
Historic District Commission

Meeting Minutes January 10, 2019

Members present: Rhonda Dempster, Marguerite Knight and Danielle Stein

Members absent: Ryan Dicharry and Skipper Holloway

Also Present: Roland Soignet, Jr. Zoning Administrator & Asst. Public Works Director, and Ruby Maggio, Secretary

Ms. Dempster called the meeting to order.

Ms. Knight moved to accept the minutes as presented for the November 1, 2018 meeting, the motion was seconded by Ms. Dempster. All board members present were in favor.

A discussion to review status of Thibodaux Historic Registry was on the agenda. Ms. Knight thought they were trying to get the historic district itself listed and she indicated that Houma's Historic District was registered. Ms. Dempster replied she would look into listing the Historic District on the National Registry and touch base with Houma to see how difficult it was to get.

Ms. Knight inquired if there were any plans to review. Mr. Soignet replied not currently but in the future Tommy Lasseigne will but he doesn't have plans yet. Ms. Stein stated someone called her before the holidays about a house that he purchased on Canal Boulevard & he knew that he had to present something to the commission so he was aware of that at least and she asked him to email his information but he never did.

Ms. Stein inquired if there were any guidelines in place for the commission as far as a set of bylaws, do we have guidelines for how we review the plans, do we have a timeframe? Guidelines could offer property owners suggestions on how to either refurbish an existing building or provide guidelines for new construction too although it wouldn't dictate. Just because it is regulatory doesn't mean it has to be restrictive and I think a lot of people that purchase these properties want to maintain that historical integrity but they may not know how to do it. It would be beneficial if we had guidelines to offer them.

Ms. Stein commented whether or not we are advisory or regulatory they're supposed to submit plans to us prior to starting construction but they're not. They don't have to have a full set of drawings, even if it is something simple as we want to change out the windows here is a picture of what they look like historically, what they're current condition is this is the type of window we would like to put in, does this fit within the design guidelines of the Historic District Commission, yes or no. Ms. Knight stated she agreed and there is nothing wrong with putting them on hold. Ms. Dempster stated especially if we know that the five of us could probably meet within two days but we need to make sure that we are very vigilant. Ms. Knight stated she definitely agreed with Danielle that permits should not be issued without them coming in front of us. Ms. Dempster stated could that be something that was put on the permit that says the first thing address and if it is in the Historic District then it says it has to go before the Historic District. Mr. Soignet replied we're checking that and we tell them they have to come here if it is in the Historic District. Ms. Dempster stated but the permit goes no more until that happens is what I am saying. Mr. Soignet replied right. Ms. Knight replied she agreed, at least let's start there and then explore the regulatory, it is not more restrictive it is just regulatory.

Ms. Dempster commented we previously discussed having penalties or fines for any property owners that didn't bring their information to the Historic District or submitted their plans at least before. It would have to go to the council and they would have to make a decision on it, is that something that we want to pursue? Ms. Knight agreed with the idea.

Ms. Knight stated the growth coming to Thibodaux, you all are going to be amazed and what is going to end up happening is that we're going to lose the historic charm.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned.