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## Historic District Commission

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### Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2025

Members present: Rhonda Dempster, Marguerite Erwin, Lance Ledet, Trey Ledet

Members absent: Cody Blanchard

Also Present: Monique Reulet, Public Works Executive Secretary; Sonya Cabrera, Public Works Secretary; Trey Waguespack, Assistant Public Works Director; Josh Bourgeois, Public Works Director; Kevin Clement, Mayor

Erwin called the meeting to order.

T. Ledet moved to accept the minutes presented for the July 24, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by L. Ledet all Commission members were in favor, motion carried 4 to 0, with 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Erwin introduced the first item on the agenda - to review proposal by Kevin Boquet/Joe's Signs for business wall sign installation at 301 Canal Boulevard.

Ben Comeaux, 301 Canal Boulevard, was present to represent this request. The sign will be installed on the wall of his office building. Dempster asked if the sign will be yellow & blue, and Comeaux said yes. T. Ledet asked if this would replace the neon sign in the window, and Comeaux said no, that is decoration for the lobby. Erwin asked if this sign complies with City ordinance, and Public Works Executive Secretary Monique Reulet said yes. Erwin noted that there is no room for a monument sign on this property and Comeaux said that was correct, a monument sign would have blocked the view of traffic.

Dempster made a motion to approve the proposal by Kevin Boquet/Joe's Signs for business wall sign installation at 301 Canal Boulevard. The motion was seconded by L. Ledet, all Commission members were in favor, motion carried 4 to 0, with 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Erwin introduced the second item on the agenda - to review proposal by Robin & Robert Wittmann for fencing work, pool & gazebo installation, garage/shed demolition and new construction accessory building at 219 W 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

Robert Wittmann, 219 W 7<sup>th</sup> Street, was present to represent his request. He stated that this will be a backyard project that does not effect the main house. He explained that he will tear down three buildings and build a two-story building for storage, wood working, and seating. He will also add new landscaping, a 24 x 12 pool, and a 6ft fence made of wood and brick, including a wrought iron gate over the existing driveway. He intends to tie the design of the new building into the style of the house by adding a porch, round columns and arches. The building will be brick or hardi board.

Erwin asked if any of these features will be visible from the road, and Wittmann said no. Erwin then asked if he would be using a historic color palette, and Wittmann said they may do a crème color with green or black shutters. L. Ledet asked what the height was for the two-story building, and Wittmann said the first floor is 9ft and the second floor is 10ft with a 8/12 roof pitch.

Dempster made a motion to approve the proposal by Robin & Robert Wittmann for fencing work, pool & gazebo installation, garage/shed demolition and new construction accessory building at 219 W 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The motion was seconded by T. Ledet, all Commission members were in favor, motion carried 4 to 0, with 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Erwin introduced the third item on the agenda - to review proposal by Bill Frost for window replacement at 609 St Philip Street.

Bill Frost, 609 St Philip Street, was present to represent his request. He explained that he is changing windows to make them more energy efficient. His home was built in 1950 and currently has wooden windows. Erwin asked if Frost had pictures, and Frost said no, but the windows will be one panel over one panel made with white vinyl. Dempster asked if they will be similar to the current style, and Frost said yes, but they will not be visible as he has shutters.

Dempster made a motion to approve the proposal by Bill Frost for window replacement at 609 St Philip Street. The motion was seconded by T. Ledet, all Commission members were in favor, motion carried 4 to 0, with 1 absent and 0 abstaining.

Erwin introduced the fourth item on the agenda - to review proposed changes to Historic District ordinance.

Erwin read a portion of the ordinance proposal and asked for public comment.

Lee Warren, 606 St Philip Street, stepped forward to comment. She stated that she thinks the commission should consist of at least two or three people who live in the historic district. There should also be someone who works in architecture or engineering. She questions the boundaries of the Historic District, and suggested that the commission look at the Greenwich survey that was the original survey of Thibodaux. Warren recommended that realtors, title companies and lawyers be notified of the requirements of the Historic District.

Robert Wittmann, 219 W 7<sup>th</sup> Street, stepped forward to comment. He recommended that, if the ordinance will mandate appearances in front of the commission, that they make is very clear who needs to go before the commission and what type of projects the commission wants to review.

Erwin explained that they are working to make the ordinance more binding. Dempster said that the new Thibodaux Main Street Director is working on a directory of all business and property owners and will provide them information on the Historic District ordinances once they have been revised. She added she and Reulet had been working on door hangers to be distributed in the residential areas. Erwin discussed the process of the commission making recommendations to Planning & Zoning. The commissioners discussed the appeals process. T. Ledet questioned if all the requests should be sent to City Council, or just appeals. Mayor Clement stated that he thought it should just be appeals that get sent to Council. Erwin read section on demolitions and noted that they would like to recommend against demolishing buildings in the Historic District, unless it is a matter of health and safety. T. Ledet noted that this part of the ordinance opens up a conversation of the property, instead of just jumping to issuing a permit to tear the building down.

Eileen Frost, 609 St Philip Street, asked for clarification of "historic building" and wondered if they meant buildings with historic status or buildings within the historic district.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05p.m.