

MINUTES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

February 28, 2024

The Cumberland Historic Preservation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, within the Council Chambers of City Hall. Members present were, Mr. Larry Jackson, Mr. Tim Hoffman, Councilwoman Laurie Marchini, Mr. Justin Paulman, Mr. Brian Plitnik, Mr. Nathan Williams (via phone), and Ms. Lynda Lambert (via phone).

Others in attendance were, Ms. Ruth Davis-Rogers, Historic Preservation Planner/Grants Management, Ms. Chelsea Rexrode, Codes Technician, Brooke Barnett representing Energy Select, and Jerard Puckett representing the Embassy Theater.

Chairman, Mr. Larry Jackson, called the meeting to order. He read the following statement into the record: "The Cumberland Historic Preservation Commission exists pursuant to Section 11 of the City of Cumberland Municipal Zoning Ordinance. Members are appointed by the Mayor and City Council and shall possess a demonstrated special knowledge or professional or academic training in such fields as history, architecture, architectural history, planning, archeology, anthropology, curation, conservation, landscape architecture, historic preservation, urban design, or related disciplines. The Commission strives to enhance quality of life by safeguarding the historical and cultural heritage of Cumberland. Preservation is shown to strengthen the local economy, stabilize and improve property values, and foster civic beauty. The Cumberland Historic Preservation Commission operates pursuant to State of Maryland 1977 Open Meetings Act and therefore no pending applications shall be discussed between or amongst Commissioners outside the public hearing to determine the disposition of the application."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes from December 2023 were approved as written. **Mr. Justin Paulman made the motion for approval and Mr. Tim Hoffman, seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Motion approved.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments made.

CONCENT AGENDA

1. 112 Baltimore St. - COA23-000065 (Sign Permit Revision)
Applicant: Allegany College of Maryland
2. 138 Baltimore St. - COA23-000068 (Sign Permit)
Applicant: Queen City Creamery & Deli, LLC- Rhiannon Brown
3. 0 N Liberty-Bedford St. (24 Frederick St.) - COA24-000003 (Brick Repointing)
Applicant: Allegany County Chamber of Commerce

REGULAR AGENDA

1. 308 Washington St. - COA23-000066 (Solar Panels)
Applicant: Energy Select

This item on the agenda was a continuation of the last meeting. The Commission requested to have the location of two solar panels moved. There was some confusion with the drawings that were given to the Commission to review. Mr. Nathan Williams spoke that the panels that were supposed to be removed were not (see Ruth Davis-Rogers for detailed explanation). The drawings indicated the wrong panels being removed. Brooke, Energy Select Representative, spoke that their Permitting Processor sent updated ones, but were not given to the Commission. Brooke was able to provide a picture on her phone of the correct drawings and the placement of the panels. The new drawings indicated that the two panels near the chimney (section I) were removed.

Councilwoman, Laurie Marchini made the motion to approve COA23-000066. Mr. Tim Hoffman, seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Motion approved.

2. 49 Baltimore St. - COA24-000004 (Exterior Painting)
Applicant: Embassy Theater - Jerard Puckett

Jerard, spoke on behalf of the Embassy Theater. They are proposing painting the exterior doors of the Embassy Theater. He would like to paint them Burgandy with an apricot trim. They would also clean up the brass kick plates and brackets as well.

The Commission had an open discussion on the history of the doors and what would be a longer lasting solution. The options were discussed between paint VS. staining the exterior doors. The applicant and the Commission came to the agreement that stain would be the best option for the doors.

Mr. Justin Paulman made the motion to approve COA24-000004 based on amending the original application to apply stain and polyurethane to the exterior doors rather than painting them. Councilwoman, Laurie Marchini 2nd the motion. All members were in favor. Motion approved.

Mr. Larry Jackson read the approval statement: We have studied the application in all other relevant documents and presentation related to the for-mention cases COA23-000065, COA23-000068, COA24-000003, COA23-000066, and COA24-000004. We find the properties on the approve Certificate of Appropriateness contribute to the Historic Districts where they are located and the proposed changes are consisted with guidelines and criteria found in the Historic Preservation District designed guidelines for Cumberland Maryland.

OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF UPDATES

1. The Maryland Historical Trust will be hosting an archeological dig site. It will be held May 31st - June 10th, 2024. A lunch will be provided on June 8th, 2024 by the City of Cumberland. If you would like to participate, please register online (for more information, please contact Ruth Davis-Rogers).
2. Ruth Davis-Rogers is currently working on a grant for the MD Historical Trust for downtown. MHT would like Ruth to update our inventory downtown. It has been over 50 years since that has been done. A consultant would be needed to do this work. The grant that she is applying for would help with the expenses of the Consultant.
3. We are awaiting signatures for the Midtown grants.

An audio of tonight's meeting is available upon request.

ADJOURMENT

Mr. Larry Jackson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully,

Mr. Tim Hoffman, Secretary