

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

ATHENS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

APRIL 3, 2025

3:30 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Laura Lenoir
Timberly Guffey
Kim Cochran-Graham
Jordan Curtis
Jona Garrett
Chairperson Shawn McKeehan

MEMBERS ABSENT

Justin White

OTHERS ATTENDING

Nora Cardin
Anthony Casteel
Chris Disch
Mike Stevenson
Jody Harrison
Frank Clark

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of March 6, 2025, regular meeting minutes

The minutes of the March 6, 2025, regular meeting, were read and approved on motion by Laura Lenoir; seconded by Timberly Guffey; vote – unanimous

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion of historic overlay downtown

Mr. McKeehan said they need to set a date for this info session and decide what it should look like.

Mrs. Cardin said she and Mr. Casteel talked about this. She talked to Dr. Tillner about coming to speak like she did at the first meeting. She said she is willing to come back and do a presentation. She and Mr. Casteel also talked about doing a Q&A session and letting the downtown business owners ask questions. She said Mr. McKeehan mentioned that Sandra from Main Street was willing to speak as well. Doing a Q&A with them and opening up the floor would be good because some of them have already seen the presentation. It is up to the Commission.

Mrs. Lenoir asked if they could give them an overview before they do questions.

Mrs. Cardin said yes. She is also sending out a letter with details and where they can find the guidelines before the meeting. She said Dr. Tillner sent her the presentation and she sent a copy to Sandra who in turn emailed it to all her contacts downtown. They can also have it up at the meeting and talk about the benefits.

Mrs. Lenoir asked about showing pictures.

Mrs. Cardin and Mr. Clark said yes.

Mr. McKeehan said that Mrs. Guffey mentioned having it after 5:00. Maybe 5:30.

They agreed that the May 1, 2025, regular meeting would be moved to 5:30 from 3:30. They would do roll call, approval of minutes, and then that would be new business.

Mr. McKeehan asked if anyone wanted to make a motion.

Mrs. Cardin said they would move the regular meeting from 3:30pm to 5:30pm, still at the same location and she would send out a notice to all property owners so they will know they are doing this.

MOTION: To move the regular scheduled meeting from 3:30pm to 5:30pm, at the same location, with Mrs. Cardin sending out notices to the property owners so they can be made aware of the meeting.

MADE: Laura Lenoir

SECOND: Jona Garrett

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION PASSED

Mrs. Cardin said they send out annual letters to the property owner regarding information about the Historic District. She will use that letter as a template for the letter that will be sent to downtown property owners. It was decided that she will send all the information they need for guidelines, the map, and her contact information. They will be informed before the meeting. Mr. Clark will do social media posts, The Morning Fax, and to the DPA (Daily Post Athenian).

There was continued conversation about the buildings downtown.

An unknown person asked if there would be any changes to guidelines they have already.

Mrs. Cardin said no, not at this time.

Mrs. Tillner said that the State is in the process of putting together training for realtors who have property listings in historic districts.

Mrs. Garrett talked about a previous discussion she and Mr. Casteel had about meeting with realtors in the area and giving them a packet pertaining to the historic district.

Mrs. Tillner said her office would be happy to assist with that.

The meeting was adjourned.


Shawn McKeehan, Chairperson


Timberly Guffey, Secretary