



TRENTON-DADE

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Commissioners' Public Meeting Room
Dade County Government Administrative Building
71 Case Avenue, Room 259
Trenton, Georgia 30752

MINUTES

This document is tentative until ratified and approved by the Historic Preservation Commission; and therefore shall not be binding on the county or any officer.

Scheduled date for ratification: June 11, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Donna Street called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL ~ COMMISSION MEMBERS

Donna Street, Chairperson	PRESENT	County Representative
Audrey Clark, Vice Chair	PRESENT	City Representative
Rex Blevins	PRESENT	County Representative
Sarah Moore	PRESENT	County Representative
Cindy Richie	PRESENT	City Representative

Chairperson Donna Street announced a quorum of Commission members present, and therefore a legal meeting was called to order and in session.

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ted Rumley, County Executive	PRESENT	<i>Ex-officio member for Dade County</i>
Alex Case, Mayor of Trenton	ABSENT	<i>Ex-officio member for City of Trenton</i>

COUNTY STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Don Townsend, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners	PRESENT
William Back, Executive Director of Economic Development	PRESENT

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Donna Street called for any changes to the agenda, hearing no changes the Chair called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Sarah Moore moved to approve the agenda, and Commissioner Audrey Clark seconded the motion on the floor. The Chair called for approval of the agenda by polling each Commissioner whereas the board unanimously approved the agenda as presented:

Motion made by: Mrs. Sarah Moore
Seconded by: Mrs. Audrey Clark
Those voting in favor: 5 – Blevins, Clark, Moore, Richie, Street
Those opposed: 0 – N/A
Decision: Passed by unanimous vote

READING OF MINUTES

Chairperson Donna Street announced the reading of the minutes from the previous regular meeting of the Trenton-Dade County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) held on April 9, 2019 would not be necessary since all commissioners' were provided an electronic copy of the minutes prior to today's meeting. The Chair called for any corrections to the minutes, hearing none she entertained a motion to accept the minutes as presented by Mr. Don Townsend, Recording Secretary of the HPC. Commissioner Cindy Richie moved to approve the minutes as presented, and Commissioner Sarah Moore seconded the motion on the floor. The Chair called for approval of the minutes by polling each Commissioner whereas the board unanimously approved the minutes as recorded:

Motion made by: Mrs. Cindy Richie
Seconded by: Mrs. Sarah Moore
Those voting in favor: 5 – Blevins, Clark, Moore, Richie, Street
Those opposed: 0 – N/A
Decision: Passed by unanimous vote

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS APPLICATIONS

There were no applications presented or decisions pending at today's meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairperson Donna Street called upon each Commissioner to begin thinking about our 20/20 Vision for Historic Preservation in Dade County, and our opportunity to suggest recommendations to the Dade County Board of Commissioners for the upcoming special purpose local option sales tax (SPLOST) referendum that may occur in March 2020 in conjunction with the Georgia Presidential Preference Primary. No official action was required or taken.

Chairperson Street called upon Mr. William Back to discuss the changes made to the proposed Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) application following recommendations received from each Commissioner's input since the last meeting. Mr. Back continued to receive input from the group and agreed to make these final changes. Since no material changes were made to the document Chairperson Street recommended adoption of the form as amended. Commissioner Sarah Moore moved to adopt the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) application form as amended. Commissioner Audrey Clark seconded the motion on the floor. The Chair called for approval of the COA form by polling each Commissioner whereas the board unanimously approved the form as amended:

Motion made by: Mrs. Sarah Moore
Seconded by: Mrs. Audrey Clark
Those voting in favor: 5 – Blevins, Clark, Moore, Richie, Street
Those opposed: 0 – N/A
Decision: Passed by unanimous vote

Chairperson Street called on Mr. Don Townsend to introduce Mr. Bruce Case who was invited to the meeting to report on the status of the architectural and engineering design plans. Mr. Case told the group he was able to measure the entire building and has prepared drawings and building plans. Mr. Case stated he had just left a meeting with the City's Inspector and local Fire Marshall's office. He had an initial call with the State Fire Marshall to further discuss the official designation of the building's purpose in order to accommodate the maximum number of individuals that may inhabit the building, especially the second floor. He noted since there is only one point of ingress and egress to the upstairs of the building, we may be limited to an "open office space" designation with a limited occupancy on the second floor. He has plans to further discuss other options with a historic preservation engineer who is located in Savannah, Georgia.

Furthermore, Mr. Case also noted a large amount of rotten wood in the attic regarding the frame and support beams. He noted the immediate need to address these issues with replacement wooden beams. He referenced the Blizzard of 1993 that if a snowfall occurred today like twenty-six years ago, the weight of the snow would cause the roof to collapse. Regarding the ADA restrooms he recommended using the small center office facing south (what may have once been the Superintendent of Schools office). The plumbing and access would meet all federal and state ADA compliance and code. He stated there is simply not enough room on the north end of the building's main floor to house an ADA restroom. However, he believed sufficient space is available to construct two additional restrooms to be located under the stairwells, just not ADA compliance restrooms.

Finally Mr. Case finished by saying the building does have strong bones and is a true historic treasure, therefore, he's thrilled to know the leadership of Dade County is investing the time and required resources to restore this fine old historic courthouse building. He hopes to have all architectural and engineering design work completed and in the hands of this Commission by July 7, 2019 or shortly thereafter that same week, prior to the HPC's July meeting. Mr. Case entertained a host of questions from the Commissioners before dismissing himself from the remainder of the meeting. No official action was required or taken.

Chairperson Street called upon Mr. Ted Rumley to make a report regarding the exterior wall repairs. He noted the contract to make the repairs had been completed this afternoon (once again, after another vehicle struck the north side of the old courthouse building). No out of pocket expenses were suffered by the County, since the individual's insurance paid to restore the brick exterior wall. No official action was required or taken

Chairperson Street reported on the capital fund raising projects by calling on Mr. Townsend who reported the availability of twenty-four (24) windows for purchase. Of those windows eight (8) windows are currently reserved for specific purposes e.g. designation by the HPC of former elected officials collectively represented i.e. former Sheriffs', Probate Judges', District Attorneys', Superior Court Clerks', Tax Commissioners' (Treasurers') and two other windows being considered for purchase by individual families. Chairperson Street thanked the committee for their hard work. No official action was required or taken.

Chairperson Street stated this year's historical calendar sales were slower than the 2018 calendar campaign, however, we still consider the sales very successful. Ms. Street recommended selling any remaining calendars for a donation or if someone is moving into Dade County, or a business has recently relocated to the area to just give them a complementary calendar. No official action was required or taken.

Chairperson Street called on Mr. Don Townsend to report on our Certified Local Government (CLG) grant application to conduct an archeological survey of Trenton. Mr. Townsend stated he has not heard any news as of today on the decision from the State's Historic Preservation Division (HPD). Ms. Street did note that when Mrs. Sarah Rogers recently visited Dade County to present the County and City with our official CLG certificate she mentioned in her remarks to the crowd that the HPD would be making a decision by the end of May 2019 on the CLG awards. No official action was required or taken.

Chairperson Street reviewed the other grant opportunities listed on the agenda. She also noted the Georgia Heritage Grant application packages were announced a couple of weeks ago online. Mr. Townsend passed out grant applications for this particular grant and discussed the differences between the 'Development' and 'Predevelopment' grants. The deadline is July 1, 2019 and it was agreed upon to begin working on this bricks and mortar (Development) grant immediately to assist with Phase One of the restoration design plans on the old courthouse being created by Mr. Bruce Case. A portion of the funding for this grant is from the National Park Service (NPS) Historic Revitalization Sub-grant Program (HRSP). Remaining funding for the grant originates from the State's sale of the Historic Preservation license plates. These competitive grant awards must be matched at a 60% state to 40% (cash) local ratio. No official action was required or taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Street recommended the creation of an agenda for public informational meetings to discuss Historic Preservation initiatives in order to better educate our local community, and hopefully build common goals among our citizens relating to historic preservation. Commissioner Cindy Richie provided the title: "Your Future, Our Past". Everyone agreed to

begin brainstorming about this idea and report back our ideas in thirty days to propose a series of meetings beginning Fall 2019. No official action was required or taken.

Chairperson Street called upon Mr. Don Townsend to make two announcements. Mr. Townsend announced training opportunities were coming up at the Georgia Statewide Historic Preservation Conference will be held in Rome, Georgia September 18-20, 2019 whereas members may choose to travel down for only one day of the event if you so choose. Registration is now open if you plan on attending then please let Don know or go online yourself and register. Since our HPC is a member of the Georgia Alliance of Preservation Commissions (GAPC) you may qualify for a reduced price in registration. Also, this same group (GAPC) may offer a scholarship for anyone who would like to attend the entire conference and stay overnight. Questions may be directed to Sarah Love at sarah.love@dnr.ga.gov .

Mr. Townsend also presented each member with a copy of our HPC's Certified Local Government plaque for their records. And requested the group to pass the word for our local Dade County Tax Commissioner that the State of Georgia is updating our Tag System. The entire State of Georgia will be closing local Tax Commissioners' office at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2019 and will not reopen for business until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2019. No official action was required or taken.

Chairperson Street called for any new business. Hearing no further business to discuss, the Chair announced the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Trenton - Dade County Historic Preservation Commission would take place on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. to be held here inside the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn, whereas Commissioner Sarah Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Chairperson Street then declared the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted as recorded,

Don Townsend, Clerk to the Commission