

MINUTES

ATHENS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

APRIL 4, 2024

3:30 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Laura Lenoir
Timberly Guffey
Chairperson Will Houston
Tyler Boyd
Jona Garrett

MEMBERS ABSENT

Shawn McKeehan
Jordan Curtis

OTHERS ATTENDING

Nora Cardin
Grant Willhite

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of February 1, 2024, regular meeting minutes

The minutes of the February 1, 2024, regular meeting were read and approved on motion by Laura Lenoir; seconded by Jona Garrett; vote – unanimous

OLD BUSINESS

1. Brochure discussion

Chairperson Houston asked if there was any new information on the brochures. There was not.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) request for D. Grant Willhite- 616 E. Madison Avenue- for removal of two trees.

Mrs. Cardin explained that Grant Willhite was present at the meeting, and he wants to take down two trees. The first tree is adjacent to their driveway off Blount Street. The tree had been cut back prior to them moving there in 2022. It continuously drops dead material, including large pieces of bark onto the driveway. It recently dropped a large limb. It is located in the fenced in dog lot, causing threat to the

animals. The tree is no longer healthy, and they are concerned it causes danger to the animals, the house, and vehicle should it fall.

The second tree is adjacent to the south side of the house. It is less than three feet from the foundation of the house. They estimate that the tree is 40-feet tall and is a source of limbs and leaves that cover the roof. It also provides a path for squirrels to access the roof of the house. There was a recent fire at 701 E. Madison that was attributed to squirrel activity. One of the mitigation strategy suggestions for their house was the removal of that tree, which gives the squirrels access to the roof. Given all of these things, they feel the tree poses a threat to the structure and should be removed.

Mrs. Lenoir said it looks as if the first tree is severely compromised.

Mr. Willhite said it was dying.

Chairperson Will Houston said that the Commission's prime objective is to protect the houses in the District and their secondary objective is to protect the shade trees. Having a tree that large three feet from the foundation does not seem like they have any recourse to deny that.

a. Owner Comments

There was no owner comment.

b. Public Comments

There was no public comment.

MOTION: To approve the owner's request to remove the two trees.

MADE: Jona Garrett

SECOND: Timberly Guffey

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION PASSED

2. Ratification of Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for Steven Werner- 601 E. Madison Avenue- for replacement of asphalt shingle roof.

Mrs. Cardin said the new owner of these three properties submitted applications to have new roofs installed on all of them. She showed the Commission the pictures of the properties. She said they all have asphalt shingle roofs currently. They are going back with architectural dimensional asphalt shingles. Staff has already approved all three of them and they each need to be ratified by the Commission.

a. Owner Comments

There was no owner comment.

b. Public Comments

There was no public comment.

MOTION: To ratify the COA (Certificated of Appropriateness)

MADE: Jona Garrett

SECOND: Laura Lenoir

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION PASSED

3. Ratification of Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for Steven Werner- 603 E. Madison Avenue- for replacement of asphalt shingle roof.

MOTION: To ratify the COA (Certificated of Appropriateness)

MADE: Laura Lenoir

SECOND: Jona Garrett

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION PASSED

a. Owner Comments

There was no owner comment.

b. Public Comments

There was no public comment.

4. Ratification of Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for Steven Werner- 605 E. Madison Avenue- for replacement of asphalt shingle roof.

MOTION: To ratify the COA (Certificated of Appropriateness)

MADE: Timberly Guffey

SECOND: Laura Lenoir

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION PASSED


a. Owner Comments

There was no owner comment.

b. Public Comments

There was no public comment.


Will Houston, Chairperson


Kimberly Guffey, Secretary