissioner Colburn made the motion to accept the proposal as submitted, Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion that was followed by a unanimous vote of "aye".

OTHER BUSINESS:

none

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1. Potential of Expanding of the Historic District**

Commissioner Gimbel mentioned Commissioner Walker has accepted a new position as the Chief Executive Officer with the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Association, based in New Market and that may possibly be why he is absent, but he knows that Mr. Walker is interested in being present for this discussion.

Chairman Gimbel asked Commissioner Harvey what areas he had referenced at the last meeting, and he replied the proximity of Moler Avenue and south on Queen Street towards Union Hill.

Further discussion included postponing the discussion to the next meeting when Commissioner Walker would be in attendance.

Councilman Baker approached the podium and asked if he may speak in reference to the discussion. Legal Counsel, Ms. Delligatti, replied since there is no action required, it is okay for him to speak. Ms. Smith asked Councilman Baker if he had a chance to read the minutes where it was openly discussed that the Historic commission would contact City Council, the City Manager and the Councilmembers involved, prior to proceeding forward. Councilman Baker replied he is aware of the minutes, but has not personally read them, that he had a lengthy conversation with the City Manager and had another conversation with Commissioner Walker and he feels he is up to date.

Councilman Baker went on to say he received approximately 50-60 phone calls about the expansion and no one person was in favor. He went on to say he understands there are many homes in his ward that have significant historical value and there are many homes that are run down, but the biggest issue in Ward 5 is the economics. He then urged the Commissioners to not move forward with this. He concluded that a positive is the homes that have been foreclosed on come with new ownership that will work with code enforcement. He added this expansion will not be favorable in his ward and he will not support this expansion on the council floor.

Commissioner Harvey expressed his surprise and concern that a Councilman is already receiving phone calls when there hasn't been any action yet.

There was discussion that these meetings are public and it was in the newspaper. Chairman Gimbel added the commission is definitely in a discovery mode and there has been no action yet. The commission is only moving on Commissioner Walker's suggestion to investigate whether they should expand the district. He went on to say the HPRC may decide it may not be the right timing to present it to Council.

Councilman Baker then added that he wanted the Commissioners to understand that in Ward 5, the people are different; they are libertarian, they believe in less government, they're democrats, but don't want to be intruded upon by the City, State or Federal government. He added they are also an older generation and he doesn't feel that another hindrance should be given to his ward.

Chairman Gimbel thanked Councilman Baker that he took his time to talk to the Commission. Commissioner Cox reassured Councilman Baker, that they are not in any way blind to the economic realities.

Chairman Gimbel asked to put this discussion item on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Legal Counsel, clarified there is a long process ahead and there will be other opportunities for the public to express their opinions. Chairman Gimbel agreed and added the last expansion took approximately two years to complete due to investigation, documentation, and public hearings.

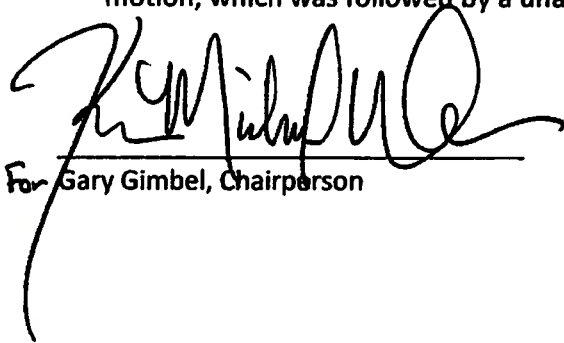
Ms. Smith commented on Councilman Baker's statements, that a lot of the properties on that side of town are rental properties that require compliancy and need to be registered and inspected every three years. She added there is a \$25 application fee, and a City and State business license is required.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Next meeting is scheduled on August 04, 2014.
- Non-compliant cases will possibly be added to next month's agenda and Legal Counsel and City Planner will follow up.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cox made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous vote of "aye". Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.



For Gary Gimbel, Chairperson



Linda Fitzgerald, Planning Secretary