

Christina Davis, vice chair, called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. on Thursday, June 9, 2016, in the Conference Room, Fourth Floor, City Hall. A roster of the members of the commission and the technical posts they fill are on file and available upon request. Also present were commission members L. Allen, C. Crumrine, S. Taylor, and M. Wertman. S. Bockmiller and D. Calhoun, Secretary, were present on behalf of the Planning and Code Administration Department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 26, 2016:

MOTION: (Wertman/Crumrine) I move we approve.
DISCUSSION: None.
ACTION: APPROVED (Unanimous)

CONSENT AGENDA

12810 Shank Farm Way – TMG Studios for Lorie Dixon/Olney Winery – Multiple Signs, Case No. HDC 2016-16.

135 West Washington Street – Washington County Historical Society, Inc. – Handicapped Lift, Case No. HDC 2016-18.

No one was present who wished to speak against any of Consent Agenda cases; the HDC did not have any questions or concerns.

MOTION: (Wertman/Crumrine) Ms. Vice Chair, I have inspected the property plans and the properties in question and if constructed in accordance with these plans both projects, HDC Case No. 2016-16 and 2016-18, the projects will be compatible with the character of the district, that everything complies with height, setback, materials, etc. It appears that they will be generally in harmony with the Architectural Design Guidelines for the Residential Historic District and the character of the adjoining properties. Therefore, I move that the HDC grant Certificates of Appropriateness to the applicants for Case Nos. 2016-16 and 2016-18.

DISCUSSION: None.
ACTION: APPROVED (Unanimous)

DESIGN REVIEW

140 West Antietam Street – Gideon Properties, LLC – Fence, Case No. HDC 2016-17.

Mike Fitzgerald, Gideon Properties, LLC, 382 South Cleveland Avenue, Hagerstown, Maryland, was present.

Staff Report: This is a “B” resource in the Downtown Local Historic District. Applicant is proposing to install a total of 181 feet of four-foot tall chain link fence, including an 11-foot gate in the rear yard. It appears that the fence will be visible from South Prospect Street and West Antietam Street. Staff noted that chain link fences are not a preferred material per the design guidelines. The commission will need to consider its location and its visibility from Antietam and Prospect Streets. If approved, it should be required to be coated with black or green vinyl to minimize visibility, as base metal chain link material is more visible.

Applicant/Commission Discussion: Mr. Fitzgerald explained that he has an agreement with an adjacent property owner to use some parking for the apartment building; however, part of the parking easement requires that a fence be installed. The fence will also help to deter vagrants from sleeping in the building. Mr. Fitzgerald indicated that he will consider taking the chain link down in the future and replacing it with a better fence.

Ms. Allen indicated that she walks in this area quite a bit and believes it will be difficult to see the fence; and motorists would have even more difficulty because they would be passing by too quickly to see it. Ms. Taylor requested that the fence be coated to reduce visibility. Mr. Fitzgerald agreed to amend his application to add a coating to the bare metal chain link.

MOTION: (Crumrine/Wertman) Ms. Chair, I have inspected the project plans and the property in question, and if constructed in accordance with the plans and the use of coating the fence in a green or black, the project is compatible with the character of the districts for the reason that the fence is not visible by public ways, and generally in harmony with the Architectural Design Guidelines for the Downtown Historic District and the character of the adjoining properties. Therefore, I move that the HDC grant a Certificate of Appropriateness to the applicant for Case No. HDC 2016-17.

DISCUSSION: At the request of Ms. Allen, the motion was amended to state that there is a “limited view” of the area where the fence will be located. Mr. Crumrine and Ms. Wertman agreed to the amendment to the motion.

ACTION: APPROVED (Unanimous)

WORKSHOP

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- June 11, 2016, MAHDC Workshop – Legal Symposium: Creating, Defending, and Enforcing a Strong Historic Preservation Ordinance. No commission members will be able to attend this workshop. Members asked if staff could look into getting copies of the handouts or whether a conference call with an accompanying PowerPoint presentation would be possible.
- Ms. Allen talked about a link she shared with staff and the HDC concerning the experience of Covington, Kentucky, in the article “West Side Story: Covington’s Shotgun Houses” (copy of article in meeting file).

OLD BUSINESS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURN

It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn (4:52 p.m.).

6/23/2016

Approved



Debra C. Calhoun – Secretary