

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**ATHENS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

**AUGUST 3, 2023**

**3:30 P.M.**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Laura Lenoir  
Timberly Guffey  
Jordan Curtis  
Tyler Boyd

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Chairperson Will Houston  
Jona Garrett

**OTHERS ATTENDING**

Nora Cardin

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. Approval of April 6, 2023 regular meeting minutes**

The minutes of the April 6, 2023, regular meeting were read and approved on motion by Jordan Curtis; seconded by Tyler Boyd; vote – unanimous

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Brochure discussion**

The Commission explained what the brochure entailed to incoming Commissioner Boyd and discussed going to the Register of Deeds office to do more deed research.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) request for Donna Long- 613 Ingleside Avenue- for installation of new black vinyl picket fence.**

Mrs. Cardin said the area Ms. Long wants to fence is in the backyard. The fence will not be attached to the house but will be attached to the small building in the back. It is just an area for their dogs to be fenced in. She showed the Commission pictures of what the fence will look like. It will not be visible from Ingleside.

Mr. Boyd asked if examples of fences that will not get approval would be like chain link.

Mrs. Cardin said the Guidelines say that "new fences and walls should be in traditional materials in locations characteristic of the district. The height should be consistent with that of historic fences and walls. Vinyl and metal chain link fences are not appropriate in front yards or other locations where they are visible from the public right-of-way and existing chain link fences shall be screened with vegetation." Technically the proposed fence is made of vinyl.

Vice Chairperson Lenoir said she could not put it in her front yard.

Mrs. Cardin agreed.

Mrs. Guffey asked if she could if it were wooden.

Vice Chairperson Lenoir said yes, she could if it were.

Mrs. Cardin also said in the Guidelines it does say putting in front yard fences where there were none historically is discouraged. She said she did not think it says forbidden just not advisable.

Vice Chairperson Lenoir said the creation of historical things may be the terminology. It is an allusion of history when it was not like that.

Mrs. Cardin read the application review. "In staff's opinion, the style of the new picket fence does keep with the historic time period and is an upgrade from the old chain link fence. The Guidelines say that vinyl fences are not appropriate where they are visible from the public right-of-way. This fence will be visible from the right-of-way that runs behind the property. It is ultimately up to the AHPC to determine if the installation of a black vinyl picket fence in the backyard would be appropriate." She said there was an old chain link fence there that has already been removed.

Vice Chairperson Lenoir said they are narrow side yards, and you can see very little of her backyard from the street.

Mrs. Cardin said it is not a big area and you will not be able to see from Ingleside.

Vice Chairperson Lenoir said metal painted is ok.

Mrs. Cardin said wrought iron and aluminum fences that look like wrought iron have been approved in the past, but she never had anyone do the vinyl that looks like this one. She explained that Ms. Long is elderly and has some mobility issues and that is why she is not at the meeting.

Mr. Curtis said he thinks since it is a less visible area and it being an upgrade of chain link fence, he is fine with it. He asked if it could be approved with Ms. Long not being present.

Mrs. Cardin said yes.

MOTION: To approve the request as presented.

MADE: Jordan Curtis

SECOND: Timberly Guffey

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION PASSED

**2. Ratification of Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for Laura Lenoir- 500 E. Madison Avenue- for repair of damaged chimney and trimming of tree limbs.**

Mrs. Cardin said Vice Chairperson Lenoir had some chimney damage during one of the recent storms. She showed the Commission pictures.

Vice Chairperson Lenoir said a limb fell from the Chestnut tree that goes over the roof, knocking the top of the chimney off. It is not a functional chimney; she thinks it went to a furnace or something. She talked with the contractor about redoing the brick. It had a cap on it. She is having it done the way it originally was.

Mrs. Cardin said she has the original brick. It will not be new brick for the repair.

Vice Chairperson Lenoir said she wants to put it back the way it was. She said it may be already done.

Mrs. Cardin said this was approved by Staff already and just needs to be ratified.

Vice Chairperson Lenoir said normally she would abstain, but since there is just a quorum there she is going to go ahead and vote so they can get it off the agenda.

Vice Chairperson Lenoir asked if everyone was ok with her voting.

They all agreed that it would be ok.

MOTION: To approve the ratification.

MADE: Tyler Boyd

SECOND: Jordan Curtis  
VOTE: Unanimous  
MOTION PASSED

  
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Will Houston, Chairperson

  
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Kimberly Guffey, Secretary