

**Historic District Commission
MINUTES**

**October 8, 2020
City of Hagerstown, Maryland**

Michael Gehr, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 8, 2020, in the Council Chamber, Second 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. George, R. Powell, and S. Silas. S. Bockmiller, Development Planner/Zoning Administrator was present on behalf of the Planning and Code Administration Department.

Approval of Minutes:

September 24, 2020.

MOTION: (Silas/Powell) Motion to approve (the minutes of September 24, 2020).
DISCUSSION: None.
ACTION: APPROVED (Unanimous)

CONSENT AGENDA

941 Forest Drive – Facelift Remodeling/Rich Brunner for Mike Schwartzbeck – Amended Application (Doors/Deck), Case No. HDC 2020-34.

57 South Potomac Street – Jovann Carter/The Dog House – Signage, Case No. HDC 2020-35.

No one was present to speak against the case; nor did any commission members have concerns.

MOTION: (George/Silas) Mr. Chairman, I have reviewed the materials submitted in Cases 2020-34 and 2020-35 and their associated staff reports and recommendations. I have viewed the properties in question. The staff reports recommend approval of these applications 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 these applications. Therefore, I move that this commission adopt the staff evaluations and recommendations in these cases as its own and grant Certificates of Appropriateness to the applicants for Case Nos. 2020-34 and 2020-35.
DISCUSSION: None.
ACTION: APPROVED (Unanimous)

DESIGN REVIEW

None.

WORKSHOP

811 The Terrace – Kathryn Kershner – New Roof.

No one was present for this discussion. It will be rescheduled for the next meeting.

Hagerstown City Park Railroad Museum – New Pavilion – Highland Way (Courtesy Review – No Action Required).

Rodney Tissue, Director of Parks and Engineering for the City of Hagerstown, was present to discuss this project which involves renovations and improvements at the Train Hub at City Park. Mr. Bockmiller explained that this session is just for discussion, the site is not within a historic district. Typically City public works projects involving historic resources in City parks are brought to the Historic District Commission for comments. Concerning this project there is an outstanding site plan in the review process for this work. The pavilion will be covering the historic locomotive; staff has no issue with the proposal.

Mr. Tissue explained that the original curator of the locomotive passed away about ten years ago. Since then the City has not been able to find a qualified curator to take care of the locomotive and it is beginning to deteriorate. Train buffs have told him that this is a unique style of engine. The existing pavilion was built in the 1990s and is very simple construction with the roof very close to the top of the engine so visitors cannot appreciate the stacks and other features. The proposal is to build a new pavilion in front of the existing pavilion and push the train forward to move it under the new cover. The new pavilion would be more architecturally aesthetic and would pick up the look of a former train station with natural light on the train during the day. It will be lit up at night.

Another important part of the plan is to construct a set of stairs up to the cab where the engineer would have been running the locomotive. The locomotive is on the National Register of Historic Places, and it will be restored as well. The City has been working with Strasburg Rail Road Company out of Strasburg, Pennsylvania, who does many of the railroad restoration projects on the east coast. Strasburg Rail Road Company has been advising the City on restoration aspects of the locomotive and how to bring it back. This will include repainting the engine, possibly adding some of the missing components, and generally making the display more pleasing since it has fallen into disrepair.

The City has a \$350,000 grant from the State of Maryland via the federal government to complete the work. Because the funds are federal money, the process is lengthy. The project must be reviewed and approved by the Maryland Historic Trust (MHT). The design is far enough along that it will be submitted MHT shortly.

Mr. Bockmiller asked what the dimensions of the roof will be. Mr. Tissue stated the roof will measure 55 x 101 feet. Mr. George asked what the City plans to do with the old pavilion. Mr. Tissue explained there are two options: either tear it down or make repairs to possibly move the two cabooses that the City has under the old pavilion to protect them as well. New track will have to be laid to move the locomotive forward. Ms. Allen asked if the information about the train will be expanded to include more information. According to Mr. Tissue the new exhibit will be more family oriented rather than strictly for train buffs. The museum building has been renovated to make it more family friendly; more events are planned for the future to try to attract more young people to the museum. There will be more exhibits for children to touch and play with in the new exhibit. Two short videos are in production that will discuss railroad history in Hagerstown.

Mr. Bockmiller asked what the cost of the pavilion will be. Mr. Tissue stated that the pavilion will run about \$150,000 and the locomotive restoration will be expensive as well. Ms. Allen suggested that the renovations be documented as a public relations tool. Mr. Tissue is hoping to have the renovations begin in the second half of 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Bockmiller stated that he has not had a chance to look into the dryer duct on the building next to the park.
- Mr. Powell sent staff an email concerning a new front porch at 947 Forest Drive. Mr. Bockmiller will have the inspectors look at that property this week.
- Mr. Powell reported that the fence at the corner of East North and Mulberry Street has not been modified to add a cap board as required as part of the approval; however, the chain link fencing has been removed. Staff noted that it has only been a few weeks. He will give them to the end of the year to install the cap board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

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ADJOURN

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

11/12/2020

Approved



Debra C. Calhoun – Secretary