



Villa Rica Historic Preservation Commission

Scheduled Public Hearing
Tuesday, March 8, 2011

The City of Villa Rica Historic Preservation Commission met in a regular scheduled public hearing on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Commissioner Terri Lotti, Commissioner Valerie Wilhelm, Commissioner Patricia Proctor, Commissioner Dale Schwarzkopf, City Manager Larry Wood, Community Development Director Taurus Freeman and Assistant Zoning Administrator Rita Peele. Chairman Wally Hibbard and Commissioner William Mitchell were both absent with notification. There were no members of the public in attendance.

Freeman suggested tabling the following agenda items: Downtown Design Guidelines, Historic Plaque Program Application, Historic Recognition Application and optional discussion of the Downtown Mural. Commissioner Proctor motioned to approve the agenda as amended, with the exception of the Downtown Mural. Commissioner Wilhelm seconded and the motion carried 4/0.

Old Business: Commissioner Proctor motioned to approve the February 8, 2011 minutes, Commissioner Wilhelm seconded, and the motion carried 4/0.

Commissioner Lotti suggested that the Historic Preservation Commission approve the Downtown Design Guidelines at the next meeting with a caveat that some minor editing may be needed after the approval. Freeman suggested that any editing should be completed before the finished document is given to any other committees. Commissioner Schwarzkopf asked Freeman about the process for adoption of the Downtown Guidelines. Freeman said it should be reviewed by the Downtown Development Authority, approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission and formally adopted by the Mayor and City Council. Commissioner Lotti suggested drafting an introductory letter to the Downtown Development Authority and provide them with a copy of the guidelines. Commissioner Schwarzkopf motioned to complete the editing by April 4, 2011, present the revisions for approval at the April 12, 2011 Historic Preservation meeting, a letter of introduction and courtesy copies of the completed document will be sent to any interested groups. Commissioner Proctor seconded and the motion carried 4/0.

Next on the agenda was a discussion and update from the sub-committee for the Freedom Riders 50th Anniversary. Commissioner Wilhelm presented copies of the invitation, agenda, map and pictures of Congressman Senator John Lewis. There was a discussion of suggested changes and revisions. Commissioner Schwarzkopf motioned to approve with the recommended modifications and Commissioner Proctor seconded. The motion carried 4/0.

Commissioner Wilhelm presented a rendering of the plaque commemorating the historic bus ride. Commissioner Lotti asked if the map depicting the route of the freedom ride could be enlarged, the date of the ride added and the word, Commission put on the logo. After the proposed changes are made, an electronic version will be sent to the Commission for their approval.

Next, there was a discussion of the mural painted on the Cinema Tavern. The Commissioners agreed that public education about historic preservation is of utmost importance. Freeman stated that when the Historic Districts are established, a formal process is required by the Department of Community Affairs. Formal notification in the form of a letter will be sent to each property owner in the downtown district area, informing them that their property will be in a historic district and a Town Hall Meeting will be needed. Freeman suggested that a Town Hall meeting could be held at the May 10, 2011 meeting.

Other Business:

There being no other business or public comments, Commissioner Lotti motioned to adjourn at 8:13 p.m., Commissioner Proctor seconded and the motion carried 4/0.

Historic Preservation Chairperson and Date

Community Development Director