

MINUTES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

July 17, 2024

The Cumberland Historic Preservation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, within the Council Chambers of City Hall. Members present were, Mr. Larry Jackson, Councilwoman Laurie Marchini, Mr. Brian Plitnik, Ms. Lynda Lambert, and Mr. Tim Hoffman (via phone).

Others in attendance were, Ms. Ruth Davis-Rogers, Historic Preservation Planner/Grants Management, Ms. Chelsea Rexrode, Codes Technician, Jeff Silka, City Administrator, and Ali Shabazz from the Exotic Mood & Vape Shop.

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 June 2024 were approved as written. ***Ms. Lynda Lambert made the motion for approval and Councilwoman, Laurie Marchini, seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Motion approved.***

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments made.

CONCENT AGENDA

1. 505 Washington St - COA24-000032 (Painting)
Applicant: Fielding Construction

REGULAR AGENDA

1. 22 Queen City Dr - COA24-000028

Ali Shabazz spoke on behalf of a family member that owns the Vape shop. They installed a 31SF wall sign above the entrance of the building. It is an iron frame with aluminum plates. The sign has goose neck lighting above, but it also back-lit with different lights. They appear to be "sparkling lights" behind the sign.

The Commission held an open discussion regarding the issues, unfortunately the applicant that submitted the "after-the-fact" permit was not present to speak at the meeting. The Commission is requesting that the applicant to be present that the next meeting in August. There is miscommunication on what is expected of a business owner in the historical district when needing permits for a project. They also discussed the different lights that were included within the sign. They advised the representative of the business that there is a possibility, they could face a fine for not receiving their permits prior to the project.

Ms. Lynda Lambert made the motion to table COA24-000028 until the next meeting to be able to meet with the original applicant. Mr. Brian Plitnik seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

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 COA23-000032. 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

- Discussion of addressing violations and implementing fines in the historic district per code Chapter 25: Sec. 25-300- Powers and duties and Sec. 25-306 Violations.

Ruth handed out a packet of information to all of the present members regarding the COA Process. Ruth has stated that we have been receiving after-the-fact permits more frequently. She wants the Commission to find a solution that would help alleviate these after-the-fact permits. We do not want to compromise our Historical District. We always want people to repair vs. replace. There are times that replace is the only option. The Commission has the ability to make a recommendation to the Zoning Administrator to fine the individuals whom don't follow the correct permit process.

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

ADJOURMENT

Mr. Larry Jackson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully,

Mr. Tim Hoffman, Secretary