

Meeting Minutes

Historic Preservation Commission

Date: Wednesday, 24 February 2021

Location: City Council Chambers

Commission members present: Michele Gautier Lee, Michele Coats, Tommy Wixon, Kevin Hall, Barry McIlwain, and Liz Ford

Commission members excused Walter Mansfield, Martin Hegwood, and Marcia Baumhauer

Ex Officio: Katarina Luketich

Others: Dan Lee

Commission Chairwoman, Liz Ford, called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM. A quorum was determined, and everyone was welcomed to the meeting.

The minutes from the 27 January meeting, on a motion Michele Lee, seconded by Kevin Hall, unanimously passed by the members in attendance...

Old Business

- Status of Buena Vista Historical District – Michele Coats
 - Jeff Rosenberg is completing the work on the downtown historic district nomination and will meet regarding the proposed Buena Vista
- Landmark Status for Carver High School – Liz Ford
 - No information to date from the School System
- Status of Baptiste Tombs in Greenwood Cemetery – Tommy Wixon
 - Pictures of the tombs were distributed
 - The memorial stone is the next step
- Madame Pontabla & Gaston Pontabla's forthcoming exhibit – Tommy Wixon
 - Everything is ready – just waiting for the Library to reopen to the public so a date can be set
- Downtown Housing – Michele Coats
 - The deadline for MDAH approval for the Downtown Historic District is July
 - Everything is going great downtown
 - All four of Scranton's apartments are rented

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- Work is underway on the Oddfellows apartments with completion expected in October
- The work is also underway at the former garden ship and will be an outdoor venue downstairs and short term rental apartment upstairs
- The old Mushroom house will have two apartments upstairs and commercial space downstairs
- Plaza West, Sunshine Bail Bonds, Fred's. Cassandra Dillion's and Monica's are all in negotiation with buyers right now.
- Orion Planning and Design Group will be working in town to do a feasibility study on practical uses for eight buildings.
- Kevin Hall mentioned the infrastructure needs to be addressed as well

New Business

- LaPointe Krebs House/LPK Foundation – Update – Liz Ford
 - The rededication of the house will be May 15th, which will also be recognized as Hugo's 207th birthday.
 - Work is progressing at a rapid pace at the house.
 - Matthew Powell has settled in and is working hard.
- WW2 American Heritage City – Liz for Martin Hegwood
 - The JCH&G Society's virtual meeting (last night) presented the criteria for the designation
 - Martin Hegwood has written the cover letter, which needs more information
 - Photographs, pictures of the local air fields, maps, family histories and stories
- Beach Blvd photographs – Barry
 - Katarina is about one-fourth of the way finished with getting the photographs ready to be posted on the city's web site
- 111 DuPont Avenue – Liz
 - A phone call was received from the Owner's daughter inquiring about available grant money to 'fix up' her grandfather's house

Other Business/Announcements/Discussions

- Depot – Kevin & Rebecca
 - There is a local movement underway to start renovation and restoration of the Depot

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- Stay tuned for more information

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Notes by Liz Ford

Work Plans for 2020:

- Discuss, investigate, study and determine feasibility of establishing Navy Houses Local Historic District
 - Not feasible due to non-contiguous areas and renovation of most of the houses, however will support JCH&G Society regarding the historical marker.
- Continue pursuing National Register Historical District status for south Buena Vista.
- Continue pursuing Mississippi Landmark Status for Carver High School.
- Assist Main Street, wherever possible, in obtaining National Register Status for Downtown, or for individual buildings in the downtown district.
- Community Engagement:
 - Conduct Historical Tours on Beach Blvd during 4th of July Fireworks and explore possibility of more extended tours during Cuisin'
 - Pursue Historical Markers for cemeteries.
 - Pursue signage for the Historical Districts.
 - Continued support for Cemetery Tour & the LPK
 - Seek other community outreach possibilities.
 - Post photographs of Beach Blvd houses destroyed by Katrina on web site and other social media outlets.