

Historic Preservation Commission

Regular Public Hearing

Tuesday, August 11, 2009

The City of Villa Rica Historic Preservation Commission met in a regular public hearing on Tuesday, August 11, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Chairman Wallace Hibbard; Vice-Chairman Teresa Lotti; Commissioner William Mitchell; Commissioner Valerie Wilhelm; Commissioner Patricia Proctor; Community Development Director Taurus Freeman; and Zoning Technician Rita Peele. There were two (2) members of the public in attendance.

Chairman Hibbard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and requested that a discussion of Development Guidelines be added to “*Old Business*” on the agenda. Commissioner Wilhelm motioned to approve the amended agenda with Commissioner Lotti seconding. The motion carried 4/0.

Old Business: Commissioner Proctor motioned to approve the July 14, 2009 minutes. Commissioner Lotti seconded and the motion carried 4/0. Chairman Hibbard asked if the Logo was still tabled and Commissioner Lotti responded yes.

Chairman Hibbard spoke about the development guidelines and preferred the residential and commercial guidelines to remain separate. Freeman said if the guidelines are adopted by Mayor and City Council, formatting of the guidelines will include residential in category “A”, and commercial will be category “B”. If packets of guidelines are given to the public, they can be separated into residential or commercial.

Commissioner Hibbard and Commissioner Lotti concluded that the guidelines remain separate. Commissioner Hibbard asked Freeman to contact Cartersville for an electronic version of the guidelines. Commissioner Hibbard would like to form a sub-committee group to edit the guidelines.

Commissioner Proctor wants the entire commission to have input on the editing. Commissioner Hibbard will start editing the document and prepare it for drafting by the Commissioners.

New Business: Freeman discussed the Fullerville Jail. Freeman met with Shari Smith, City Accountant, to review fund allocation for the preservation and restoration of the jail. Staff recommends that the city maintain the funds and to oversee the project because the jail is on city property.

Commissioner Lotti will check on the availability of a fellow colleague that may be interested in using the jail as a history teaching project for students. Commissioner Mitchell will do research to try and gain historical knowledge about the jail. Freeman will contact Dr. Ann McCleary to check if the jail has already been reviewed during the historical survey. Freeman will also start making contacts to have fencing installed around the jail to prevent any further vandalism or damage and will work on defining the exact property lines to establish boundaries. The commission will research and provide an article to the newspaper to inform the public about the historical significance of the jail and what measures are being taken to preserve it.

Other Business: The commission discussed cost and methods of obtaining plaques to mark historic structures. Commissioners Wilhelm and Lotti will try to obtain information for Mainstreet grant money to help fund the plaques. Commissioner Hibbard will do some research for possible funding and will report back to the Commission.

Freeman asked the Commission to offer information and education about the design guidelines to City Council. The Commission decided to form work sessions after Dr. McCleary's historic survey is complete. The purpose of the work sessions will be to review the guidelines and incorporate them into guidelines for the City. Freeman said once the historic districts are established, there will be contributing and non-contributing structures that will have to follow certain criteria and then the structures will be issued a *Certificate of Appropriateness*.

Freeman updated the Commission on the new member search. Freeman said he spoke to a local architect, but since he's a resident of Douglas County, he would be unable to serve on the Commission. Commissioner Hibbard stated he had some potential candidates for the vacancy. He will direct the candidates to Freeman

Public Comments: David Sullivan of 207 North Avenue, spoke about a war memorial statue that was developed to honor the veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. A stonecutter from Massachusetts made the statue in order to offer it to a town or city to display in honor of the veterans. The prospective city or town must provide a proper place for the statue and also pay transport fees to have the statue shipped. Currently, the City has not received a response, but everyone is encouraged to write letters explaining why Villa Rica should have the statue.

Sullivan asked the City to consider purchasing signage to place at historic locations. Commissioner Wilhelm explained how they are already researching cost for historic signage.

Freeman told the Commission that the State reviewed Villa Rica's Main Street program and he will email the requirements to them.

There being no other comments, Commissioner Proctor motioned to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. and Commissioner Lotti seconded. The motion carried 4/0.

Historic Preservation Chairperson and Date

Community Development Director