



Minutes
Architectural Review Board
May 24, 2021
Electronic Meeting

Members Present

Karen Irvin, Vice Chair
Laura Galke
Adriana Moss
Helen P. Ross
Sabina Weitzman

Members Absent

Jonathan Gerlach, Chair
James Whitman

Staff

Kate Schwartz

Vice Chair Irvin called the Architectural Review Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Vice Chair Irvin stated that the meeting was being held electronically through the “GoTo Meeting” application, pursuant to City Council Ordinance 20-05, An Ordinance to Address Continuity of City Government during the Pendency of a Pandemic Disaster. The members participating were Karen Irvin, Laura Galke, Adriana Moss, Helen P. Ross, and Sabina Weitzman. Members of the public have been invited to access this meeting by public access television Cox Channel 84, Verizon Channel 42, online at www.regionalwebtv.com, or on Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/FXBGgov.

Vice Chair Irvin determined that a quorum of 5 members was present, and asked if public notice requirements had been met. Ms. Schwartz confirmed that they had.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Galke made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Ms. Weitzman seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS

Vice Chair Irvin asked if any Board member had engaged in any *ex parte* communication on any item before the Board. No Board members had any *ex parte* communication to report.

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Vice Chair Irvin asked if any Board member had a conflict of interest for any item before the Board. No Board member had a conflict to report.

PUBLIC HEARING

Continued Applications

- A. COA 2021-25 – 217 Princess Anne Street – Joseph Caliri requests to install a gazebo structure in the rear yard of this single-family residence.

The applicant was present. There were no public comments.

All Board members said they were in support of the application. Ms. Ross made a motion to approve the application as submitted. Ms. Weitzman seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

- B. COA 2021-29 – 905 Princess Anne Street – St. George’s Episcopal Church requests to replace two doors on the ground level of the George Street elevation to provide ADA accessible entry.

Project architect Stephen Koenig was present to represent the application along with Terry Dorn from St. George’s Episcopal Church. There were no public comments.

All Board members spoke in support of the application and said that either hardware finish proposed would be appropriate for use. Ms. Moss made a motion to approve the application as submitted with the option to use either a black or dull brass finish for the door hardware. Ms. Galke seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

- C. COA 2021-30 – 520-530 Mia Street – Steve DeFalco requests to modify the design of the rooftop loft areas on the six rear townhouse units at this new residential development.

The applicant was present along with project architect Lee Shadbolt. Mr. DeFalco said he appreciated the feedback from the ARB and hoped that the revised design addressed the concerns and achieved useful space for the residents.

There were no public comments.

Ms. Ross said she had no concerns with the revised design. Ms. Weitzman said she appreciated the applicant addressing the ARB’s concerns. Ms. Galke, Ms. Moss, and Ms. Irvin said they were in support of the revised design and felt it resulted in a stronger project that was aligned with the previous approval and the standards and guidelines for the district.

Ms. Moss made a motion to approve the application in accordance with the revised drawings dated May 14, 2021. Ms. Ross seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

- D. COA 2021-32 – 401 Princess Anne Street – John Janney requests approval of mechanical equipment screening on the roof this mixed-use building and to retain vents installed on the side elevations.

The applicant was present. There were no public comments.

All Board members said they were in support of the application with the amended conditions recommended by staff.

Ms. Weitzman made a motion to approve the application on condition that, if historic tax credits are used for the project, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources also approves the alteration and that one or two additional rails are added to the rooftop equipment screening and the spacing is adjusted to be even. Ms. Galke seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

- E. Historic District Design Guidelines Update – The City of Fredericksburg proposes to amend the design guidelines for the Old and Historic Fredericksburg District, which are used to interpret and apply the standards in City Code §72-23.1 Historic District - certificates of appropriateness. This update is a complete revision of the existing Historic District Handbook.

Ms. Schwartz represented the application. There were no public comments.

All Board members spoke in support of the revised guidelines and said they looked forward to using it to assist in reviewing applications. Ms. Ross made a motion to recommend approval of the Historic District Design Guidelines to the City Council. Ms. Weitzman seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

STAFF UPDATE

Ms. Schwartz reported that the preservation plan and the design guidelines would be on the City Council's agenda for consideration at a work session on June 8 and on the regular agenda on June 22.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Ms. Weitzman provided feedback on the webinar recently held by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions on outreach strategies for historic preservation commissions. The Board agreed to include a discussion of the webinar on the June 14 meeting agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Irvin adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.



Jonathan Gerlach, Chair

