

HISTORIC PRESREVATION COMMISSION

March 8, 2005

5:30 P.M.

Members Present: Goodloe Lewis, Chairman
Phyllis Yarbrough
Judy Riddell
Sara Davidson
Cody Giles
Cynthia Parham
Renee Moore
Teresa Flautt

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After the meeting was called to order, the agenda was amended to include the conclusion of case # 010- Gwen Walker application for approval for a sign located at 609 Van Buren Avenue. Motion was made to approve the amended agenda by Commissioner Parham, seconded by Commissioner Giles. All members present voting Aye.

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The minutes of the February 8, 2005 meeting were approved without corrections on motion of Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Giles. All members present voting Aye.

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There came for discussion the public hearing for a proposed Square District. Chairman Lewis addressed the public with information regarding the process of a preservation being designated along with explaining the powers of the Preservation Commission. After Mr. Lewis' presentation, he opened the floor for discussion regarding the Square District. Mike Bridge, Square property owner, presented the Commission with a petition of 31 signatures in opposition of establishing a Square Preservation District. Mr. Bridge questioned whether the Commission would be voting on their recommendation for the district tonight? Mr. Lewis answered that the petition of opposing signatures would need to be verified and the vote would not take place tonight but be continued to the April meeting.

Paula Shanks, City of Oxford Planning Commission, informed the public of the fact that the newly adopted Comprehensive Plan for Oxford engages and promotes preservation of the downtown area.

Burn Gathright, Gathright Drug Store, questioned as to whether a Square Property Owner's Association had been established as was previously mentioned and discussed at the February 2005 meeting? Mr. Lewis stated he was unaware of one being established yet but did remember the discussion held among the Square property owners at the last meeting.

Grady Tollison, Jr., Square property owner, stated he was in favor of establishing the district and feels the property owners should have interest in preserving the quality and integrity of The Square. After much discussion, motion was made to defer the vote for the proposed Square Preservation District in order to verify the submitted opposing petition by Commissioner Yarbrough, seconded by Commissioner Flautt. All members present voting Aye.

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There came for discussion public hearing for case # 010 – Gwen Walker application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a business sign located at 609 Van Buren Avenue. Mrs. Walker submitted two (2) sign renderings, one being a wall mounted style and the other a pole/projecting style. Mrs. Walker stated she had been notified by the Planning & Development Department that the pole style sign would not be allowed in her district by ordinance, so she would like to have the wall mounted subject for approval. The design she prefers is a lantern style with a standard wattage bulb that would not be any stronger than a regular porch light. After discussion regarding the exact design of the sign, motion was made to approve the existing wall mounted sign, non-illuminated, contingent upon a definite design drawing of a lantern style sign projecting from the eave of the building being submitted to the Planning & Development Department and brought back before the Commission for final approval by Commissioner Flautt, seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough. All members present voting Aye.

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There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.