



CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

Planning & Code Administration Department

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HAGERSTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

MINUTES

DATE: December 14, 2023 – 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Room 407, City Hall Building

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		

Preliminary Matters -

Call to Order and Instructions from the Chair –

Michael Gehr called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.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 –

None.

Consent Agenda –

HDC-2023-49 – 25 Broadway – Steve Owens – Amend Previous Approval For a Trash enclosure.

HDC-2023-51 – 55 Jonathan Street – Ehsan Abdeshanhanian – Signage.

HDC-2023-52 – 8 Public Square – Troy Butler Jr. – Signage.

HDC-2023-55 – 24 Broadway – Steve Owens – Replace deteriorated wooden siding and install a metal railing on the front porch.

Motion – Ms. Allen made a motion to amend application HDC 2023-55 to include installing a rail on the front porch. Mr. Powell seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0-0.

Motion - Mr. Carroll: "Mr. Chairman, I have reviewed the materials submitted in Cases No. HDC 2023-49, 51, 52, and 55 and their associated staff reports and recommendations, and I have viewed the properties in question. The staff reports recommend approval of the applications as consistent with the applicable standards adopted by this Commission, and no one 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 their own and grant Certificates of Appropriateness to the applicants for Cases No. HDC 2023-49, 51, 52, and 55." Mr. Sherman seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

Design Review-

HDC 2023-50 – 1008 Hamilton Boulevard – Kimberly Leonard – Front Door.

With a few questions regarding the glass as well as the transom and review of the photo of the door that the applicant ordered, the Commission agreed the door was consistent with Historic District Guidelines and the original door.

Motion - Mr. Powell: "Mr. Chairman, I have reviewed the materials submitted in Case No. HDC 2023-50, 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 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 Certificates of Appropriateness to the applicant for Case No. HDC 2023-50." Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

HDC-2023-53 – 57 West Franklin Street – Eric Murray - Signage.

Eric Murray, of Grind Skate Company, was present to answer questions and provide information regarding the signage.

Staff brought forth concerns with the stickers on the support posts in front of the building, the snow board hanging sign's location, and recommends approval of the window scrims, flat sign and indirect lighting. That doesn't flash. The Commission had a few questions regarding the window scrims and sign materials and quality. The Commission stated that the work should be done by June 1, 2024.

Motion - Mr. Carroll: "Mr. Chairman, I have inspected plans and I have viewed the property in question and if constructed in concordance with these plans the project is compatible with the character with the district for the reasons that the applicant will modify the flat sign based on staff recommendations, the scrim is not does not cover fifty percent of the windows, the projection sign is temporary, and the electronic appliances are black in color and they are not visible, and the lighting of the sign will be stationary and not flicker. Therefore, if these things are done, they will be generally in harmony with the architectural design guidelines for the Commercial Historic District and the character of the adjoining properties. Therefore, I move that this Commission adopt the staff evaluation and recommendations in this case as its own and grant a Certificates of Appropriateness to the applicant for Case No. HDC 2023-53." Mr. Powell seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

HDC-2023-54 – 811 The Terrace – Kathryn Kershner – Roof Replacement.

The applicant is proposing to replace the tile roof with composite shingles. The Guidelines encourage repair and replacement in kind in general. The Guidelines also acknowledge the difficulty in working with certain historic materials, such as slate and tile, due to expense and difficulty in finding tradespeople able to do that kind of work. Ms. Kershner's son has workshopped on this issue in the past. Ms. Kershner was

not approved for a grant and is hoping to use a cheaper shingle verses the Spanish tile. After a lengthy discussion with the Commission regarding what to expect of a contractor and materials, the Commission advised her that additional research was needed. It was recommended that Ms. Kershner compare costs and research alternative materials with a different contractor and come back before the Commission at the next meeting.

Motion - Mr. Powell moved to table this case until the next meeting, January 11, 2023. Mr. Sherman seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 6-0-0.

Workshops-

None.

New Business-

Review and approval of the 2024 meeting schedule.

With one change to the second meeting in March's date, the Commission agreed with the 2024 schedule.

Old Business-

Ms. Allen stated window scrims are steadily getting more out of control downtown.

Announcements-

Mr. Powell mentioned that 927 Oak Hill Avenue property's backyard is nothing but trash contents.

Mr. Gehr stated the work that has been done on the front porch of the Donahue house is not consistent with the Historic District Guidelines and Standards.

Adjourn -

With no further discussion, Mr. Powell made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Carroll seconded the motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 P.M.



Mary Revilla, Recording Secretary

Approved 1-25-24