

MINUTES

Valdosta Historic Preservation Commission

Valdosta City Hall Annex Multi-Purpose Room
300 North Lee Street, Valdosta, Georgia

March 6, 2023 5:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Celine Gladwin
Dr. Harry Hamm
Dr. Alex Alvarez
Ms. Sally Querin
Mr. Tommy Crane
Ms. Laura Yale

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Sandie Burkett

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Jeff Brammer

VISITORS PRESENT

Wanda Colyer
Vickie Everitte
Daniel Bayman

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chairman Alvarez. It was determined that a quorum of members was present. Dr. Alvarez thanked everyone for coming and reminded audience members to sign the attendance register.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

The February 6, 2023, draft minutes were reviewed by the Commission. Dr. Hamm motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. It was called and carried 4-0.

III. Consideration of Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) Applications

- A. HPC-2023-14 — 114 North Ashley Street:** Mr. Brammer presents. The petitioner requests approval to remove and replace two, second-story exterior windows. The existing windows are non-historic 2/2 aluminum-framed windows. The applicant proposes to replace the windows with custom-made, wood-framed, fixed glass, picture style windows.

The replacement windows feature wood moldings and single pane fixed glass. The applicant also received administrative approval to repair and paint the historic jewelry store sign. The applicant also proposes to paint the brick façade. The applicant says the brick has been painted previously.

Staff acknowledged the existing windows are not historic. Staff also noted the changes are likely to represent an aesthetic improvement. Staff recommended approval of the project as proposed.

Ms. Wanda Colyer, property owner, spoke on behalf of the application. Ms. Colyer said she is trying to improve the property and make it look better. Ms. Colyer said when she bought the building, it was already painted. She said her husband stripped the old paint off the building several years ago. She said the idea was to give it a fresh coat, two-tone color.

There being no one else speaking either in favor or opposition, the Commission discussed. Dr. Hamm asked why the building is tarped. Ms. Colyer said she wasn't sure why the contractor had done that. She said maybe they put that up to contain debris during a pressure wash.

Dr. Hamm asked if the jewelers sign would be fixed and painted in place. Ms. Colyer confirmed. Dr. Hamm asked about changes to the interior. Ms. Colyer said they weren't altering the floor plan. Ms. Colyer said she decided to pursue funding through the City's façade grant program.

Ms. Querin asked for clarification about what bricks would be painted on the façade, specifically the top "red bricks". Ms. Colyer said those bricks had already been painted. She said her husband removed the paint several years ago after they purchased the building. She said they were repainting the brick a different, two-tone color.

Ms. Yale made a motion to approve the project as proposed. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0 vote).

IV. Consideration of Administrative Review and Approvals

Board members reviewed the Administrative Reviews for the month of February with no questions.

V. Other Business

(A) Workshop Follow-Up – Mr. Brammer stated that the City settled on Friday, May 12 to hold a Preservation Month observance event. The Valdosta Heritage Foundation has agreed to hold the event at 5:30 p.m. at the Roberts House (206 Wells Street). The details of the event will be forthcoming. The Commission discussed some details for the event.

(B) Preservation Awards – Mr. Brammer stated that the City began advertising the 2023 Preservation Awards. Applications are due Friday, April 21. The awards will be presented during the City Council meeting on Thursday, May 25.

VII. New Business

(A) Informal Discussions Concerning Potential Projects – Mr. Daniel Bayman approached the Commission for feedback on a potential development project at 203 East Savannah Avenue and 211-213 South Ashley Street. The abutting parcels contain an existing historic warehouse and an existing commercial building. Mr. Bayman said he is exploring opportunities which could include mixed-use development, including commercial and residential uses.

Mr. Bayman said he has reached out to two separate structural engineers for an assessment of the properties' conditions. Mr. Bayman said the properties have deteriorated quite a bit in recent years. He said he is waiting for the second structural engineer to complete his analysis. Mr. Bayman said he expected to have the engineer's report soon and would likely come back to the Commission for further guidance.

Commissioners explained details of the demolition process to Mr. Bayman. The Commission also shared its guidelines for demolition. Several Commissioners stated it would be important for the local community to be well aware of this project, including any potential demolition.

The Commission also discussed possible future public art wall murals in the downtown area. Staff informed the Commission of existing interest in applications for new murals at 136 North Patterson Street and 114 North Ashley Street.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Gladwin made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. It was called and carried unanimously (5-0 vote). The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

HPC Chairman 

Date 4-4-23