

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING

MAY 10, 2007

The Historic District Commission held its monthly meeting Thursday, May 10, 2007 in the City Council Room at the Municipal Complex. The following items were on the agenda:

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting
2. Recommendations for term renewals for Commission positions
3. Commission votes on Chairman and Co-Chairman positions
4. C of A for signage for 720 Main Street
5. Any other business that comes before the Commission

PRESENT:

Dwight Hopkins, Chairman
Jody Rhoads
Paul Gibson
Vickie Davis
Don Jenkins, City Atty.
Elizabeth Rhoades

ABSENT:

John Symonds, Co-Chairman
Cami Brown, Recording Secretary

Chairman Dwight Hopkins called the meeting to order. First item for discussion was approval of minutes from last meeting. A motion was made by Jody Rhoads to accept the minutes as written. This motion was given a second by Vickie Davis, and the motion carried with a unanimous decision.

Next item considered by the Commission was an official answer from Paul Gibson and Dwight Hopkins as to whether or not they accept to serve another term on the Historic District Commission. Both parties agreed to serve is approved. At this time Vickie Davis made a motion to recommend to Mayor Freeman and the City Council that Paul Gibson and Dwight Hopkins be appointed to another term on the Historic District Commission for the City of Van Buren. This motion was given a second by Jody Rhoads, and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Historic District Commission. At this time Vickie Davis made a motion to leave the Chairman and Co-Chairman positions as they presently are, and that is with Dwight Hopkins as Chairman, and John Symonds as Co-Chairman. This motion was given a second by Paul Gibson, and the motion carried with a unanimous decision.

Next order of business for the Commission was Certificate of Appropriateness for 720 Main Street for signage, building owner is Sue Deaton, and the business proprietor is Elizabeth Rhoades. The colors and fonts for this C of A were approved, and this C of A was amended to include possible repainting of the building pending consent of the owner, Sue Deaton. After some discussion, a motion was made by Paul Gibson to approve, motion was given a second by Jody Rhoads, and motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Next was the discussion of Keep Van Buren Beautiful promoting a program in conjunction of Keep America Beautiful to rid cigarette litter from our Historic District. John Pope came to speak with the Commission about this project. Approximately 8 urns will be placed along Main Street in Van Buren. The Commission gave its blessing, and is on board with Keep Van Buren Beautiful, the A & P Commission, City of Van Buren, and Chamber of Commerce in this promotion. One other issue brought up was a future sign about Keep Van Buren Beautiful being placed in the Historic District, and the Commission offered some suggestions on a sign that would fall within the guidelines of the Historic District.

The next topic in front of the Commission was in reference to Sue Deaton, owner of property on Main Street in the Historic District in Van Buren. This discussion was to review the progress that Sue Deaton has been making to complete work required to meet terms agreed on with the Historic District on some past Certificates of Appropriateness forms filed with the Commission by Mrs. Deaton. Commissioner Paul Gibson has been keeping up with this project, and brought the Commission and the City Attorney, Don Jenkins, up-to-date on the progress of this project. One of the issues has been Mrs. Deaton waiting on the Fire Marshal to get back with her about the fire escape for the back of the building. Don Jenkins commented he would contact the Fire Marshal and see if he could get him to contact her. Don Jenkins also commented he could not find any ordinance that allowed the City of Van Buren to act upon any violations in the District. The Commission and the City Attorney discussed this issue, and came up with several possibilities, but it was agreed that without the support of the City of Van Buren, without the City Council helping with this, it would be difficult to have compliance with rules and regulations to uphold preservation in the Historic District.

With no other business in front of the Commission, this meeting was adjourned.

Dwight Hopkins, Chairman

Cami L. Brown, Rec. Sec.

