

Call to Order: Drew Barth opened the meeting.

Roll Call:

Commission Member			Advisory Board Member	
Drew Barth	P		Bryan Robbins	P
Melanie Maxwell	P		Terry Wagner	P
Karin Harter	P		Technical Advisors	
John Schmalenberg	P			
Theresa Schwering	P		Joe Jarzen	X
Planning Office				
Kathy Reynolds	P			
P=Present			X=Absent	
E=Excused				

Guests: Mayor Gary Herbert, City Council Members: Helen Gardner and Darrell Poling; Vietta McKensie; Building owners: Edna Wagner with her daughter Barb, and Judy Curd; Media representatives: Sandy Biddinger, WTRE.

Approval of Minutes

John Schmalenberg made the motion to approve the February 23, 2011 minutes as emailed out. Melanie Maxwell seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

A. City Council Meeting

1. March 7th @ 7 PM
 - a. Reviewed actions taken at the March 7th Council meeting where the 2nd reading of the amendment was approved.
 - b. Next meeting of City Council will be April 4th @ 7 PM for the 3rd reading
 - c. Discussed the idea of holding another public meeting
2. Bryan has gone around and spoken with property owners again
3. Contacted by one property owner who is ideologically opposed because “doesn’t want government telling me what to do”, but also admitted “it won’t kill me to be in the district”
4. Drew spoke with 1st Presbyterian, but once Drew explained, they were fine and Church Session was in support
5. Those who spoke with property owners encountered that some had “mis-information” about what a district does and doesn’t entail
6. Melanie went around and when she came up to an owner, she asked them if they had concerns and most were pleased to be updated
7. Bryan also had questions about fires and the need to build the new building back to the way the old building was; which is actually discouraged
8. Some were surprised at what the guidelines did and didn’t cover.
9. The idea of a story in the media was also discussed.
10. Discussion also held on the pros and cons of postponing the 3rd reading
11. Terry Wagner asked if his mother’s building can be “opted out;” however, that would open up others opting out and leaving us without a concise district.
12. Mrs. Wagner expressed her desire to not be a part of the district and it was explained why the Commission couldn’t exclude her, based solely on the location of her building. The Commission also thanked her for taking the time and effort to let us know how she felt.
13. Non-contributing was explained to those present—while not historically significant due to age or historical features being gone or damaged, non-contributing buildings are apart of the district if they fall within the boundary lines of the district. In some cases, the non-contributing building may be in the middle or adjacent to a historically important building. To not hold the non-contributing building to the same standards runs the risk of damaging the historical significance of the outstanding, notable or contributing building.

14. The history of how the HPC came to be was reviewed again for those present, dispelling the notion that HPC is just a not-for-profit group or a committee who just dreamed this idea up. Instead, the HPC was created by a City Ordinance and our task is to define the boundaries of the downtown historic district.
15. Darrell Poling told the Commission that he'd gone around and spoke with building owners as well and found 30 in favor and 4 against. He also noted that he was surprised at the small attendance of building owners at the meeting. Two building owners were present; one with one property who was against, and one with two properties who was in favor.
16. Helen Gardner told the Commission she'd come to see how many property owners showed up at our meeting, and she too expressed surprise at the small number
17. Helen and Darrell both thanked the Commission for taking the time to try and clear up the mis-information and to answer questions about the process.
18. The Mayor thanked the Commission for the due diligence put into the task over the last 4 years.
19. Decision was made to move forward with the April 4th request for the approval of the 3rd reading of the district boundary proposal before City Council

Meeting Adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 @ 5:30 PM

Minutes were emailed to Commission Members, Advisors and City Hall on April 21, 2011

Approval of Minutes _____