

Submitted: March 15, 2018

Approved: March 15, 2018

**MINUTES OF THE ROCKVILLE
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING NO. 2-2018
Thursday, February 15, 2018**

The City of Rockville Historic District Commission convened
in the Blue Crab Conference Room on
February 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Matthew Goguen, Chair
Rob Ahtmeyer
Emily Correll
Laurie Kawa
Anita Neal Powell

Present: Sheila Bashiri, Preservation Planner
Jim Wasilak, Acting Director of Community Planning and Development Services
Jodi Schulz, Assistant City Attorney

I. AGENDA REVIEW WORKSESSION (Blue Crab Conference Room)

Chair Goguen introduced the members. He noted that the agenda review worksession occurred and that no decisions were made.

II. COMMITTEE / ORGANIZATION REPORTS (Mayor and Council Chamber)

- A. Peerless Rockville – Nancy Pickard noted several upcoming events, including the screening of Community Cornerstones, a film made by Heritage Montgomery covering African-American churches in the county as well as the Historic Homes Tour, to be held on May 12.
- B. Lincoln Park Historical Foundation – No report.
- C. Public Comments/Open Forum – None.
- D. HDC and Staff Comments – Commissioner Correll announced that judges were needed for History Day on March 17. She also announced that she will be giving a talk on Dora Higgins at the Rockville Memorial Library on March 24. Commissioner Ahtmeyer reported that he had a productive meeting with the chairs of the Frederick and Annapolis HDCs, with a view toward future cooperation. He also commended the City for the international flags, but noted that some needed replacement, and that there was an opportunity to install more City and County flags at strategic locations. Chair Goguen introduced the City staff present. Sheila Bashiri announced the joint training with Gaithersburg HDC on historic preservation law on April 3. She also announced the MAHDC symposium will be held at the University of Maryland in the summer, and that she had been asked to join an advisory committee on the upcoming historic preservation plan for the state of Maryland. Commissioner Ahtmeyer asked if members of the public could register, to which Ms. Bashiri responded that it was but there would be a cost associated with it.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 18, 2018

B. Certificate of Approval HDC2017-00867, Mayor and Council of Rockville c/o Paige Janzen, Civic Center Manager - For approval of landscaping and storm water management plans associated with previously approved ADA parking lot at Glenview Mansion.

C. Time Extension for HDC2017-00832, Rockville Cemetery Association c/o Andrew Luetkemier, City of Rockville, DPW - For a 6-month extension of Certificate of Approval to make modifications to the Rockville Cemetery at 1350 Baltimore Road as part of road improvements on Baltimore Road.

Commissioner Achtmeyer asked that the Approval of the January 18 meeting minutes and the Certificate of Approval HDC2017-00867 be removed from the consent agenda. Commissioner Correll moved, seconded by Commissioner Neal Powell, to approve the January 18, 2018 meeting minutes, with the change noted by Commissioner Achtmeyer. The motion passed 4-0, with Commissioner Achtmeyer abstaining. Commissioner Achtmeyer asked if any additional documentation had been found regarding the retaining wall that will be displaced. Ms. Bashiri noted that the photographs of the wall would be retained in the record. Commissioner Achtmeyer moved, seconded by Commissioner Kawa, to approve the stormwater and landscaping plan for HDC2017-00867. The motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Correll moved, seconded by Commissioner Achtmeyer, to approve the modified consent agenda. The motion passed 5-0.

IV. EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

A. Certificate of Approval HDC2018-00880, Montgomery County Division of Building Design and Construction – Certificate of Approval to replace the front walkway, install an accessible walkway, install a rear basement entrance, add accessible parking, install a dumpster enclosure, monument sign, and bike racks and lockers, repair existing stairs and railings, and replace windows and/or add storm windows at the Grey Courthouse at 27 Courthouse Square.

Ms. Bashiri presented the staff report and recommendation, which was for approval except for the sign and windows. Ken Jones of Macris, Hendricks & Glascock, civil engineer for the applicant, answered questions from the Commission. Nancy Pickard of Peerless Rockville expressed support for the proposed modifications. David Heltemes of Montgomery County explained the rationale for the accessible entrances to the building and the need for a sign for the building.

Commissioner Correll moved, seconded by Commissioner Kawa, to approve the application with conditions that the monument sign be modified to be more compatible with the building itself, and that the windows remain in place, with a proposal for replacement, repair and/or installation of new storm windows to be submitted to the HDC for approval. The motion passed 5-0.

V. DISCUSSION

A. Old Business

- 1. Courtesy Review of Proposed Development on Properties Adjacent to Historic Districts** – Mr. Wasilak introduced the subject, and reviewed the practices of other jurisdictions that had been assembled by Sheila Bashiri. He reviewed the map that had been prepared for the HDC showing the properties potentially impacted by such a review. He noted that staff review of a development application early in the review process would identify potential issues, and suggested that now is the time to add recommended text to the Master Plan. Commissioner Achtmeyer questioned what the review standard might be, and whether the standard for review of noncontributing resources would be applicable. He also wondered whether the review should be extended outside the boundary of historic districts.

Ms. Bashiri explained the review process used by the City of Detroit. The Commission discussed whether a survey of property owners would be beneficial. Commissioner Achtmeyer stated that he felt that adjacent review would be a major shift in the HDC's role and responsibility, even though there may be value in the review.

Nancy Pickard and John Becker of the Americana Centre Condominium addressed the Commission on the subject.

Commissioner Achtmeyer suggested that review could be based on the zoning of the properties, and reiterated that the standard for noncontributing structures could apply.

Staff agreed that language appropriate for the Master Plan would be brought back for discussion at the next meeting.

B. New Business – None.

VI. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Goguen adjourned the meeting at 9:22 p.m.