

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING JANUARY 10, 2008

The Van Buren Historic District Commission held its monthly meeting Thursday, January 10, 2008 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. COA for 511 Main Street for signage for Art of Framing, Owner Lewis Reese
3. COA for 606 Main Street, owner Fred Williams, represented By Sheila Bell, Project Manager. COA is to add spiral staircase And entry door to the back of the building
4. Any other business that comes before the Commission

PRESENT: Dwight Hopkins, Chairman
John Symonds, Co-Chairman
Vickie Davis

ABSENT: Jody Rhoads
Paul Gibson

OTHERS PRESENT: Sheila Bell
Larry Brandenburg
Lewis Reese

Chairman Hopkins called the meeting to order, and first item for review was minutes of the last meeting. John Symonds made a motion to accept the minutes as written, and Vickie Davis gave the motion a second. The motion carried with a unanimous decision.

Next item for review was COA for signage at 511 Main Street, Lewis Reese, The Art of Framing. Mr. Reese brought a new color scheme for his advertising and presented to the Commission. The colors were all in compliance with the Historic District colors. After some discussion John Symonds made a motion this does not affect the surrounding buildings, and Vickie Davis gave this a second, and motion carried with a unanimous decision. After some discussion, John Symonds made a motion to approve this COA, Vickie Davis seconded this motion, and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Next item up for review was COA for a spiral staircase for the back of 606 Main Street, represented by Sheila Bell. After some discussion, a motion was made that this work does significantly affect the surrounding property, and motion was given a second by Vickie Davis. Motion carried with a unanimous vote. While the same party owns the surrounding property, if the property at 606 Main Street is sold, there will have to be an

easement generated to compensate for the encroachment this staircase will create. After some discussion about the ironwork being painted either flat black or green, and the agreement that Mrs. Bell could come back on this COA with amendment for light fixtures to go on the outside of the building on either side of the new door being installed at the top of the spiral staircase, John Symonds made a motion to approve this COA, and Vickie David gave the motion a second. This motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Under any other business came Larry Brandenburg, a COA for a fence at the back of 816 Main Street. This COA was on agenda last month, but Mr. Brandenburg was not present, and came before the Commission at this meeting for his COA. After some discussion John Symonds made a motion that this work does not affect the surrounding property, motion was given a second by Vickie Davis and motion carried a unanimous vote. John Symonds then made a motion to accept this COA, to which Vickie Davis gave a second, and this motion carried a unanimous vote.

Mr. Hopkins now commented the Shibley-Wood Building, which is the original part of the Derrel Thomas Building, and even though there is nothing in writing on this, needs to be recommended for adoption into the Historic District. John Symonds made the motion, Vickie Davis gave the motion a second, and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Next item for discussion was the July 2008 Historic District meeting date. The meeting falls during the NACP Conference in New Orleans, and the Commissioners will be attending the conference. After some discussion, a preliminary date for July 17th for HDC meeting was set, and meeting will be held at that time if quorum can be met.

Next item for discussion was some issues that need to be cleaned up, and one was the H-1 Ordinance, which was revised and recommended to City Council by the Planning Commission at their last meeting. Mr. Hopkins shared with the Commissioners about a meeting that the Mayor held at the Chamber of Commerce office that included Building Dept., Engineering, Chamber, A & P, Fire Code Officials, HDC Chairman and staff, and Chairman of Planning Commission. This meeting was mainly about how we can all work together on streamlining the process on when an individual wants to do something downtown. The decision has been made that everything triggers with David Martin, and that David Martin is the point man for any questions about downtown. David will direct individuals where they need to go. To go along with this, Chairman Hopkins brought up the issue of getting the information to the public, and what method the HDC needs to employ to get the information out there about our HDC, guidelines, COA's, and any other pertinent information necessary someone looking to purchase property or set up a business on Main Street might need to know. The Commissioners were all in agreement that the City Clerk's office would be a good place to start, and packet or pamphlet would be an excellent way to distribute information. After some discussion, John Symonds made a motion that this method should be used; Vickie Davis seconded the motion, and motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Next item for discussion was the new COA form the Commission has up for consideration for adoption. Chairman Hopkins commented the Commission has been

discussing this COA form for over a year, and called for a vote on the new COA. The COA will be printed in triplicate, and the corrections discussed will be made to the form. After some discussion, Dwight Hopkins recommended to make a motion to approve this design and print up and use this for except for the Level I section, until the Level I is approved by City Council. John Symonds made a motion to approve, Vickie Davis seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a unanimous decision. The recommendation for the administrative approval under Level I will be sent on for approval through the proper channels. Staff will get with the printer, and make changes the Commission is looking for, send an example out to the Commissioners to review, and upon agreement by the Commission, will have the new forms printed for use.

The next item the Commission discussed was several areas the Commission is working on, and delegating some of these areas throughout the Commission to help Chairman Hopkins with these projects. These areas were discussed, and assignments were made as follows: John Symonds, Cemetery Guidelines, Dwight Hopkins, Ordinance review and update, Vickie Davis, Bylaws and Code of Ethics, and Dwight Hopkins and Jody Rhoads will serve as liaisons for Downtown Meetings. Chairman Hopkins commented that it will probably be two years out or so, but the Commission should start looking at residential guidelines for the downtown district.

With no other business, this meeting was adjourned.

Dwight Hopkins, Chairman

Cami Brown, Rec. Sec.