

Historic Preservation Commission

Rescheduled Public Hearing

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

The City of Villa Rica Historic Preservation Commission met in a rescheduled public hearing on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Chairman Wallace Hibbard, Commissioner William Mitchell, Commissioner Terri Lotti, Commissioner Valerie Wilhelm, Commissioner Patricia Proctor, Community Development Director Taurus Freeman and Zoning Technician Rita Peele. Commissioner Dale Schwarzkoph was absent without notification. There were two (2) members of the public in attendance.

Chairman Hibbard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Proctor motioned to approve the agenda, Commissioner Wilhelm seconded and the motion carried 4/0.

Old Business: Commissioner Hibbard asked for an amendment to the February 9, 2010 minutes to clarify that there will be a Historic Preservation meeting dependent on the availability of Dr. Ann McCleary. The possibility of having her as a guest speaker will occur in April, and Freeman will advise the Commission of that date. Commissioner Wilhelm motioned to approve the amended minutes and Commissioner Proctor seconded. The motion carried 4/0.

Commissioner Hibbard welcomed Sonja Tonpea and Oz Hill, and explained that Ms. Tonpea has recently purchased the Powell House and Mr. Hill is the project manager of the venture.

New Business: Commissioner Hibbard asked for the sub-committee report on the recognition plaques. Commissioner Wilhelm presented the sample plaque and said there is the option of purchasing separate name plates for any upcoming recipients. There was more discussion about design ideas, placement of the name plates and letterhead. Freeman volunteered to design and make letterhead, draft a letter of appreciation and present both of them, for approval at the next meeting. Freeman reminded the Commissioners that May is Historic Preservation month. Commissioner Proctor motioned to order twenty (20) plaques and twenty (20) lower plates for engraving. Commissioner Wilhelm seconded and the motion carried 4/0. A motion was made by Commissioner Wilhelm to present the first plaques to O'Charley's and to Mr. Paul Free. Commissioner Lottie seconded and the motion carried 4/0.

Other Business: Freeman discussed how Staff is rewriting the Downtown Master Plan and asked for input from the commissioners, in the section, that will address Historic Preservation. Currently we are awaiting the information from Dr. Ann McCleary in order to incorporate it into the Downtown Master Plan. The completed document will be presented to City Council for approval and adoption.

Commissioner Mitchell spoke about an upcoming newspaper column he will write about historic trees and their importance. Freeman said the preservation of historic trees is addressed in the Downtown Master Plan. Commissioner Hibbard said there will be a discussion of preserving historic trees when the design guidelines are reviewed.

Commissioner Hibbard reminded everyone that the review of the design guidelines is still on hold while awaiting the report from Dr. McCleary.

Public Comments:

Oz Hill, of 390 17th Street, Atlanta, GA, introduced himself and Sonja Tonpea. Hill stated that Ms. Tonpea has operated a personal care business in Villa Rica and is expanding it into an adult daycare facility that will be conducted from the Powell house. Hill said they plan to preserve the historic integrity and character of the structure and asked for support from the Historic Preservation Commission.

There being no other comments, Commissioner Proctor motioned to adjourn at 8:00 p.m., Commissioner Lotti seconded and the motion carried 4/0.

Historic Preservation Chairperson and Date

Community Development Director