

COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

March 24, 2016

Members Present

Michael Nicholas
Jeffrey Bond
Robert Weir
Sean Davis
Robin Crews

Members Absent

Robert Stowe
Susan Stilwell

Staff

Renee Burton
Clarke Whitfield
Anna Levi
Tracie Lancaster

Chairman Nicholas called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

ITEMS FOR PUBLIC HEARING

- 1. Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness, PLCAR2016000080, filed by DRHA to demolish the rear accessory structure located at 814-816 Pine Street.*

Mr. Nicholas opened the Public Hearing.

Mrs. Burton stated I am here to answer any questions that you all may have. Both Mr. Wasson and Mr. Reynolds were caught in a meeting. So I would be happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Nicholas stated what is wrong with the condition of this structure?

Mrs. Crews stated do you have the same picture we do?

Mrs. Burton stated this structure was built many years ago and has seen numerous additions. So it is not in the best condition. It has not been maintained.

Mr. Nicholas stated what was it used for?

Mrs. Burton stated it was used for storage.

Mr. Bond entered at 3:32pm.

Mr. Nicholas closed the Public hearing.

Mrs. Crews made a motion to approve *PLCAR2016000080* that the request meets the guidelines. Mr. Weir seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0-1 vote (Mr. Bond abstained).

2. *Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness, PLCAR2016000081, filed by Lawrence Meder to construct an 8' brick garden enclosure at the rear of 407 Chestnut Street.*

Mr. Nicholas opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Nicholas closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Nicholas stated I'm never in favor of doing this without an applicant present, but I defer that to you guys.

Mrs. Burton stated this is what we are looking at and if anyone visited the site it is marked off in his rear yard.

Mr. Nicholas stated it meets the zoning code?

Mrs. Burton stated yes. Eight foot is the maximum per zoning code without a Special Use Permit or any other approvals.

Mr. Nicholas stated why does it not meet the guidelines?

Mrs. Burton stated the guidelines stated a maximum height off six feet.

Mr. Nicholas stated except an additional two feet that may be added.

Mrs. Burton stated for decorative, for open work.

Mr. Bond stated like if you had wrought iron or something.

Mr. Weir stated a decorative brick wall.

Mrs. Burton stated right and this would not be open at the top. This will be a solid.

Mr. Nicholas stated is the height the only thing that exceeds the CAR guidelines?

Mrs. Burton stated correct.

Mr. Nicholas stated so if it were 6 feet tall you would say that it met the guidelines?

Mrs. Burton stated that's correct.

Mr. Weir stated the house where it says the 7.6 that house is one of the Pine Street houses. Both houses that are on that side are less than desirable.

Mr. Weir made a motion that the request does not meet the guidelines. Mrs. Crews seconds the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Mrs. Crews made a motion that is does not have an adverse effect on the neighborhood or property. Mr. Weir seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-1 vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINTUES

Mrs. Crews made a motion to approve the February 25, 2016 minutes. Mr. Weir seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Burton stated I do have several items I will try to be quick. In front of you there is some information about a training workshop that will be held in Lynchburg later this year. I did send it by email but there is a hard copy for you just as a reminder. It's a free workshop so if you are interested. I just wanted to put that out there for attendance.

Mrs. Crews stated if we want to attend we just use the link to get to the September one?

Mrs. Burton stated yes.

Mr. Weir stated do we go ahead and register on this web page here?

Mrs. Burton stated that's correct.

Mrs. Crews stated is this in the guidelines for the suggested training for us to participate in?

Mrs. Burton stated yes.

Mr. Bond any idea if this qualifies for continuing education credits?

Mrs. Burton stated it was supposed to but I can double check. The original conversation was that it was supposed to have credits.

Mr. Whitfield stated what about CLE?

Mrs. Burton stated I don't know about that one sorry.

Mr. Whitfield stated Mr. Nicholas and I would be very interested if it was.

Mr. Nicholas stated I would absolutely be in attendance if it had CLE credits.

Mrs. Burton stated I hope you have had a chance to go by and see the marker at the museum refurbished. It looks very nice. Next, the Stratford College marker will be removed on the 25th for refurbishment and that will be put back up on the 4th. So what we are doing now is going through the list of existing markers and those that are in need will get refurbishment this summer. In doing so, we did find out on that one is missing

down near the Carolina line. We are currently working now to try and find that. We don't know at this point we believe that it was probably hit. VDOT may have it but we don't know. 864 Pine Street was a CLG grant for rehabilitation. That property is taking a little while to get started. But thankfully yesterday we did sign a contract with a contractor. So that should be underway the first part of April with an ending date of the end of June. We are going to go quickly to knock that out this spring. There is a Cost share grant application that will be submitted again the first part of April. Last year we did this and had approval to go from right at the Montague, West Main intersect down to Ballou Park getting all the West Main properties. That's currently underway now. This year we are going to do a continuation of that and come off at Mt Vernon, Montague and the two or three houses that are remaining on Stuart and then all the way down to the tracks. Then we will continue west to try and fill in the gaps. Hopefully we will get approval for that. We do have a master plan that we have started work on now for the Old West End and that's a infrastructure master plan. That will take place for streets, sidewalks, sewer run off, we are taking everything in to consideration. Our primary focus is going to be on Pine Street first, we are going to work on a water system drainage issue back behind the houses on the odd side coming off Chestnut and Green. So we hope to get that project underway, we are working on budgeting right now. But you should see that coming late spring or early summer. We want to be able to basically dig up the backyards and reroute the drainage system. It was some kind of drainage system hodge-podge in every single parcel back there. So we are going to get an actual system in place that will help out a lot. This summer you will also see new gas coming to the Old West End this summer. You will see replacement of your meters and the street will be dug up and unfortunately you will not be able to park on the road.

Mrs. Crews stated up to the house those gas meters?

Mrs. Burton stated yeah, so the Old West End will see that this year.

Mr. Nicholas stated we will of course be compensated for the inconvenience.

Mrs. Burton stated yes with a smile and a hand shake.

Mr. Whitfield stated yeah with a new meter.

Mrs. Burton stated within that master plan we are also going to be working on adopting a brick for the Old West End. I have contacted Pine Hall and unfortunately there seems to be problems with them getting information to me. But they say that they sent it and now they say they have sent it again, we will see when that arrives. The goal is to bring some items in and let you guys look at it to talk about and make some suggestions. Then we will take it to a public meeting for the entire Old West End for adoption. It won't just be brick we will be looking as some other things too. We are identifying different categories of sidewalks and a variety of different things. It will be a busy summer.

Mr. Davis stated so will Sutherlin get new bricks?

Mrs. Burton stated Sutherlin? There is some potential. We are looking at it.

Mrs. Crews did the staff hear anything further about the discussion at the end of the last meeting regarding Chambers street and the sidewalk. Were there any further queries made about that?

Mrs. Burton stated no it has gone silent.

Mr. Nicholas stated Mr. Bond you wanted to discussion the GIS system.

Mr. Bond stated sure. Was there any discuss held last week?

Mr. Nicholas stated no we held that over for you.

Mrs. Burton stated we waited for you.

Mr. Bond stated I just wanted to talk in general about it. This wasn't specific to any case. As we are reviewing each case I think we need to just be careful how identify properties. Make sure one parcel may or may not fall at the edge of the other property.

Mr. Nicholas stated what can we use other than GIS?

Mrs. Burton stated I think at that particular situation it may have been more clearly identified maybe by the facade or the material. There was a difference there from permastone versus some that was block that kind of thing; looking specifically at the structure itself not the property line. The corner from the most recent case at Five Forks the lines there were very unique. So we ran into a lot of different situations we tried to even consolidate those. Mysterious alleys, I had a deed that says that the western property line may or may not be next to a public alley. I'm not real sure how we address that so you know that seems to be a unique situation at that corner. I think in general when we have that kind of collection of buildings that we probably need to look at the facades themselves instead of property lines. This has definitely been a learning lesson.

Mr. Bond stated nine times out of ten the single family dwelling is not as concerning as if you have one building. I think if we would have looked at it we could have reversed that decision.

Mrs. Burton stated it's just a matter of now making sure we are concise in our motions. Just because we think we know what we are talking about we need to make sure everyone else knows as well. Make sure that everyone understands exactly what we are talking about.

Mr. Bond stated and table it if we need to, to request a diagram. That might be the best option.

Mrs. Burton stated or you may then even postpone to have an onsite viewing. You know we have done that before.

Mrs. Crews stated we had a diagram on the PowerPoint.

Mrs. Burton right, you do have the option to do that. Adjourn to go on site, reconvene and come back or whatever the case maybe. We have done that it has been a long time but we did do that one time to go out and get a clear view of the property.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Approved