

Historic Preservation Commission

Regular Public Hearing

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

The City of Villa Rica Historic Preservation Commission met in a regular public hearing on Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Chairman Wallace Hibbard; Vice-Chairman Teresa Lotti; Commissioner Dana McCauley; Commissioner William Mitchell; Commissioner Patricia Proctor; Commissioner Valerie Wilhelm; City Manager Larry Wood; Interim Community Development Director Taurus Freeman; and Zoning Technician Rita Peele. There were no members of the public in attendance.

Chairman Hibbard called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Proctor with Commissioner McCauley seconding.

City Manager Larry Wood conducted the "Oath of Office" of Commissioner Teresa Lotti. Chairman Hibbard requested an amendment to the minutes from August 19, 2008 meeting to reflect his opposition to the second and third statements of the Mission Statement, instead of opposition to the second statement only. Commissioner Proctor motioned to approve the amended minutes from the August 19, 2008 meeting, Commissioner Lotti seconded. Motion carried 6/0.

Commissioner Hibbard presented approval of the bylaws. Freeman reminded the commission that Section VIII, which was omitted, is already in the Unified Development Code. Commissioner Wilhelm motioned to approve the bylaws as written, Commissioner McCauley seconded. Motion carried 6/0.

Next, Commissioner Hibbard handed out a proposed change to the Mission Statement to the Commission and Staff. Commissioner Lotti motioned to adopt the proposed Mission State with Commissioner Wilhelm seconding. Motion carried 6/0.

Commissioner Hibbard presented the Vision Statement. There was some discussion of the proposed Vision Statement. Commissioner Lotti motioned to table approval of the Vision and Duties Statement until the first meeting after the Historic Preservation Commission training session in Milledgeville. Commissioner Mitchell seconded, and the motion carried 6/0.

There was a discussion as to how to classify a property as historical significance, between the Commission and Staff. Commissioner Mitchell suggested a book about the History of Villa Rica as a possible resource. Commissioner Lotti motioned that the Commission will take a driving and/or walking tour of Villa Rica. Commissioner Wilhelm seconded, the motion carried 6/0. Freeman will produce maps for staff, with highlighted historical areas and the City will provide a van or similar transportation. Staff will propose a time and date for the tour. Commissioner Mitchell also suggests locating old maps to use as an additional resource.

Freeman suggested a field trip to visit other Historic Preservation Commissions in Carrollton or Douglasville, to see how they operate.

Commissioner Hibbard presented the approval of the Logo in the miscellaneous portion of the agenda. Commissioner Lotti motioned to table the approval of the logo and Commissioner McCauley seconded. Motion carried 6/0.

Commissioner Mitchell discussed the increase of theft of wire and metals and the impact it has on historic properties. Commissioner Lotti suggests contacting Department of Natural Resources, to coordinate an educational training with the City of Villa Rica Police Department on the impact of vandalism/looting of historic sites.

Freeman spoke about the fall training in Milledgeville and discussed the option of providing a city van for transportation to the training. Staff will provide an agenda of the training schedule to the commission.

Commissioner Lotti asked if there should have been a vote taken for the field trip to a neighboring city. Freeman said he would like for it to be on record. Commissioner Lotti motioned to approve the field trip. Commissioner Proctor seconded and motion carried 6/0.

There was some additional discussion of resources available for the commission such as books, websites, inventories, maps, etc. Freeman will speak to Jennifer Lewis with the Department of Natural Resources, to see if she will be available to offer some training to the commission. A motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell for Freeman to add any opportunity for education or training onto the agenda. Commissioner Lotti seconded and motion carried 6/0.

Commission Lotti motioned to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. and Commissioner Proctor seconded. Motion carried 6/0.

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Historic Preservation Chairperson and Date

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Planning and Zoning Manager