

Greensburg Historic Preservation Commission
 February 24, 2010 Commission Meeting and Public Hearing
 City Hall

Call to Order: Chairperson, Drew Barth, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call:

Commission Member			Advisory Board Member	
Drew Barth	P		Curtis Wendling	X
Matt Westhafer	X		Paul Cruzan	X
Karin Harter	X		Technical Advisors	
Judy Curd	P		Bryan Robbins	X
Theresa Schwering	P		Joe Jarzen	X
P=Present			X=Absent	

PUBLIC HEARING

Drew opened the Public Hearing with some general comments about the project and the actions we've taken as a Commission to reach this point. No final decision has been made on the district boundaries. No vote will occur at this meeting. Drew welcomed the public to ask questions and make comments.

History: April 2009, the Commission went before City Council, as the Commission was chartered by a City Ordinance and we were charged with coming up with a district boundary proposal. At the April 2009 meeting, the City Council was not prepared to vote on the project and asked us to make some revisions. Since then, the Commission has narrowed the scope of this first district considerably. It is basically being proposed for the Downtown Square and one block surrounding it. Additionally, the Commission has been working on classify, according to the Interim Report, each property by the Contributing, Non-Contributing, Notable and Outstanding classifications. Work has begun on the guidelines and public hearings will be held on the guidelines prior to adoption by the Commission.

Currently, the Commission has come to the end of a term for a couple of our members and we are waiting on the Mayor to appoint new Commission members. Once appointed, we will meet with the new members and bring them up to speed on the project and only then will the Commission vote on the proposed district boundaries. At this point in time, we do not anticipate going before Council until early Fall.

Drew opened the floor to questions and comments. Questions and comments were as follows:

1. Would guidelines mandate interior design? No, the only impact the guidelines will have is on the façade of the buildings visible from the public right-of-ways.
2. What is the process for obtaining a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA)? Proposed changes and materials will be reviewed by the Commission. Guidelines are just that, guidelines. They are not law. The goal is to be flexible, not rigid and help building owners maintain the historical

and architectural aspects of the district. Changes would need to compliment the features of the district or neighboring building. Guidelines are ever-evolving, not set in stone. It is a long-term process. Repair and normal maintenance are not part of the process.

3. Is there a charge for the COA? No.
4. What is the benefit of a Historic District? It is a benefit to the City as a whole. Cities that have historic districts are afforded additional grant opportunities and just having a district awards extra points for some grant applications. Additionally, it has been shown that tourism opportunities are increased with a district. It will also enable the property owners to apply for grants. There are also social and psychological benefits to having an attractive downtown, which increase the likelihood that people will want to shop and live downtown and businesses will want to locate downtown.
5. Comment was made that a property owner should be able to do with their property as they please. It was noted that no one will be forced to make changes to their existing properties. The Commission and the ordinance would only come into play if the property owner decided to make changes (not repairs or do routine maintenance) to the façade of the building, or if they were looking to demolish the building.

Letters were read from: M. Jean Johanningman, Rollin Harpring and Walker & Robbins Realty, LLC.

Drew thanked those present for attending the Public Hearing and welcomed comments or questions at any time. Hearing no further comments or questions, the Public Hearing was closed.

Commission Meeting:

Approval of Minutes

Judy Curd made a motion to approve the January 2010 minutes. Theresa seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Revised Timeline:

Due to new board appointments pending from the Mayor, we will postpone the vote on this project until we have a full board that is up to speed. We will continue to work on the guidelines, looking to go to City Council in the fall, at the earliest. Suggestions for new members were sent to the Mayor in January and Bryan Robbins has indicated a willingness to contact the individuals mentioned to find out willingness to serve, should the Mayor so choose.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:52 PM

NEXT MEETING: March 31, 2010 @ 6 PM @ City Hall

Minutes were emailed to Commission Members, Advisors and City Hall on March 24, 2010.

Approval of Minutes_____