



CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

Planning & Code Administration Department

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HAGERSTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

MINUTES

DATE: August 10, 2023 – 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Room 407, City Hall

Attendance –

Name	In-Person	Remote	Absent
Appointed Voting Members			
Michael Gehr, Chairperson	X		
Leslie Allen, Vice Chairperson	X		
Robert Powell	X		
W. Douglas Carroll	X		
Christopher George			X
Glen Grant			X
Matthew Sherman	X		
Staff and Ex-Officio Members			
S. Bockmiller, Development Review Planner/Zoning Administrator	X		
J. Wu, Planner	X		
M. Revilla, Recording Secretary	X		
P. Reed, Architectural Consultant	X		

Preliminary Matters -

Call to Order and Instructions from the Chair –

Michael Gehr called the meeting to order at 4:40p.m. Attendance of members and staff are reflected in the chart above. The Chair read the standard public instructions regarding order of business into the record.

Approval of Minutes –

Minutes of July 27, 2023.

Mr. Powell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented with one change, Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

Consent Agenda –

HDC 2023 -37 – 101 West Franklin Street – Azddine El Bouchti – Fire Escape Removal.

Mr. Carroll: "Mr. Chairman/Madam Chair, I have reviewed the materials submitted in Case No. HDC 2023- 37, 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 recommendations in this case as its own and grant a Certificate of Appropriateness to the applicant for Case No. HDC 2023- 37.

" Mr. Powell seconded the motion.

Mr. Powell asked if the fire escape would be replaced at a later time. Mr. Shirazi confirmed that it would, and a second application will be submitted for that.

The motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

Design Review -

HDC 2023 -29 – 49 Jonathan Street – City Sprouts – Fence.

The applicant is proposing to install a new 4-foot-tall black metal picket fence with top rail along the rear and north side property lines, along the front sidewalk on Jonathan Street, and along the alley in the front of the landscaped island closest to Jonathan Street, and in front of the rear-most landscaped island (forward of the curb and in the driveway apron. Mr. Bockmiller explained the property is located partially in the Historic District and the applicant only needs a portion of the fence approved by the Commission. In addition, the applicant will need a waiver from the Planning Commission for the landscaping buffer that is required but not feasible at this location.

The applicant joined the meeting via on an online virtual meeting platform.

Mr. Powell: "Mr. Chairman, 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, materials, architectural detailing, and general form and proportion are 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 2023-29 with additional provisions as approved by the Planning Commission". Mr. Carroll seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0-0.

HDC 2023 -35 – 50 Summit Avenue – Mahesh Kumar – Doors.

The applicant has replaced the wood, double-front doors units on the Antietam Street façade and Summit Avenue facade with a commercial metal single door unit with sidelights and seeks approval of the work as completed.

Had the applicant applied as required before work was undertaken, staff would have said they recommended replacement with wood, as it appears that historically, the first-floor doors and window frames have historically all been wood. If the door was no longer serviceable, the Design Guidelines recommend using the same material. Initially, staff thought this may be the

original front doors, but research is inconclusive. Few photos could be found on the internet showing the Dagmar's early door configuration, and two post card pictures staff did manage to find appear to conflict – one appears to show a double door (above, left) and one that shows a single door with sidelights (above, right).

Mr. Mahesh explained the doors needed to be replaced urgently, therefore were replaced before an application was submitted and approved by Historic District Commission. He also described other plans for improvements he will be bringing before the Commission at a later time. Mr. Gehr asked if Code and Fire Departments had been contacted in regard to the doors being replaced.

The Commission had questions and suggestions regarding the materials used for the doors and materials that will later be replaced around the windows and transoms. Ms. Reed stated she would not recommend removing the transoms.

Mr. Carroll: "Mr. Chairman, 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 metal doors are more functional and comply with current ADA requirements are 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 2023-35." Mr. Powell seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0-0.

Workshops -

None.

New Business -

None.

Old Business -

The Commission began review of the draft update of the Design Guideline comments, reviewing pages 13-26.

Announcements -

None.

Adjourn -

With no further discussion, Mr. Powell made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Allen seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:33 P.M.


Mary Revilla, Recording Secretary
approved 8-24-23