



Minutes
Architectural Review Board
April 11, 2016
Council Chambers, City Hall
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Members Present

John Harris, Chair
Sabina Weitzman, Vice Chair
Susan Pates
John Van Zandt
Jamie Scully
Kerri S. Barile
Kenneth McFarland

Members Absent

Staff

Kate Schwartz
Charles Johnston
Phaun Moore

Mr. Harris called the Architectural Review Board meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Harris determined that a quorum was present and asked if public notice requirements had been met. Ms. Schwartz stated that they had.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Harris asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda.

Mr. McFarland added two items to Other Business: #2 – a discussion of recommended changes to the supplementary meeting procedures and public commentary at all ARB meetings, and #3 – inquiry of the median on Princess Anne Street by the train station.

Dr. Barile added Other Business item #4 – a discussion of Liberty Place.

Ms. Weitzman added Other Business item #5 – a discussion of 704 Prince Edward Street.

Ms. Weitzman made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Ms. Pates seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Mr. Harris asked if there were changes to the meeting minutes from March 14, 2016. There were no changes. Mr. Van Zandt made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. McFarland seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Harris asked if there were changes to the supplementary meeting minutes from March 28, 2016. There were no changes. Mr. McFarland made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Weitzman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Harris asked if any Board member had engaged in any *ex parte* communication on any item before the Board. No one indicated that they had engaged in any *ex parte* communication.

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Mr. Harris asked if any Board member had a conflict of interest for any item before the Board.

Ms. Weitzman said she had a conflict of interest with Item # 2 at 1020 Caroline Street. She provided a signed disclosure form to staff.

PUBLIC HEARING

I. Continued Cases

- i. COA 2016-12 – 100 Hanover Street – Tommy Mitchell requests a Certificate of Appropriateness to:**
 - **Demolish the existing structures at 106 Hanover Street, 108 Hanover Street, and 718 Sophia Street**
 - **Construct a new five-story masonry building. The building footprint will be 105 feet along Hanover Street and 155 feet along Sophia Street, with ground level parking.**

Mr. Harris informed the public that there had been a supplementary meeting prior to the regular meeting regarding the application at 100 Hanover Street. He stated that the application had been tabled and would be considered again at the May 9, 2016 meeting of the Board.

II. New Business

- i. COA 2016-13 – 515 Princess Anne Street – Judith C. Alston, Chairperson, Trustee Board, Shiloh Baptist Church (New Site) requests a Certificate of Appropriateness to:**
 - **Replace two existing aluminum awnings on the west elevation.**
 - **Install a replacement awning over the upper left window on the west elevation.**

The applicant was not present. There was no public comment.

Dr. Barile said she was pleased with the aluminum awnings and said they were a character defining feature.

Mr. McFarland said the proposed replacement awnings, following the recommendation of staff, were architecturally compatible with the historic aspects of the Historic District and made a motion to approve as presented. Mr. Scully seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- ii. COA 2016-14 – 1020 Caroline Street – Anne Darron, Executive Director, Washington Heritage Museums, requests a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a gate at the base of each of two sets of stone steps in the Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop’s rear garden.**

Anne Darron, Executive Director, Washington Heritage Museums was present. There was no public comment.

Mr. McFarland asked for clarification of the gates’ placement at the steps.

Ms. Darron said the gates would be installed at the base of the steps to prevent access to the steps.

Dr. Barile thanked Ms. Darron for her thorough packet and sympathetic design.

Mr. McFarland made a motion to approve the certificate of appropriateness and said it was architecturally compatible with the historic aspects of the Historic District. Dr. Barile seconded. The motion carried 6-0-1 with Ms. Weitzman abstaining.

- iii. 2016-15 – 610 Caroline Street – Michael Ellis requests a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a building-mounted sign, window decal, and hanging sign for the Fredericksburg Brew Exchange business.**

The applicant was not present. There was no public comment.

Ms. Weitzman asked if the existing wood sign would be removed from the façade.

Ms. Schwartz said yes and that it was not a historic sign.

Ms. Weitzman said the signs were architecturally compatible with the historic aspects of the Historic District and made a motion to approve the signs as presented. Ms. Pates seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- iv. COA 2016-16 – 1109 Caroline Street – Pamela McLeod Giegerich requests a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct a five feet six inch brick and block wall along the south side of the rear yard.**

The applicant was not present. There was no public comment.

Ms. Weitzman asked if the wall was visible from Amelia Street.

Ms. Schwartz said that it was.

Ms. Weitzman asked what would be the deciding factor in determining which material would be used for the wall.

Ms. Schwartz said the applicant had requested approval for both brick veneer and stone veneer, with the idea that they could decide which material to use based on availability.

Ms. Weitzman, Ms. Pates and Mr. McFarland said their preference would be to use the brick veneer.

Mr. Harris commented on the location of the chain-link fence at 1107 Caroline Street.

Ms. Schwartz informed the Board that an application had been submitted, requesting to retain the chain-link fence, and would be on the agenda for the May 9, 2016 meeting.

The Board discussed the existing chain-link fence along the property line and the placement of the proposed wall.

Mr. Scully asked if details had been provided for the columns and caps.

Ms. Schwartz said that those details had not been provided.

Mr. Van Zandt said that more details were needed and asked that the applicant be informed that the Board's preference would be to use brick rather than stone veneer.

Dr. Barile said she did not think a stone veneer, faux material was appropriate. She suggested the use of rusticated, concrete block.

Dr. Barile made a motion to table the application and asked Ms. Schwartz to relay the Board's concerns to the applicant. Mr. McFarland commented that it would be helpful to have the applicant present to discuss the application. Mr. Van Zandt seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

I. Transmittal of Planning Commission agenda.

Ms. Schwartz said that there had been an addition to the Planning Commission agenda and distributed an updated agenda to the Board. The addition was the Liberty Place project, which opened up the discussion for Dr. Barile's addition to the ARB agenda, Other Business item #4.

IV. Liberty Place.

Dr. Barile said that due to the height and massing of Liberty Place, it was readily visible from the Historic District and asked the Board if they should make any comments regarding the project.

Mr. Scully commented that you can see a long way from almost any point in the Historic District and did not feel it was appropriate to comment on the project.

Mr. Harris said that there had been a lot of projects that the ARB had not had any input on and said that he did not think it was appropriate to start. He said that Board members are able to comment independently if they wish to do so.

II. Proposed changes to the supplementary meeting procedures and public commentary at all ARB meetings.

Mr. McFarland suggested adding consideration of amendments to the ARB's bylaws regarding supplementary meeting procedures and public comment to the next meeting's agenda. He requested that staff prepare the appropriate language for the Board to consider.

Mr. Harris asked staff to research the feasibility of having the ARB agendas posted on the local Public access television channel.

Mr. McFarland informed Ms. Schwartz of a previous agreement with staff. It had been requested that Board members be copied when a Certificate of Appropriateness was issued to the applicant.

III. Inquiry of the wall in the median on Princess Anne Street by the train station.

Mr. McFarland requested that staff research whether the wall had been approved by the ARB.

Ms. Schwartz said she would research it.

The Board had a brief discussion of the wall.

V. Discussion of 704 Prince Edward Street.

Ms. Weitzman informed the Board of upcoming repairs to the solid brick wall at 704 Prince Edward Street. She said the wall was falling away from the house and was dangerous. The wall will need to be removed, then rebuilt with the existing brick.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

John Harris, ARB Chair