
Historic District Commission

Meeting Minutes February 13, 2019

Members present: Rhonda Dempster, Skipper Holloway, Marguerite Erwin and Danielle Stein

Members absent: Ryan Dicharry

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

Ms. Stein called the meeting to order.

Ms. Dempster moved to accept the minutes as presented for the January 10, 2018 meeting, the motion was seconded by Mr. Holloway. All board members present were in favor.

A discussion to review status plans for 403 W. 3rd Street was on the agenda. Ms. Stein asked what are we supposed to be doing with this. Mr. Soignet replied just reviewing the plan. Ms. Stein stated ok, are there certain things that when we receive plans that we always have to look at to check off and if not, should we maybe come up with something like that. Mr. Soignet replied I think what they are looking for as far as the Historic District is to see if it is going to keep the same look as downtown Thibodaux did in the '30's or whenever they were built and with this building I don't think we're going to have a problem with it because Jay wants to do that. Ms. Dempster asked where do we get our guidelines. Ms. Erwin replied we didn't make any guidelines. Ms. Stein replied that is what I proposed that we come up with a guideline that way we have it on record, I don't know how we keep a record that we reviewed it. Ms. Erwin replied the minutes, that is the record, but ours isn't so much rules and reg's, it's totally aesthetics. Mr. Holloway stated we could contact Houma to see what they have instead of re-inventing the wheel. Ms. Stein stated they are regulatory so we can't really use their guidelines. Ms. Erwin replied that's not true that we can't use their guidelines, it is just recommendations I still think. Ms. Stein replied I still think we need some kind of list of things that we're looking at as these drawings come across instead of just arbitrarily flipping through and saying yes it looks ok. Ms. Erwin stated how come we all didn't get a set of plans, it is real hard for us to review things without plans. Ms. Stein stated I do have a set here. Ms. Erwin replied well there lots of Caillouet buildings, did they give us the outside, the aesthetics? Ms. Stein replied I think it may be the 2nd or 3rd page shows the front elevation. Ms. Dempster stated so they do show what the outside looks like? Mr. Soignet replied yes. Ms. Erwin asked how much are they changing on the outside? Mr. Soignet replied as far as I know, nothing. Mr. Holloway stated they are probably cleaning ceiling brick and things like that. Ms. Stein replied right, right now he is only asking us to review the front, the exterior. Mr. Soignet replied this is the whole thing, this is the one he has finished already, this will be the courtyard foyer whatever you want to call it. Ms. Dempster replied the little short piece in the middle is where the stairs go up. Ms. Erwin asked if that was an addition. Ms. Dempster replied no that is the alleyway between the two buildings. Mr. Soignet replied it is the access to upstairs. Mr. Erwin stated and it is already there. Ms. Soignet replied right. Ms. Erwin replied ours is just the aesthetics and I think he is maintaining the integrity of the original building, they are putting some extra stuff on it that if they were worried about tax credits wouldn't fly, but they are not, so she was happy. So Skip do you see anything that would be questionable? Mr. Holloway replied he didn't see anything, it would be nice to know what the roof material is, the color of the roof, the color on the outside of the masonry that is going to be completed and things like that. Ms. Dempster stated she texted him those questions and left a message for him to call me. Mr. Holloway stated he trusts that he has some good colors that are going to match the surrounding community. Ms. Dempster replied we'll wait and she would let them know when she heard from him the colors of the roof, the colors of the building itself. Mr. Holloway stated the color of the shutters... Ms. Erwin motioned to approve the plans as presented with the exception of the colors of the roof & the exterior materials. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dempster, all members were in favor.

Mr. Soignet stated Tommy Lasseigne will be building a house on the corner of St. Louis and 5th St. but I don't have any plans yet, so he is going to have to comply in some form I would imagine with the downtown look. Mr. Holloway asked what the extent of his project? Mr. Soignet replied it would be a brand new structure, it is an empty lot and he will build a home. Ms. Stein asked when he was supposed to start on that anytime soon? Mr. Soignet stated he has been in to talk with me, so far all he has done is haul dirt on the lot, we found the sewer tap for him and he is looking to get his services brought to the lot but no construction or anything has started. He can't he doesn't have any plans drawn up yet.

Ms. Stein asked if there was anything else to discuss? Ms. Dempster stated she did speak to Ann Picou with the Houma Historic District, she did some digging about the Federal Historic Registry, there is a State and there is a National Registry. Ms. Picou said that when they did it she was worried about some things because the National Historic District came in and actually took buildings in their downtown off of the National Registry. Ms. Erwin replied that happens quite frequently. Ms. Erwin replied yes but she thought things have changed a whole lot and then why not reach out to our Louisiana Historic Preservation and see what their recommendations are, I mean they have some real experts and see what their recommendations are.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned.