

MINUTES

HARRISBURG ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD REGULAR MEETING

November 2, 2009

**THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CITY GOVERNMENT CENTER
PUBLIC SAFETY AUDITORIUM, ROOM 213**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kristen McKissick, Chair
Michael Snyder, Vice Chair
Art Emerick, Asst. Codes Administrator
Bill Fontana
Dudley Smith

STAFF PRESENT: Candace H. Stowell, Deputy Director
Craig D. Peiffer, Urban Planner

OTHERS PRESENT: See attached attendance signature sheet.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Emerick moved and Mr. Snyder seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2009 Meeting as presented. The Board approved the motion by a vote of 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1 1423 ½ North Third Street to paint the one story, cinder block structure located in the rear of the property.**

Mr. Peiffer advised that the applicant had withdrawn the application.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 2 1300 North Third Street to replace two pair of double doors and four single doors along North Third and Verbeke Streets**

Mr. Peiffer gave a synopsis of the case report, recommending approval with conditions.

The case was represented by Eric Papenfuse, 3111 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA.

Mr. Papenfuse concurred with Staff's conditions for approval. He added that the work was performed due to an attempted break-in at Valley Market, where the intruders kicked-in several of the existing paneled doors.

There were no questions from the HARB Members or the public

Mr. Snyder moved and Mr. Smith seconded the motion to approve the request with the conditions listed in the staff report. The Board approved the motion by a vote of 5-0.

3 216-218 Reily Street to replace both front doors

Mr. Peiffer gave a synopsis of the case report, recommending approval.

The case was represented by Alex Manning, 324 West Main Street, Mechanicsburg, PA

Mr. Manning apologized for the misunderstanding of door style, stating both he and the contractor thought they had approval for a six panel door. He added that when he purchased the properties, there was a known drug issue and regular break-ins. As such, he felt reluctant to install doors with glass. Mr. Emerick noted that glass can be fabricated to withstand significant abuse and in some cases can outperform a wood door.

Mr. Peiffer stated that he had received correspondence from a concerned resident inquiring why the existing doors were removed and a staff recommendation for approval provided for the solid core wood doors. He advised the HARB that he would respond to the resident encouraging their participation at HARB Meetings, and explain that the existing doors were not period, having a horizontal glass configuration more indicative of mid-century, and that the solid-core wood door with vertically oriented panels were more typical for the period of construction. Ms. McKissick concurred that the six panel doors were probably closer in style and configuration to the original door.

Mr. Emerick moved and Mr. Snyder seconded the motion to approve the request. The Board approved the motion by a vote of 5-0.

4 1918 North Second Street to install a black aluminum picket fence along North Second and Delaware Streets

Mr. Peiffer gave a synopsis of the case report, recommending approval.

The case was represented by James Martin, 1918 North Second Street, Harrisburg.

Mr. Martin stated that he had two Shih Tzu puppies and was installing the fence to provide a secure outdoor location. He added that he was the owner of the Garden Path Florist and planned to install new landscaping in the side yard.

Mr. Peiffer stated that he had received a telephone call from a resident expressing concern with the arrowhead finials and the safety of passersby. He advised the HARB that he encouraged the resident to attend the meeting. He informed the resident that it was staff's opinion that the style and configuration did not pose a threat to the public welfare. Ms. McKissick added as the fence would be a minimum of four feet in height, and therefore the prospect for injury would be limited to someone attempting to climb over the fence.

Mr. Smith moved and Mr. Emerick seconded the motion to approve the request. The Board approved the motion by a vote of 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Update on 1320 Susquehanna Street, installation of asphalt shingle roof; 1416-18 Lawton Street, painting of masonry facade; and 917 Capital Street, installation of fiber cement siding.

Mr. Peiffer advised that Harrisburg City Council's Building and Housing Committee met on October 26, 2009, to hear the appeal for 1320 Susquehanna Street, replacement of a standing seam metal roof with an asphalt shingle roof. He stated the Committee did indicate they would vote in favor of overturning HARB's denial recommendation. He added that Mr. Smith was in attendance and did speak on behalf of HARB urging Council to consider the quality of materials, their lifecycle and the overall value of municipal historic districts. He also stated that Committee Chair, Ms. Susan Brown-Wilson suggested that the Spring HARB Retreat include an invitation to all persons owning property in the municipal historic districts to advise them on the HARB review process.

Mr. Peiffer advised that the owner of 1416-18 Lawton Street had completed the painting of all facades except the west facade, and that the work was done in defiance of a stop work order issued by the codes office. He indicated that the codes officer did witness the painters performing the work after the posting of the stop work order and had filed four citations, one each for the owner and three painters. At this time, the City is awaiting the establishment of a hearing date from District Judge, Joseph Solomon's Office. Mr. Emerick suggested Staff prepare a letter that summarizes the events and indicates that any future water-related problems may be the result of the masonry being painting, and that the letter is added to the property file.

Mr. Peiffer advised that the December Meeting would include a review from their October Agenda for 917 Capital Street. He clarified that the contractor had ordered the cementitious siding with the factory finish applied to the faux wood grain side. Furthermore approximately two-thirds of the siding had been installed with the grain side out and with a profile that did not match that of the existing wood siding. He stated that

he was working directly with the contractor to identify solutions for HARB consideration.

Update on the Academy Manor and North Front Street Proposed Municipal Historic Districts.

Mr. Peiffer advised that Harrisburg City Council's Building and Housing Committee would review the proposed establishment of the Academy Manor Municipal Historic District on Wednesday, November 4th, beginning at 5:30 PM, and to be held in Council Chambers, First Floor, City Government Center. He encouraged the HARB members to attend.

Mr. Peiffer advised that the Planning Bureau was in receipt of an email from Mr. Bryan Van Sweden, Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC), Bureau for Historic Preservation, indicating that PHMC Staff opinion was to approve the establishment of a local historic district for North Front Street. He added that the Planning Bureau would establish a list of public meeting dates leading up to a presentation to council in anticipation of an ordinance to create the district.

The HARB Members asked if Staff could establish a date for the Spring HARB Retreat by the next HARB Meeting to be held on December 7th.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Fontana moved and Mr. Snyder seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 6:54 P.M.