

**Historic District Commission
MINUTES**

**March 12, 2020
City of Hagerstown, Maryland**

Michael Gehr, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2020, 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, M. Chilton, and R. Powell. S. Bockmiller, Development Planner/Zoning Administrator and D. Calhoun, Secretary, were present on behalf of the Planning and Code Administration Department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

February 13, 2020.

MOTION: (Allen/Powell) So moved (to accept the minutes of February 13).
DISCUSSION: None.
ACTION: APPROVED (Unanimous)

CONSENT AGENDA

45 South Potomac Street – Amber Torres/C & O Taco – Signage, Case No. HDC 2020-06.

No one was present in the audience to speak against the cases.

MOTION: (Powell/Allen) Mr. Chairman, I have reviewed the materials submitted in Case 2020-06 and its associated staff report and recommendations, and I have viewed the property in question. The staff report recommends approval of this application as consistent with the applicable standards adopted by this commission, and no one has appeared at this hearing with concerns about, issues with, or objections to this application. Therefore, I move that this commission adopt the staff evaluation and recommendation in this case as its own and grant a Certificate of Appropriateness to the applicant for Case No.2020-06.
DISCUSSION: None.
ACTION: APPROVED (Unanimous)

Amber Torres, the owner of the business, asked if she would have to come back for approval when they place their hours of business on the glass. Mr. Bockmiller stated he will have to check and get back to her.

DESIGN REVIEW

102 South Prospect Street – Diane De Laet – Swimming Pool, Case No. HDC 2020-05.

Diane De Laet, 102 South Prospect Street, Hagerstown, Maryland, owner of the property, was present.

Staff Report: This building is a contributing resource in the Prospect Street Local Historic District. Applicant is proposing to install a 21-foot, 2-inch by 34-foot above-ground swimming pool on the south side of the house below an existing retaining wall that is approximately nine feet tall. The pool will not be visible from South Prospect Street; however, due to its location on a steep hill and at the intersection of two streets, it will be visible from a distance on West Antietam Street. A pool on this property would be visible to some degree at any location in the rear yard. Staff recommended approval in that the pool does not permanently impact the site and is located on the side of the property that is arguably the least visible from public ways. The Design Guidelines recommend that pools be screened with landscaping and fencing; however, staff noted that screening may be difficult due to the extreme topography of the site.

Applicant/Commission Discussion: Ms. De Laet addressed the Design Guidelines' recommendation for screening of the pool. She noted there is a stand of Lelands along the street and a 100-year-old hackberry tree. Her concern was that any additional landscaping trees would compete with the hackberry tree. According to Ms. De Laet there is more than 200 feet between the location of the proposed pool and West Antietam Street. Mr. Gehr noted that the City would require that the pool be fenced. Ms. De Laet responded that there are locks on the gates on the property. The ladder proposed has a retractable cover that can be pulled down when it is not in use. The pool water would be 48 inches deep and the pool itself will be setback 15 feet from the side property line which is also the wall of the house next door.

MOTION: (Powell/Allen) I have inspected the project plans and the property in question, and if constructed in accordance with these plans, the project is compatible with the character of the district for the reasons that the Height, Setback, Materials, Architectural detailing, Roof, Windows, General form and proportion, are generally in harmony with the Architectural Design Guidelines for the Residential Historic Districts or Architectural Design Guidelines for the Commercial 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. 2020-05.

DISCUSSION: None.

ACTION: APPROVED (Unanimous)

WORKSHOP

City Park/501 Virginia Avenue – City of Hagerstown – Ornamental Fencing along Virginia Avenue (Courtesy Review).

Staff Report. The City of Hagerstown is proposing to replace an existing hedge with a fence along Virginia Avenue at City Park. The fence will be a 48-inch tall metal picket fence with a ten-inch strip of concrete underneath for weed control.

Commission members had no concerns with this proposal.

NEW BUSINESS

Preservation Awards - Nominations.

Mr. Bockmiller noted that the commission deferred nominations for preservation awards last year. For the benefit of new members, staff explained that there are no formal categories or limits to the number of awards that can be presented. The awards are intended to recognize and encourage property owners who are doing good work in the City. A list of potential nominees include:

- Maryland Theatre Expansion (if it is complete)
- Barbara Ingram School for the Arts (most likely will be complete on the exterior)
- Fire House at 105 North Potomac Street (for work that has been approved and completed so far)
- MSB Architects/former Pioneer Hook & Ladder on West Franklin Street
- Moller Organ Building (this would be a good candidate for nominations in 2021)
- Schmankerl Stube – new construction
- Lloyd Thoburn/former Massey Building on East Baltimore Street
- Mt. Aetna Cannon in front of the Hager House – conservation work was done on the gun
- City-owned duplex on South Prospect Street (staff to provide photographs)
- Mulberry Lofts (if this project has not received an award in the past)

Staff will provide a memo for the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- Wayside Exhibits: Ms. Allen noted that several of the wayside exhibits around town are starting to deteriorate. Mr. Bockmiller stated that the City has submitted a grant application to update and replace many of the wayside exhibits that were installed around the city. A new template has been adopted and will be incorporated in the replacements.

Some changes were made at the request of the Civil War Trails Program to make Hagerstown's markers less similar to theirs so ownership can be easily differentiated. The revised template has been approved by Civil War Trails exhibits.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- In light of corona virus concerns, Mr. Bockmiller informed commission members that the City is developing contingent plans for meetings if need be.

ADJOURN

It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn (5:07 p.m.).

4/23/2020

Approved



Debra C. Calhoun – Secretary