



Villa Rica Historic Preservation Commission

Scheduled Public Hearing
Tuesday, May 10, 2011

The City of Villa Rica Historic Preservation Commission met in a regular scheduled public hearing on Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Chairman Wally Hibbard, Commissioner Valerie Wilhelm, Commissioner Patricia Proctor, Commissioner Dale Schwarzkoph, Community Development Director Taurus Freeman and Assistant Zoning Administrator Rita Peele. Commissioners Terri Lotti and William Mitchell were absent without notification. There were no members of the public in attendance.

Commissioner Proctor motioned to approve the agenda, Commissioner Schwarzkoph seconded and the motion carried 4/0.

Old Business:

A. Commissioner Proctor motioned to approve the April 12, 2011 minutes, Commissioner Wilhelm seconded, and the motion carried 4/0.

B. Commissioners Wilhelm and Proctor presented an update of the Freedom Riders 50th Anniversary. The historic marker will be erected Friday and the presentation plaque will be retrieved from Village Frames & Trophies. Commissioner Hibbard will make the presentation of the plaque to Congressman John Lewis at the ceremony. Commissioner Proctor visited all the local businesses to discuss parking concerns due to the road closure during the ceremony and alternate plans were discussed in case of a rain event. Commissioner Hibbard said he completed the mailing list of the invitation. The Commission will meet at 8:00 a.m. on Monday to place the chairs and to ensure everything is set up for the ceremony to start at 10:00 a.m.

C. Next was a discussion of Downtown Design Guidelines. Commissioner Schwarzkoph spoke about the methods of presenting the guidelines. The main goal is to provide information about the intent of the Historic Preservation Commission and to educate the public about the importance of our historical past. Freeman spoke about the process of redistricting, he said the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), publication of redistricting, must be published in the local newspaper for three times, a written notice must be mailed to all affected property owners and occupants in the proposed district, and notices published and mailed ten (10) to twenty (20) days before the public hearing. The purpose of redistricting is due to inaccuracies in the previous Comprehensive Plan and to have more compatibility of the current historical areas.

Commissioner Hibbard suggests editing the cover letter and discussing strategies for presentation, at the next meeting.

D. Commissioner Hibbard requested presenting a property owner on Magnolia Street, with a Historic Contribution Award.

New Business:

Commissioner Wilhelm spoke about the land use determination for Jones-Wynn Funeral Home to have a crematory. Freeman said state codes allow municipalities to write codes for land uses and explained that the Unified Development Code is specific about mortuaries and he further explained how land use determinations can be appealed.

Other Business:

Freeman presented draft copies of the Urban Redevelopment Plan, to the Commission and explained its purpose. The Urban Redevelopment Plan is a tool to help spur economic development or re-development. If someone wants to do some remodeling and it's done according to the period of when it was first constructed, they can receive benefits from federal, state and local governments. This Plan is used by numerous governments throughout the state and is reviewed by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

Commissioner Hibbard asked Freeman about the signage over the Coca Cola logo at the martial arts business. Freeman said the sign met the size requirements and had been permitted. Freeman suggested having a sign code for the downtown area.

Commissioner Schwarzkoph spoke about the plans for a historical park and industrial park located on Commissioner Mitchell's property. Freeman said he has some photos of the former CCC camp and will forward them to the Commission.

There being no other New Business, Other Business or Public Comments, Chairman Hibbard adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Historic Preservation Chairperson and Date

Community Development Director