

Historic Preservation Commission

Regular Public Hearing

Thursday, May 14, 2009

The City of Villa Rica Historic Preservation Commission, met in an Open House meeting, on Thursday May 14, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Chairman Wallace Hibbard; Vice-Chairman Teresa Lotti; Commissioner Patricia Proctor; Commissioner William Mitchell; Commissioner Valerie Wilhelm; City Manager Larry Wood; Interim Community Development Director Taurus Freeman; and Zoning Technician Rita Peele. There were seven (7) members of the public in attendance.

Chairman Hibbard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and suspended the reading and approval of the agenda, minutes and old business.

New Business

Freeman introduced the Historic Preservation Commissioners, to the audience. Next, Commissioner Hibbard spoke and explained the process of how the Historic Preservation Commission was formed. The commission was formed by ordinance in May 2008; City Council adopted the ordinance to form the commission in August, 2008. The by-laws were adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission in November 2008, the adoption of the mission and vision statement, and now, a survey of historic structures; and finally, draft a designation ordinance and design guidelines.

Commissioner Hibbard introduced Dr. Ann McCleary Director of the Center for Public History of the University of West Georgia. She introduced Chanda Davidson, Steven Eubanks and Holly Lane as the graduate students assisting with the historical survey. Dr. McCleary explained the process as documentation of the historic building, recording architectural changes if any, and then consulting the national register of criteria. Finally, the completed files will be put on disc and given to the city.

Ernest Blevins, of 704 Crystal Bay Road, spoke about how he has already completed a historic survey of the buildings and would like to be consulted of any additional information gained.

Patrick Hendrickson, of 220 Eagles Flight, asked how the historical districts will be defined. Freeman explained how the districts will be divided by the points listed in the Villa Rica Comprehensive Plan. Hendrickson expressed concerns of how historic properties can be protected to keep from being demolished. Commissioner Hibbard responded that in the near future, there may be regulations that prohibit destruction or demolition of historic structures.

Commissioner Proctor said the history of Villa Rica, which includes historic structures, will assist by bringing in revenue for the city by attracting tourism, which in turn, will use local restaurants, shopping facilities, lodging and other amenities.

Commissioner Wilhelm suggested the commission could sponsor walking tours.

Freeman would like to eventually have an incentive program for property owners of a historic structure.

Dr. McCleary asked the audience to pass along information to the public about the historic inventory.

The meeting closed at 7:40 p.m.

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Historic Preservation Chairperson and Date

Planning and Zoning Manager