

## **HISTORIC COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES JUNE 12, 2008**

The Van Buren Historic District Commission held its monthly meeting Thursday, June 12, 2008 at 5:30 P.M. in the Municipal Court Room of the Municipal Complex. The following items are on the agenda:

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting
2. COA for mural at 700 Main Street on back of building in courtyard
3. Discussion of letters to be distributed by mail to merchants in Historic District with reference to banners
4. Review of "Ghost Signs" in the Historic District
5. Review of term renewals for Vickie Davis and John Symonds  
For another term as HD Commissioner, as these terms expire  
June 30, 2008
6. Any other business that comes before this Commission

PRESENT:                 Dwight Hopkins, Chairman  
                              John Symonds, Co-Chairman  
                              Vickie Davis  
                              Paul Gibson  
                              Jody Rhoads  
                              Cami Brown, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard Gilstrap  
                              Kaye Gilstrap

Chairman Dwight Hopkins called this meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. First item for consideration was approval of minutes from the last meeting. A motion was made by Jody Rhoads to approve minutes as written, and the motion was given a second by John Symonds. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

The next item for consideration was COA for mural at 700 Main Street for Cajuns' Restaurant. John Symonds made a motion that this work doesn't significantly affect the surrounding property, and Paul Gibson gave this motion a second. This motion carried with a unanimous vote. After some discussion, a motion was made by John Symonds to approve this COA with contingency that sealant over painting will be a no-gloss sealant, and that any lettering used will be same as existing sign at Cajuns'. This motion was given a second by Jody Rhoads and the motion carried with a unanimous decision.

Next item was a discussion about “ghost signs” in the Historic District. Chairman Hopkins contacted Little Rock about these signs, as the commission had been contacted about replacement of the Coca-Cola signs on the side of a building at 8<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets. Richard Gilstrap contacted the owner of the building, who agreed to give permission for this project. Mr. Gilstrap commented he is working with a contact that works for Coca-Cola, and the company may be willing to help pay for the restoration. After some discussion the commission gave Mr. Gilstrap their “blessing” to proceed with pursuing this project. Mr. Gilstrap will bring this project before the commission when it is time to move forward. At this time Mr. Gilstrap mentioned to the commission the effort being made to bring a farmers market to the parking lot located behind their building on Main Street. Cami Brown also mentioned the concerts being held in the Blanche Moore Park on Main Street by the Van Buren Boys and Girls Club.

Next item for discussion was a letter drafted to send out to merchants in the Historic District with reference to our ordinances/guidelines on signs. After review of draft, the commission agreed the letter needed to be distributed.

Next item for discussion was term renewals for Vickie Davis and John Symonds for another term on this commission. At this time Chairman Hopkins asked both parties if they would be willing to serve another term on this commission, to which both parties agreed they would. Chairman Hopkins then signed a letter of recommendation to the City Council for John Symonds and Vickie Davis to serve another three-year term on the Historic District Commission.

Next item for consideration was COA for 510 Main Street for light fixtures to be placed at either side of the door at this building. Property owner is Richard Hodo, represented by Cami L. Brown. A color photo of the lantern-type fixture was presented to the commission. After some discussion the commission agreed the lanterns need to be the 22 1/2”, as the 31” lanterns would be overwhelming to the area. Vickie Davis made a motion that if guidelines were complied with, section 10.16. E, this would not significantly affect the surrounding buildings. Paul Gibson gave this motion a second and the motion was approved unanimously. John Symonds then made a motion to approve the COA with the understanding the suggested size of lantern would be used, #OL1901, 22 1/2” wall mount lantern. This motion was given a second by Vickie Davis and the motion carried a unanimous vote.

At this time Paul Gibson made a motion to dismiss, John Symonds seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

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Dwight Hopkins, Chairman

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Cami L. Brown, Rec. Sec.

