

COURTHOUSE SQUARE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Be it remembered that the Courthouse Square Preservation Commission did meet in regular session on Monday, December 5, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. on the second floor in the courtroom of City Hall with the following members present:

Andy Phillips, Chairman
Phil Bailey
Mike Bridge
Donna Gottshall
Jim Pryor
Will Lewis

Katrina Hourin, Assistant City Planner
Lynn Conerly, Office Manager
Virginia Pence, Historic Preservation Consultant

The following Commissioner was absent:

Mike Overstreet

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Andy Phillips.

Approval of Minutes from the November 7, 2011 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Phillips asked if there are any modifications to the November 7, 2011 minutes. Commissioner Phillips clarified an error on page 2, paragraph 2. The language should read Following an oral amendment by Walker to the COA requesting the above and discussion by Commission members, a motion was made by Commissioner Bailey and seconded by Commissioner Pryor to approve the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for property located at 1102 Van Buren Avenue.

Commissioner Bridge made a motion to approve the amended minutes. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion.

All present voting aye.

The amended minutes were approved

Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner Gottshall to approve the agenda.

All present voting aye.

The agenda was approved

Commissioner Phillips thanked Commissioner Lewis on behalf of the Commission for his two (2) terms served on the Commission. Commissioner Lewis commented that he will stay on the Commission until he is replaced. Commissioner Phillips agreed that he can certainly stay on this Commission until he is replaced. Commissioner Bridge commented Commissioner Lewis was instrumental in the formation of the Courthouse Square Historic Preservation Commission and helped formulate the parameters for the appointment of the Commission members.

Election of Chairperson

Commissioner Phillips asked for nominations for a Chairperson. Commissioner Gottshall nominated Commissioner Phillips to continue as Chairman. Commissioner Pryor seconded the nomination. Commissioner Phillips commented he has no reservations about continuing as Chairperson, but he would certainly be happy to turn this position over to someone else.

All present voting aye.

Commissioner Phillips was approved as Chairperson.

Public Hearing for Case #85 –COA for property located at 914 Van Buren Avenue-

Charles Rocconi appeared before the Commission requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a gate at the entry drive of his property, located at 914 Van Buren Avenue to secure the parking lot at night and weekends.

Discussion was made among the Commission regarding the gate. Their primary concern is that a precedent will be set for other requests will follow. The dimensions of the gate were questioned and Ms. Hourin informed the Commission the gate design is in compliance with the ordinance regulating gated developments. Commissioner Lewis suggested that the gate to be moved to the back of the building and Ms. Hourin informed the Commission the aforementioned ordinance requires the property owner provide a place for automobiles to turn around and also prohibits backing onto a public street. Moving the gates back will be in violation of the ordinance.

Commissioner Lewis stated he is sympathetic to the problem, but doesn't want to see Oxford as a gated community. Ms. Hourin informed the Commission the security gate ordinance was drafted to discourage gated communities and encourage connectivity within the city. The Commission was informed the security gate ordinance went to the Planning Commission and then to the Board of Aldermen for approval.

It was pointed out the Presbyterian Church has an existing fence and the gate would be a continuation look of the wrought iron. The gate will be attached to the brick post at the entrance to their business. The post size will not be increased. The gate will swing in toward their building. The gate will remain closed after 5 pm during the week and on weekends.

Commissioner Phillips asked Ms. Pence, the architectural consultant her opinion of the gate and she stated she thinks it will be good for the neighborhood.

The question of how the gate will swing was discussed. Mr. Rocconi explained the gate will be mounted on the right post and swing southwest towards the building. Commissioner Phillips asked Mr. Rocconi if he is willing to amend this Certificate of Appropriateness for the gate to swing to the left (southeast) and the design to stay as presented. Mr. Rocconi agreed to amend the Certificate of Appropriateness.

There being no further questions or comments from the public or the Commission, Motion was made by Commissioner Gottshall to approve the amended Certificate of Appropriateness to have the gate swing to the left (southeast). Commissioner Bailey seconded for property located at 914 Van Buren Avenue.

The following vote concurred:

Bailey:	Aye	Lewis:	Nay
Bridge:	Aye	Phillips:	Aye
Gottshall:	Aye	Pryor:	Aye

The motion to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness was approved for property located at 914 Van Buren Avenue.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, motion was made by Commissioner Gotshall and seconded by Commissioner Lewis to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.