

COURTHOUSE SQUARE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Be it remembered that the Courthouse Square Preservation Commission did meet in regular session on Thursday, January 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 December 5, 2011 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Phillips asked if there are any modifications to the December 5, 2011 minutes. There being no changes from the Commission or the public, a motion was made by Commissioner Pryor and seconded by Commissioner Lewis to approve the December 5, 2011 minutes.

All present voting aye.

The minutes were approved

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Phillips added two (2) Complimentary Reviews to the agenda. Vieux Carre' and 1107 East Jackson Avenue. A motion was made by Commissioner Gottshall to approve the amended agenda and seconded by Commissioner Lewis.

All present voting aye.

The amended agenda was approved

Public Hearing for Case #86 –COA for property located at 132 Courthouse Square- Griffin Tanner is present today requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for property located at 132 Courthouse Square. Mr. Tanner is proposing to construct a second floor deck and railing to the edge of the property to cover the existing exterior patio.

Commissioner Phillips asked Virginia Pence, Consultant to the Commission, to comment on this project. Ms. Pence suggested that the new, upper deck railing complement the existing railing below. Discussion was made among the Commission members regarding the railing as the submitted plans indicate wood. Mr. Tanner agrees to make the recommended change in railing material from wood to metal; consistent with the lower floor. Discussion continued between the members and a request for clarification between the submitted drawings and the request were raised, specifically addressing the enclosed detail of the lower patio. Mr. Tanner informed the Commission the original plans were to have the patio enclosed. The current plans are for an open patio.

Commissioner Phillips recommended amending the Certificate of Appropriateness to include the change that the second floor railing material be consistent with the existing metal railing on the lower patio.

There being no further questions or comments from the public or the Commission a motion was made by Commissioner Bridge to approve the amended Certificate of Appropriateness to include the change that the second floor railing material be consistent with the existing metal railing on the lower patio. Commissioner Gottshall seconded the motion.

All present voting Aye.

The motion to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness was approved for property located at 132 Courthouse Square.

Public Hearing for Case #87-COA for property lights standards in public parking lots for the City of Oxford- Rob Neely, Assistant Superintendent of the Oxford Electric Department, is in attendance today requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of additional lighting in four (4) of the city's public parking lots. The Mayor's Parking Committee requested improvements to the parking lots to improve safety.

The lot behind Neilson's department store proposed lighting changes is to add two (2) poles on the Northeast and Northwest corners of the lot with 400 watt bulbs. The original ornamental lights will remain to keep the ambiance and shoebox style flood lights will be used in the corners.

Commissioner Phillips reminded the Commission that almost everyone on this Commission owns property touching this lot, but everyone can't recuse themselves. Commissioner Phillips doesn't see a problem with this.

The lot at 11th and Tyler- the proposed lighting changes are to replace four (4) - 175 watt bulbs with 400 watt bulbs to improve lighting. The concrete polls in the lot will remain, however four (4) additional fixtures will be attached.

The lot behind the University Club-the proposed lighting includes the addition of four (4) new poles and six (6) light fixtures.

Discussion continued regarding the amount of additional light and a possible conflict with residents in adjacent condominiums. Mr. Neely informed the Commission the lights will be shielded if a problem should arise. Commissioner Bridge suggested the City be proactive in this matter.

There being no further questions or comments from the public or the Commission a motion was made by Commissioner Bailey to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for lighting improvements for the City of Oxford. Commissioner Gotshall seconded.

All present voting Aye.

The motion to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness was approved for the City of Oxford,

The Commission commended the Mayor's Parking Committee for trying to make these improvements to make our city safer.

Preliminary Conference

Vieux Carre' - 319 North Lamar- Edye Conkerton is present today for a preliminary conference to discuss a possible sign request for a proposed restaurant in the Vieux Carre building. The sign will be placed under the canopy and backlit with LED lighting. There was discussion among the Commission. Commissioner Gotshall immediately expressed opposition to the sign. Commissioner Phillips commented he continuously receives negative comments about the Checkers sign. Commissioner Bridge asked if the dimensions of the sign can be reduced from 3 feet by 10 feet. A question was raised about the sign meeting the requirements of the sign ordinance. Ms. Conkerton informed the Commission it does meet the ordinance. Additional comments called for the sign to be toned down before returning.

Virginia Pence, Consultant to the Commission, commented she is resistant to the glowing of the sign and suggested to move the sign to the transom above the restaurants entry doors; further commenting that the back lighting at the entry doors would be more welcoming.

1101 Jackson Avenue East- Forrest Hinton is present today for a complimentary review to add a second level to the building. Mr. Wiley, a former owner of the building, is also present to give a brief history of the property and informed the Commission the building once had a second level. Mr. Hinton commented that Two Stick has a second level, but doesn't look like it from the front of the building. Commissioner Gotshall suggested this might be accomplished if the front of the building stays the same. Commissioner Lewis indicated that he is opposed to the idea of a second level.

Ms. Pence suggested this should be done so the front of the building stays the same and the character doesn't change. This should be a stipulation in considering this request.

Commissioner Phillips told Mr. Hinton they needed more information and suggested each Commission member go to the property and look individually. Commissioner Lewis also suggested that Mr. Hinton look at a fire insurance map.

Commissioner Phillips inquired about the banner on the back of the Checkers building. Mrs. Conerly didn't think a banner permit was issued, but will check and send an inspector to the location for removal if necessary.

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

The meeting was adjourned.