



Historic Preservation Commission

Hybrid Meeting
February 23, 2022 1:00 PM
MINUTES

FEBRUARY 23, 2022 HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION - SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

No testimony was received and no votes were taken.

Members Present: Rebecca Fenwick, Chair
Darren Bagley-Heath
Robin Williams

Staff Present: Pamela Everett, Esq., Assistant Executive Director
Leah Michalak, Historic Preservation Director
Bri Morgan, Administrative Assistant
Julie Yawn, Systems Analyst

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

II. SIGN POSTING

III. CONSENT AGENDA

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

[1. Approve January 26, 2022 Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

[01.26.22 SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES.pdf](#)

Motion

Approve minutes as presented.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Darren Bagley-Heath

Second: Rebecca Fenwick

Rebecca Fenwick	- Aye
Virginia Mobley	- Not Present
Chelsea Jackson-Greene	- Not Present
Robin Williams	- Not Present
Darren Bagley-Heath	- Aye
J. Haley Swindle	- Not Present

VI. ITEM(S) REQUESTED TO BE REMOVED FROM THE FINAL AGENDA

VII. CONTINUED AGENDA

VIII. REQUEST FOR EXTENSION

IX. REGULAR AGENDA

2. Deconstruction

Separate City ordinance to stand alone suggested.
Can be involved as citizens, rather than Board members.
Work on guidance documents that can possibly evolve to policy.

3. Legacy Homeowner Ordinance Provision

Ms. Fenwick stated there are little to no policies regarding long-term ownership. Other communities have such recommendation documents and guidelines, and Staff and Board decisions to provide leniency. Would like direction regarding how to proceed.

Mr. Bagley-Heath asked is it possible for guidelines to be added to ordinance. Legacy homeowners.

Ms. Michalak and **Ms. Everett** stated that guidelines are not binding, simply recommendations; policy/ordinance is binding.

Ms. Fenwick asked if it could be added to Special Exception Criteria, go to Council as would text amendment.

Ms. Everette stated policies can be challenged.

Mr. Bagley-Heath stated Staff can help write the definition of legacy homeowners. How to assist low-income residents.

Ms. Michalak showed examples of HDBR policies.

Ms. Wilson stated policy change has a process; recommends one topic, such as deconstruction. Define through additional discussion; what it means with the Historic Districts. It could be a cost prohibitive factor for some owners in some of the districts. It may be determined that it should be imposed on everything. Spoke with City Manager: needs to be part of demo application, particularly pre-1950; should not just approve demos without MPC input. City is amending applications to reflect that.

Mr. Bagley-Heath asked how to access/salvage sympathetic salvaging due to finances.

Ms. Wilson stated that is where guidance documents come into play; to work toward policy. Put process into place that will trigger the City to communicate with MPC regarding anything in Historic District, particularly demolition. How to fund citizen needs that don't have resources; needs to be addressed holistically.

Ms. Fenwick stated deconstruction is spreading beyond HPC. Incorporate City departments. Suggests a separate ordinance regarding this.

Ms. Wilson stated her proposal was not just for Historic neighborhoods, any older structure is included City-wide. Areas outside of Historic Districts provide guidance, rather than

excessively involving other departments. Focus on 50-year protection.

Ms. Wilson stated rather than focusing on Legacy conditions, look into financial assistance for varying circumstances.

Mr. Williams supported providing guidance and work toward regulation through policy. Any guidance regarding legacy is necessary.

Ms. Wilson stated there is criteria for Special Exception; many don't know that. **Ms. Fenwick** stated education is needed. **Ms. Wilson** stated that can be addressed next; needs to be addressed carefully.

4. Ordinance Exterior Building Materials

Ms. Fenwick stated stucco definition has not been enforced regarding stucco over masonry. That has been determined to be best for this area.

Mr. Bagley-Heath stated the City recommends that process.

Ms. Wilson stated this can be added to the Ordinance and tie the document in the definition section; will provide consistency in decisions.

Ms. Michalak will write the Staff-initiated amendment to clearly strengthen the definition; **Ms. Wilson** will assure it meets professional standards and submit to the process to be implemented City-wide.

5. Other General Potential Ordinance Revisions

None.

X. APPROVED STAFF REVIEWS

XI. NOTICES, PROCLAMATIONS, AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

6. Discuss Potential Future Sub-Committee Meeting(s)

The HPC Sub-Committee agreed to meet on March 23, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

7. Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the February 23, 2022 HPC Sub-Committee Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah G. Michalak
Director of Historic Preservation

/bm

The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission provides meeting minutes which are adopted by the respective Board. Verbatim transcripts of minutes are the responsibility of the interested party.