

HISTORIC DISTRICT BOARD OF REVIEW
REGULAR MEETING
112 EAST STATE STREET

ARTHUR A. MENDONSA HEARING ROOM

February 13, 2008

2:00 P.M.

MINUTES

HDRB Members Present:

Dr. Malik Watkins, Chairman
Brian Judson, Vice-Chairman
Ned Gay
Gene Hutchinson
Sidney J. Johnson
Richard Law, Sr.
Eric Meyerhoff
Linda Ramsay
Swann Seiler
Joseph Steffen

HDRB/MPC Staff Members Present:

Thomas L. Thomson, P.E./AICP, Exec. Director
Beth Reiter, Historic Preservation Director
Janine N. Person, Administrative Assistant

RE: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Watkins welcomed Professor Bob Allen and his Preservation Law and Preservation Economics class from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

RE: REFLECTION

RE: SIGN POSTING

All signs were properly posted.

RE: CONTINUED AGENDA

RE: Amended Petition of Lindsay, Pope & Brayfield
Assoc.
Buck Lindsay
H-06-3549-2
PIN No. 2-0004-16-009A
199 East Bay Street
Exterior Windows

Continue to March 12, 2008, at the petitioner's request.

RE: Petition of Paul Hansen
Independent Presbyterian Church
H-06-3629-2 (Ref. H-02-2793-2)
PIN No. 2-0015 -13-010
212-214 Whitaker Street
Building Partially Collapsed on February 1, 2008

Continue to March 12, 2008, at the petitioner's request.

RE: Continued Petition of Gunn, Meyerhoff & Shay
Patrick Shay
H-07-3784-2
PIN No. 2-0016-04-003
501 West Bay Street
New Construction Part I Height and Mass –
Hotel/Condominium

Continue to March 12, 2008, at the petitioner's request.

RE: Continued Petition of Houston & Oglethorpe,
LLC
Richard Guerard
H-07-3832-2
PIN No. 2-0005-30-002
143 Houston Street
New Construction/Rehabilitation/Addition Part I,
Height & Mass, Three-Story Condominium

Continue to March 12, 2008, at the petitioner's request.

RE: Continued Petition of Gunn, Meyerhoff & Shay
Patrick Shay
H-07-3862-2
PIN No. 2-0016-03-008
23 Montgomery Street
New Construction Part II, Design Details – Hotel

Continue to March 12, 2008, at the petitioner's request.

RE: Continued Petition of Gunn, Meyerhoff & Shay
Patrick Shay
H-07-3916-2
PIN No. 2-0015-01-001
225 East President Street
New Construction, Part I Height and Mass for a
Five-Story Condominium

Continue to March 12, 2008, at the petitioner's request.

HDRB ACTION: Mr. Judson made a motion that the Savannah Historic District Board of Review approve the Continued Agenda items as presented. Ms. Seiler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

RE: CONSENT AGENDA

RE: Petition of Chalmers Concepts Corporation
Lee Chalmers
H-08-3944-2
PIN No 2-0004-14-004
Sign
10 Whitaker Street

The Preservation Officer recommends approval.

RE: Petition of Mr. Rodney Arnold, Agent for
Mr. Rob Ritcher
H-08-3949-2
PIN No. 2-0043-02-026
531 & 533 East Hall Street
Demolition

The Preservation Officer recommends approval.

HDRB ACTION: Ms. Seiler made a motion that the Savannah Historic District Board of Review approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

RE: REGULAR AGENDA

RE: Amended Petition of Gunn, Meyerhoff & Shay
Patrick Shay
H-07-3838-2
IN No. 2-0015-34-001
15 East Liberty Street
Alterations to Previously Approved Items

The Preservation Officer recommends approval.

Present for the petition was Mr. Patrick Shay.

Ms. Ward gave the Staff report.

Mr. Meyerhoff recused himself.

NATURE OF REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting approval to amend a previous application for alterations and additions to the exterior of the DeSoto Hilton at 15 East Liberty Street as follows:

1. Construct a one-story addition to the southeast portion of the pool house on the second level. The addition projects 11'-7.5" off of the east end of the roof and is 27'-11.25" to match the width of the existing pool house. The addition will be surfaced in EIFS to match the existing pool house and the roof will be of standing seam metal to match the existing roof. New aluminum frame windows, 6/6 double-hung sash and three light fixed, are proposed to match the existing windows.

2. Alter the detailing of the semi-circular glass entrance canopy and brackets to the north porte cochere. A decorative parapet has also been added.
3. Alter detailing in balustrades and railings throughout as noted on the plans.
4. The glass enclosed addition along the north elevation at Liberty Street, as previously approved by the HDRB, is no longer going to be built revealing the entrance that was approved at the previous meeting (January 9, 2008).
5. The signage is to remain the same as was approved by the HRB at the October 2007 meeting, with the exception of the sign above the north canopy which has been eliminated, and the hanging sign within the circular canopy (Page 8 of 8) has been reduced in size.

FINDINGS:

The DeSoto Hilton at 15 East Liberty Street was constructed ca. 1972 and is not a rated structure within Savannah's Landmark District. Modifications to the Brutalist style entrances, railings, and signage were approved by the Historic District Review Board in September and October of 2007. The proposed addition to the pool house will be minimally visible from Harris and Liberty Streets, and materials will match the existing structure.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval as submitted. Staff also recommends that the applicant work with the Savannah – Chatham Site and Monument Commission to refurbish and reinstall the Georgia Historical Commission marker which is to be relocated during this project. This is state property and should not be relocated on private property.

Ms. Seiler asked if they had spoken to the Hilton representatives about having the marker relocated, if they were amicable, and if the original raised lettering was still under the plaque.

Ms. Ward stated that they sanded it down to place a flat piece on there. The text read the same but the marker would have to be redone.

Ms. Ramsay asked how visible was the roof addition because it did not meet the criteria for window rhythms, sizes, and verticality. She asked if it would be visible from the right-of-way.

Ms. Ward said that she did not think the windows could be seen but could see the roof. She said that she went down Harris Street and could see the pool house. The elevation faces Drayton Street and the pool house was not that visible from Drayton Street.

PETITIONER'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Patrick Shay (Gunn, Meyerhoff & Shay) stated that the marker was done by the prior owners and they could not recollect how it got there or what has happened to it. He said they were agreeable to see what needed to be done to remake the marker, and on the plans it is shown on the public right-of-way.

Ms. Seiler stated that it was under the Georgia Historical Society now and that there was a fee. She said she thought it was the right thing to do by working with the Site and Monument Committee.

HDRB ACTION: Ms. Seiler made a motion that the Savannah Historic District Board of Review approve the petition with the condition that the petitioner meet with the Site and Monument Commission to restore the existing historic marker and move it to a more public location. Mr. Hutchinson seconded the motion and it passed 7 to 1. Mr. Meyerhoff recused himself.

Mr. Gay arrived at 2:15 p.m.

**RE: Petition of Born To Eat Enterprises, LLC
Maryanne Smith
H-08-3943-2
PIN No. 2-0004-13-007
115 West Bay Street
Sign**

The Preservation Officer recommends **approval**.

There was no one present for the petition.

Ms. Ward gave the Staff report.

NATURE OF REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting approval for signage on the building at 115 West Bay Street as follows:

1. Projecting Sign on Bay Street facade:

The sign is located on the granite storefront and brick at the second floor on the northwest corner of the building. It is 8'-11" tall by 1'-2" wide and 1'4" deep projecting a total of 3'-4" from the face of the building for a total square footage of 11.8 square feet. The sign is internally illuminated with three sign faces. They feature lettering for "FIVE GUYS". The side face features a white acrylic background painted Pantone Cool Grey One with translucent PMS 186 red graphics. The front view is PMS 186 red background with white text. The sign is attached with two steel 4" square mounting brackets with decorative scroll work painted black.

2. Fascia Sign on Barnard Street facade:

A fascia sign on Barnard Street located on the brick between the first and second floor windows. It is approximately 10'-7.5" wide by 2'-3.5" tall with an approximate square footage of 21 square feet. It is comprised of internally illuminated 10" deep channel letters for "Five Guys Burgers and Fries." "Five Guys" in Helvetica font and "Burgers and Fries" in Tekton font. The letters are mounted on raceways attached to the building painted to match the building face. The letters for "Five Guys" are white acrylic with a black outline; the text for "Burgers and Fries" has translucent red graphics on the white background.

3. Awning Sign on Bay Street:

A black awning sign is proposed over the Bay Street entrance. It is 21.5' long, 4.5' tall, and projects 4.5' from the face of the building. The valance is 1'-4" tall and will contain white graphics on the front and sides as follows: "Five Guys" in Helvetica font and "Burgers and Fries" in Tekton font. Letters on the sides are 5.75" tall.

FINDINGS:

The historic building at 115 West Bay Street was originally constructed in 1852 and is a rated structure within Savannah's National Historic Landmark District. The building has recently undergone extensive repairs and alterations. The front façade on Bay Street and a small portion of the Barnard Street elevation are all that remain of the historic fabric. All efforts to preserve these remaining portions of the building should be undertaken.

All of the signs have been revised and reduced in size per Staff comments. The revised signs are more appropriate for the building and its location on Bay Street. Previously, all signs were larger internally illuminated channel letters both on Bay and Barnard Streets. The applicant has addressed all of Staff's concerns. The property is zoned B-C-1 (Central-Business), and the following standards from the Historic Sign District ordinance (Section 8-3121) apply:

(B) Requirements

(2) Sign Clearance and Height. *Minimum clearance shall not be less than ten feet above pedestrian ways...*

The standard is met. The projecting sign is 10' above the sidewalk.

(a) Fascia and Projecting Signs *shall be erected only on the signable area of the structure and shall not project over the roofline or parapet wall elevation of the structure.*

The standard is met. Both signs have been revised to fit within the signable area of the structure. The blade sign was proposed in lieu of a 30' wide fascia sign on the historic granite and the Barnard Street sign has been reduced in size.

(3) Lighted Signs. *Lighted signs of an enclosed lamp, neon or exposed fluorescent design are not permitted within any "R" zoning district. However such lighted signs, except for those of exposed fluorescent design, are permitted within the nonresidential zoning districts. Such signs shall be in scale and harmony with the surrounding structures and open spaces. The use of reversed silhouette or "cut-out" letters is encouraged to reduce glare where back lighting is applied.*

The standard is met. Both illuminated signs have been revised to be more in keeping with the scale and harmony of the building and other signs on Bay Street.

(11) Principal Use Sign...*for each nonresidential use, one principal use sign shall be permitted. Such sign shall not exceed a size of more than one square foot of sign area per linear foot of frontage along a given street or shall meet the following size requirements whichever is most restrictive [40 SF for fascia sign; 30 SF for projecting sign with a maximum projection of 6'].*

The standard is met. The zoning administrator has determined that a business can have one sign per street frontage. The business maintains approximately 60 linear feet along Bay Street and 45 linear feet along Barnard Street. Generally, the square footage for signs comprised of individual letters only takes the square footage of the letter into consideration. Since the channel letters are mounted on a raceway, the entire sign area has been taken into consideration.

(a) Awnings. Within nonresidential zoning districts, in addition to the permitted principal use sign, one awning principal use sign shall be permitted for each entrance providing public access. Such sign shall not exceed a size of more than one square foot of sign face per linear foot of canopy or awning, or a maximum of 20 square feet, whichever is lesser; provided, however, that the aggregate total principal use sign area for the subject use is not exceeded along that street frontage. Signs on the opposite ends of an awning shall be considered a single sign. Individual letters or symbols not to exceed six inches...shall be exempt from this provision.

The standard is met. The business maintains approximately 60 linear feet along Bay Street. The letters on the sides of the awning are less than 6" tall.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Mark McDonald (Historic Savannah Foundation) stated that they wanted to commend Staff for working with the applicant to get the sign within the square footage. He said that with it being simple that it complimented the 1850's building.

HDRB ACTION: Mr. Steffen made a motion that the Savannah Historic District Board of Review approve the petition as submitted. Mr. Ned Gay seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**RE: Petition of DSK Holdings, LLC
 Shunali Bhoola
 H-08-3945-2
 PIN No. 2-0015-09-024
 139 Bull Street
 Existing Windows,
 Doors/Rehabilitation/Alteration**

The Preservation Officer recommends **approval with conditions.**

Present for the petition was Mr. Robert Jones.

Ms. Ward gave the Staff report.

NATURE OF REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting approval for exterior alteration to the storefront at 139 Bull Street. The storefront is one of four that are located within the same structure fronting Bull Street. The proposed storefront will be wood with insulated glass. The base is 2'-8" tall with decorative paneling. The glass is recessed within the frame and the frame is recessed 5" within the opening. The existing columns will be retained as they are with a new stucco base to match other columns on the building. The entrance will feature a wood frame door with a glass panel and wood panels at the bottom. A transom is located above the door. The storefront will be painted Savannah Green.

FINDINGS:

The historic building at 135 -139 Bull Street was constructed in 1875, and is a rated structure within Savannah's National Historic Landmark District. The original storefront to this and several other businesses within the building were modified and bricked in ca. 1970. Only one storefront, at 137 Bull Street, was restored/reconstructed ca. 1994, with a wood frame and single-pane glass. This is immediately adjacent to the proposed storefront. While there is some room for variation, the design of the storefronts should be consistent. No historic photographs of the building have been found.

The neighboring storefront is recessed the full depth of the outer wall with an 18" ledge on the wood frame base, which is approximately 1.5' to 2' tall. Staff recommends that the proposed storefront base height be consistent with the neighboring storefront to create a line of visual continuity to the building.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval with the condition that the base of the storefront be lowered to match the height of the neighboring unit.

PETITIONER'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Robert Jones (President of the Condominium Association representing Shunali Bhoola) stated that they were pleased with what Ms. Bhoola wanted to do with the building and did not have a problem with lowering the height. He said the main reason for the other height was that on the adjoining building there was a ledge that was approximately 12 to 14 inches deep. At that height it was a convenient place for people to sit, and the idea was to avoid it. He did not have a problem with leaving it the way it was and making the four storefronts individual.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Mark McDonald (Historic Savannah Foundation) stated that he agreed with Staff that it was a reasonable and sound recommendation, and that the applicant should be as consistent as they possibly could.

HDRB ACTION: Ms. Seiler made a motion that the Savannah Historic District Board of Review approve the petition with the condition that the base of the storefront be lowered to match the height of the neighboring unit. Mr. Ned Gay seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

RE: Petition of St. Philip A.M.E. Church
David F. Richards, Jr.
H-08-3946(S)-2
613 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Gate at Front Door

The Preservation Officer recommends **approval in concept with the details going back to Staff.**

Present for the petition was Mr. David F. Richards, Jr.

Ms. Reiter gave the Staff report.

NATURE OF REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting approval to install a metal gate at the front door of St. Philip A.M.E. Church. The gate consists of iron bars with arrow shaped finials on the ends of the bars.

FINDINGS:

1. The applicant states that the gate will help secure the front door locking system.
2. St. Philip A.M.E. Church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was built in 1911 and designed by John A. Lankford, one of the foremost African-American Architects in the country. (See attached biography.)
3. In Staff's opinion, the use of iron bars on the doors creates a prison look.
4. The church is located within the MLK redevelopment corridor.

RECOMMENDATION:

Continuance in that the petitioner submit a more ornamental design.

Mr. Steffen asked if Staff was recommending that the concept of the gate be approved but that the details go back to Staff.

Ms. Reiter answered yes.

Mr. Hutchinson asked if the center door was the only entrance because he saw two other doors.

Ms. Reiter stated that she asked that question and the petitioner said that it was just the central entrance.

Mr. David F. Richards, Jr. (St. Philip A.M.E. Church) stated that the center door was the only one that had a locking system. He said that the inside of the other two adjacent doors were locked with metal handles. They were trying to preserve the locking system on the center door because the construction of it was getting weak and people could come by, shake it, and set off the alarm. They did not want to make the gate look like prison bars, but that it would have a decorative design to meet the standards.

Mr. Steffen asked if they had a problem with allowing it to go back to Staff to create an ornamental design.

Mr. Richards answered no and said they would appreciate it.

Mr. Gay asked if putting up the gate would stop people from pushing on the door.

Mr. Richards stated that they would not be able to get in. He said that in this particular area that people have gotten into the church and they wanted to prevent it.

HDRB ACTION: Mr. Steffen made a motion that the Savannah Historic District Review Board approve the petition with the condition that the final design details of the gate go to Staff for review. Ms. Seiler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**RE: Petition of Doug Bean Signs, Inc.
Donna Swanson
H-08-3948-2
PIN No. 2-0016-09-003
30 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Sign**

The Preservation Officer recommends **approval**.

Present for the petition was Mr. Doug Bean.

Ms. Ward gave the Staff report.

NATURE OF REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting approval to install an illuminated double-sided principal use projecting sign on the building at 30 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (MLK) as follows:

1. **Location:** Second floor of the west elevation (facing MLK), 12 to 13 feet above the sidewalk attached to the building with a solid black mounting plate.
2. **Size:** The double-sided projecting sign is 8' tall and projects 4'-4" from the face of the building and is less 22.6 square feet. The sign has been reduced from the original submittal of 10' by 6' (28.25 SF) to address Staff concerns about the size of the sign.
3. **Design:** The sign is comprised of a triangular base with a raised graphic and the text "Sushi Zen" below. The graphic and text will be located on both sides of the triangular base.
4. **Color:** The triangular base and text outline are white (#010); the text and outline on the graphic are black (#070); and the graphic features white and dark green (#060) on a red (#030) circular base.
5. **Lighting:** The white triangular base and text outline are not illuminated. The black text are cut-out and covered with black opaque letters with halo/internal lighting. The circular graphic has raised dimensional graphics in black with reverse silhouette lighting.

FINDINGS:

The historic building at 28-30 MLK Jr. Blvd. was constructed ca. 1870-80, and is a rated building within Savannah's National Historic Landmark District. The building has recently undergone renovation and received assistance through the SDRAs façade loan program. The signage is part of that program.

The applicant has revised the submittal to address Staff's initial concerns about the size of the sign due to the size of the building and its proximity to the Landmark Scarborough house directly across the street. As such, Staff supports the petition and recommends approval of the sign.

The property is zoned B-C-1 (Central Business) and the following standards from the Historic Sign District ordinance (Section 8-3121) apply:

(B) Requirements

(2) Sign Clearance and Height. Adequate sign clearance shall be provided to assure that pedestrian or vehicular traffic movements and safety are not adversely affected. Minimum clearance shall not be less than ten feet above pedestrian ways...(a) Fascia and projecting signs shall be erected only on the signable area of the structure and shall not project over the roofline or parapet wall elevation of the structure.

The standard is met. The sign maintains a 12 to 13-foot vertical clearance above the sidewalk.

(3) Lighted Signs of an enclosed lamp, neon or exposed fluorescent design are not permitted within any “R” zoning district. However, such lighted signs, except for those of exposed fluorescent design, are permitted within the non-residential zoning districts. Such signs shall be in scale and harmony with the surrounding structures and open spaces. The use of reversed silhouette or “cut-out” letters is encouraged to reduce glare where back lighting is applied.

Illuminated signs historically existed along West Broad Street and have been approved recently in this area. Staff recommends approval of the illuminated amended sign which has been reduced in size and scale.

(11) Principal Use Sign Requirements... For each non-residential use, one principal use sign shall be permitted. Such sign shall not exceed a size of more than one-square-foot of sign area per linear foot of frontage along a given street or shall meet the following size requirements, whichever is the most restrictive [30 SF with a maximum projection of 6 feet, provided that no portion of a sign shall be erected within two feet of a curb line.]

The standard is met; the sign is 22.6 square feet and the business maintains 32 linear feet along MLK. The sidewalk is 16 feet wide at this location. The size of the sign has been reduced by from 28.25 square feet to address Staff comments.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval as amended.

HDRB ACTION: Mr. Gay made a motion that the Savannah Historic District Board of Review approve the petition as amended. Mr. Hutchinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

F. STAFF REVIEWS

1. Petition of Jan Vandenbulck
H-08-3941(S)-2
201 West Bay Street
Replace Fence

STAFF DECISION: **APPROVED**

2. Petition of J. T. Turner Construction Co.
H-08-3942(S)-2
21 West Perry Street
Shutters
STAFF DECISION: APPROVED

3. Petition of Dawson + Wissmach Architects
Andrew Lynch
H-08-3947(S)-2
42 East Bay Street
Stair Replacement
STAFF DECISION: APPROVED

G. MINUTES - Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2007

HDRB ACTION: Ms. Seiler made a motion that the Savannah Historic District Board of Review approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Gay seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Petition of Sottile and Sottile**
H-06-3626-2
PIN No. 2-0016-16-003
38 Habersham Street and 418 - 422 East Congress Lane
One-Year Extension

Ms. Reiter stated that the petition was previously approved on February 14, 2007, and they were requesting a one-year extension. She said that one of the buildings is three stories faces Habersham Street and behind it on the lane were three townhouses. There have been no changes since the initial approval and Staff recommended approval of a one-year extension.

HDRB ACTION: Ms. Ramsay made a motion that the Savannah Historic District Board of Review approve the One-Year Extension as presented. Mr. Gay seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Revisions to By-Laws

Ms. Reiter stated that the By-Laws were received by the Board members and they would be discussed and voted on at the next meeting.

Dr. Watkins stated that the Board members should make sure they read through the Procedural Manual and By-Laws, look at the proposed amendments, and be prepared to vote.

Ms. Reiter stated that they were proposing a unified document that would parallel what MPC uses, and it was where the other Boards were headed.

Ms. Ramsay asked that when something was constructed that was not in compliance with what the Review Board had approved and had not been approved by Staff, that a cloud should be put on the elevation to indicate changes. She said that any changes made would have to comply with what the Review Board approved and not come back later to ask for forgiveness. The responsibility would be on the part of the person making changes to comply with what the Review Board approved, and if they don't, then they would have to come into compliance.

There has been a case at almost every meeting where something was built and non-compliance, then would come back to the Board and ask them to approve it anyway.

Mr. Gay asked if she meant on a building permit.

Mr. Meyerhoff stated that she meant any changes that were made.

Ms. Ramsay stated for any changes made to the drawings like the hotel where the windows were not recessed three inches as shown on the drawings. They said it was indicated in the specifications and that Staff should have caught it. In normal architectural practice when something is changed a cloud was drawn around it and it is dated. It becomes a part of a set of drawings, and it was not done with the changes in the hotel windows. Had it been done it would have been caught when it was brought back to Staff.

Mr. Gay stated that when Staff gets ready to stamp it for approval it would be obvious.

Ms. Ramsay stated that they then come back to the Board and say it would be too expensive to do it and the Board was taking the time to go through it.

Mr. Steffen asked if Staff had the authority to tell the architects and people making submissions what type of submission Staff wanted or what quality they wanted.

Ms. Reiter stated that they did say that changes had to come back to the Board. She said that she thought it was a good thing to add to the application.

Mr. Steffen asked that if there was a change in the way Staff did the application wouldn't it be something done internally, and why would the Board have to change the By-Laws.

Ms. Ramsay stated that was her question; she did not know if this was the place to bring it up.

Mr. Meyerhoff stated that if there were changes to be made, that the applicants make a drawing that clearly showed what the changes were. He said it would be on record and in the files.

Mr. Johnson asked if it would come back to the Board for approval.

Ms. Reiter stated that it would have to.

3. Report on Part I and Part II Review Criteria

Ms. Ward stated that there were questions at the last meeting when an application came forward for Part II. She said that people might have been trying to look at Part I issues and there might have been some confusion. The page from the application provided information listed for Part I and Part II submittals, and it was on the application so that the applicant would know what they were faced with before coming to the Review Board. This information was in the Board members binders if there was any question.

Dr. Watkins stated that to streamline the process that it should be emphasized more in the future to make sure that the Board was deliberating the right issues.

Ms. Reiter stated that it came up because there was some confusion last time when people brought up items that had already been heard.

4. GAPC Spring Training – Douglas, GA

Ms. Reiter stated that the Georgia Association of Preservation Commission would have their spring training and Dr. Watkins would be attending. She said there would be another session in the fall but did not have the dates yet. There will be two each year and they could send a County and City member.

Ms. Ward stated that they only had the budget for one person to go but that any Board member could attend.

Mr. Steffen stated that it could be a request to the City that would be favorably viewed upon if there were two members that wanted to go. He said he thought they wanted to see members of the Board be adequately trained and understand the law, and if Staff made the request they might say ok.

I. WORK PERFORMED WITHOUT CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Ms. Reiter stated that the Bay Street issue would have to be continued until next month, but knew of three other hotels by the same architect that have the same problem. She said that one had not been built yet and was caught, and Staff was working with the architect. The second one the windows went in this week and Staff was trying to notify them. Gunn, Meyerhoff and Shay were not the representatives of this hotel any more, but Lindsay, Pope, and Brayfield out of Atlanta.

Dr. Watkins asked if the architect had a history.

Ms. Reiter stated that there were four. She asked for suggestions on approaching it and thought that a letter should be sent to Lindsay, Pope and Brayfield to find out why it keeps occurring.

Mr. Steffen stated that another option would be for the Board to deny it, make them replace it, and then they would stop. He said that when they came to the Board the first time it was presented as something that was missed, which was reasonable. If it comes to the Board more than once or four times, then the petitioner just doesn't care.

Ms. Seiler stated that it was blatant.

Dr. Watkins stated that after going to the site and reviewing the windows that they were the same windows on the hotel out at the airport, which clearly did not show respect for the Historic District or design capability and things of that nature.

Mr. Steffen stated that if the Board made them take them out and put in other windows they would get the message.

Mr. Thomson stated that the suggestion was to deny according to Staff's recommendation for the one on Abercorn and Bay Streets, and that Staff would explore other remedies. He said they would notify the City Manager to see if there were legal or license remedies to be explored. Something was going on and it did not seem to be an accident. He asked how many times could you come to Savannah and ignore the standard that was in writing and available on the website. A professional that had an AIA after their name should have an ethical responsibility according to the standard. He thought all avenues needed to be pursued to show that the Board and the City was serious about the basic standards in writing.

Mr. Steffen stated that in the interim it was communicated clearly to him that there was a clear consensus of the Board to take action on it if nothing was done.

Ms. Ramsay stated that the AIA had a Code of Ethics that the Board might look at. She said she did not think it violated the state licensing issue but it did violate an ethical issue.

Mr. Meyerhoff stated that it was architecturally possible to make that recess with the same window done by several architectural methods in that opening. He said it would have an expense but they don't have to tear the building down. The Board should make a strong statement to the fact that they would try the Board each time with a new hotel, and that the Board was onto them.

Mr. Johnson stated that they just had to comply with the standards.

Mr. Meyerhoff stated that it could be done.

J. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Appointments/Resignations

Mr. Meyerhoff asked if there was any progress or did anyone know what was happening for those who went off the Board in December and who were the replacements.

Ms. Reiter stated that the reason that they did not hold the interviews on the 30th was because of the death of Mr. Larry Stuber's wife. She said they would reschedule it but did not know the exact date.

Mr. Gay stated that it would be tomorrow morning.

Ms. Reiter stated that they should hear something before the next meeting.

Mr. Steffen asked if Dr. Elmore had resigned.

Ms. Reiter stated that he had officially resigned.

Mr. Steffen asked if they would have another appointment to make.

Ms. Reiter stated that if they would make it tomorrow, she did not know.

Mr. Steffen understood that they only had four people to interview.

Ms. Reiter stated that they had four people to send in resumes; the two that were being renewed that were on the Board and two new resumes, and there were only four spaces. She said that legally she believed they could not replace Dr. Elmore but did not know what they would do.

Mr. Steffen stated that there was no guarantee that all four would be replaced.

2. Ossabaw Island Symposium The Atlantic World and African American Life and Culture: 18th to the 20th Century

Ms. Ward stated that it was a symposium that was open to the public on February 26, 27, and 28 in Downtown Savannah, and there would be a trip to Ossabaw which is a private island that was not open to everybody. The lectures were free but they were asking for a three dollar donation. She said it was about the history of African-American culture in the area and the Gullah-Geechee cultures along the barrier island. It looked like a good opportunity and a good learning experience.

Ms. Reiter stated that on Friday a list of invitees was approved by the City Manager and letters went out yesterday with the first meeting of the Revisions Committee on February 25 in the Arthur A. Mendonsa hearing room at 5:00 p.m. If everyone agreed to accept there would be 20 members of the Revisions Committee and that the public was invited to come. There would be a chance at each meeting for the public to make a comment. The schedule was to meet weekly on every Monday until April, then there would be a 30-day break for public comment when the recommendations would be put on line. There will be workshops brought to MPC in June and then it would go to City Council in July.

Dr. Watkins stated that there were issues with parking stickers and asked Board members to write the expiration date down and turn it in. He thanked Professor Allen for bring his classes and said that they were welcome to come anytime.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Historic District Board of Review the meeting was adjourned approximately 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Reiter,
Preservation Officer

BR/jnp