

HISTORIC DISTRICT MEETING JULY 12, 2007

The Van Buren Historic District held its monthly meeting Thursday, July 12, 2007 at 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Room of the Municipal Complex. The following items were on the agenda:

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting
2. C of A for 700 East Main Street, owner Richard and Kaye Gilstrap. Proposed work for paint, construct canopy, trim work, details to be Presented at meeting
3. C of A for 1212 Main Street, owner Willis Campbell, proposed work for replacement of windows on upper level of building, details to be presented at meeting
4. Discussion/review of progress of work for buildings owned by Sue Deaton
5. Any other business that comes before the Commission.

PRESENT:

Dwight Hopkins, Chairman
John Symonds, Co-Chairman
Vickie Davis
Paul Gibson
Glen Harvey
Brad Baldwin, City Engineer
Derek Riggs, City Property Main. Mgr.
Richard Gilstrap
Kaye Gilstrap
Chris Hughes

ABSENT:

Jody Rhoads

Chairman Dwight Hopkins called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. First order of business was approval of the minutes from the last meeting. A motion was made by John Symonds to accept minutes as written, the motion was given a second by Paul Gibson, and the minutes were approved as written with a unanimous vote.

The next item discussed by the Commission was maintenance work by the City of Van Buren for the King Opera House represented by Brad Baldwin. Mr. Baldwin announced

to the Commission that Derek Riggs is now the Property Maintenance Manager for the City of Van Buren, and two of these properties are in the Historic District. Chairman Dwight Hopkins explained to Mr. Baldwin the City must get all work on King Opera House approved through the state, as the state holds easement on this building and the Depot that are above and beyond the Historic District Commission authority. After some discussion, it was determined a proposal from the company that would be doing the awning work would need to be submitted to AHPP, along with a list of repairs and materials for maintenance work on this building. HDC will give a letter of endorsement for the work presented to them at this meeting. Commissioner Vickie Davis commented Derek might benefit from attending some of the training that Commissioners can attend through CLG program. Brad Baldwin and Derek Riggs both agreed.

The next item for review was Certificate of Appropriateness for 700 East Main Street, owner Richard and Kaye Gilstrap. The proposed work includes paint, construct canopy, and trim work, window replacement. The colors for the building include Farmhouse Ochre, Plum Island, and Winter Balsam, all from the Historic District color chart. After discussion of colors, canopy, windows and trim work, and the agreement that the Gilstrap's would come back to the Commission with signage for approval, a motion was made by John Symonds that this proposal does not affect the surrounding structures. This motion was given a second by Vickie Davis, and carried a unanimous vote. At this time Paul Gibson made a motion the Commission approve this COA with the notation signage will be filed in the HDC office when completed. This motion was given a second by John Symonds, and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

The next item on the agenda was Certificate of Appropriateness for Willis Campbell, represented by Chris Hughes, for window replacement in his building at the corner of 7th and Main Streets. Mr. Hughes explained the window frame would be left in the window, and the new windows would set in the original frame. Mr. Hughes commented the windows would be Harry G. Barr windows, and wanted the Commission to comment of whether they should use beige or chocolate brown, as these were the only colors these could be purchased in. The Commission suggested the beige color, as it would be found on the color pallet for Historic District. A motion was made by John Symonds this would not affect the surrounding buildings, and was given a second by Vickie Davis. This motion passed with a unanimous decision. Vickie Davis then made a motion to approve this COA in lieu of all the proper paperwork being completed and turned in to the HDC office. This motion was given a second by Paul Gibson, and the motion carried with a unanimous decision.

At this time Cami Brown informed the Commission that a seminar on monument care would be held October 11, 2007 at the Municipal Complex, and the Commission, along with the Fairview Cemetery Board were welcome to attend. Ms. Brown gave the details of this seminar to the Commissioners, and asked them to contact her by the end of August as to whether or not they would be able to attend.

Chairman Hopkins addressed the Commission on the new Certificate of Appropriateness form that needs to be finalized. John Symonds commented he wanted to be sure City

Attorney had reviewed, which Dwight Hopkins confirmed he had. Paul Gibson asked to review a copy, and Chairman Hopkins commented he would email a copy to all Commissioners to review. John Symonds commented guidelines would have to be revised to define the levels that this COA will carry, to which all agreed. This form will be done in triplicate. The Commission will review again with changes next month.

The next issue discussed was real estate signs in the District, something the Commission has never addressed. One sign in particular in this discussion was a 4'x4' white sign that was mounted on the side of the Warehouse building for sale on Main Street. The Commission all agrees this needs to be addressed. Chairman Hopkins commented the Commission has discussed a retreat, to cover such topics as this, the levels of a new COA form, and some other topics that the Commission needs to take time to address.

The last item discussed by the Commission was progress on Sue Deaton's property, to which all Commissioners agreed was progressing in a positive manner.

At this time Mr. Glen Harvey came forward to address the Commission. Mr. Harvey brought with him a framed photo he had made from a tintype that belonged to his father. This photo was of a pool hall on Main Street Van Buren, dated back to at least 1907. Mr. Harvey grew up in this town, just came back here recently and attended this meeting to see exactly what the job of the Historic District Commission consisted of. The Commission welcomed Mr. Harvey, and thanked him for his interest in the heritage and preservation of our City. Mr. Harvey commented he would be glad to help this Commission in any way he could, and left his contact information with Recording Secretary Cami Brown.

At this time this meeting was adjourned.

Dwight Hopkins, Chairman

Cami L. Brown, Rec. Sec.