



CITY OF ST. MARYS
418 OSBORNE STREET
ST. MARYS, GEORGIA 31558

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES **October 15, 2013**

The meeting began at 5:30 PM.

HPC roll call indicated there was a quorum present for the meeting. The following committee members were present: Kay Westberry, Rosemary Rillo, Winona Hartung, George Beaver and Chris Thurner. Tim Ward and James Stacy were not in attendance.

Roger Weaver and Michele Wood represented the Planning Department.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 20, 2013 MEETING MINUTES: *Chris Thurner made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted; second by George Beaver. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.*

OLD BUSINESS: - None

NEW BUSINESS:

George Beaver made a motion to amend the agenda to include a COA request from Joe Tucker; second by Chris Thurner. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

1. **ALTERATION:** Janice Holtzclaw, 401 Wheeler Street, St. Marys, GA 31558 has submitted a Certificate of Appropriateness request to enclose a section of her front porch. The property is zoned R-1, Tax Parcel S37-06-010.

Ms. Holtzclaw's daughter presented the request to the HPC stating their desire to enclose a section of the right side of the porch. Ms. Westberry shared that porches are an extremely important architectural feature and design element for historic homes. The Historic Guidelines state that porches are to be preserved at all cost. After some discussion, the HPC agreed there would be a conflict of interest if the request was approved, due to having denied previous requests. Winona Hartung made a motion to deny the request; second by George Beaver. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

2. **TREE REMOVAL:** Joe & Ronnie Tucker, 214 W. Conyers Street, St. Marys, GA 31558 submitted a Certificate of Appropriateness request to remove a Crepe Myrtle tree, approximately 15" in diameter, from their property. The property is zoned R-1, Tax Parcel s37-08-008.

Mr. Tucker presented his request to the HPC. Mr. Tucker provided photos showing the proximity of the tree to the house and explaining how he is continually having to cut it back to prevent damage to the structure. Mr. Tucker stated if the HPC allowed the removal of the tree, he would replace the tree with either a palmetto or palm tree. Rosemary Rillo made a motion to approve the request as submitted; second by Winona Hartung. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Kay Westberry recused herself to present the following requests on behalf of the Cemetery Authority. The co-chair was not in attendance; George Beaver was selected to assume the chair position. Ms. Westberry explained that the Cemetery Authority had made a request to the City for financial assistance for the following three requests. Ms. Westberry explained that

approval for the funding had not yet been granted. However, she wished to proceed with seeking approval from the HPC to not delay the process if approval for funding was granted by the City.

3. **GATE:** The Oak Grove Cemetery Authority has submitted a Certificate of Appropriateness request to install an aluminum drive gate at the main entrance into the cemetery with a walk-in gate beside it. The request also includes additional gates on the south end and the northeast gate on Bartlett Street. Tax Parcel S40-01-003.

Ms. Westberry presented the request to the HPC to install an aluminum gate at the main entrance to the cemetery; a walk-in gate beside it; installing a gate on the south end of the cemetery and the northeast gate on Bartlett Street. Chris Thurner made a motion to approve all the proposed gates and requested the Cemetery Authority to bring it back to the HPC for final review; second by Rosemary Rillo. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

4. **RECONSTRUCTION:** The Oak Grove Cemetery Authority has submitted a Certificate of Appropriateness request to rebuild the exterior walls & roof of the existing 20'x20' work shed located within Oak Grove Cemetery, tax parcel S40-01-003.

Ms. Westberry presented the request to rebuild the exterior walls and roof of the existing shed to resemble a carriage house. Carlos Jone's class at the high school has agreed to prepare the drawings, make the repairs to the structure, and will be donating some of the supplies as well. There was some discussion that the HPC did not have plans to review prior to approval. To not interfere with the shop's class schedule and not delay the process, Rosemary Rillo made a motion to approve the request with the understanding that Roger Weaver will review the plans for consistency with what was presented to the HPC. If there are changes submitted, the request is to come back to the HPC for review. Chris Thurner seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

5. **TREE REMOVAL:** The Oak Grove Cemetery Authority has submitted a Certificate of Appropriateness request to remove four trees located in Oak Grove Cemetery that appear to be in a hazardous condition and could possibly endanger public safety.

Ms. Westberry presented the request to remove four trees from Oak Grove Cemetery. Ms. Westberry expressed her concerns that the trees are a possible risk to the City and could endanger the public. Roger Weaver, Planning Director, agreed with Ms. Westberry stating the trees are an accident waiting to happen. Rosemary Rillo made a motion to approve the request; second by Winona Hartung. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

DISCUSSION:

- Banners/Banners Promoting Alcohol it. – Ms. Westberry stated there are banners within the historic district promoting alcohol. The sign ordinance states no exterior outdoor advertising or interior advertising visible from the exterior shall be erected in the city advertising or promoting the sale of alcoholic beverages. Roger Weaver informed the HPC that the Planning Department would check into it.
- Parking on Medians- Ms. Westberry mentioned for a period of time there had been large trucks and boats parked in the median in the area of Weed and Ready Street. Ms. Westberry mentioned that she had not seen them there recently and questioned whether the City had gotten involved. Roger Weaver stated he was not aware of any City involvement.
- Update on HPC Signage from Dalton Signs – The HPC reviewed the final design submitted by Dalton Signs for the directional signs for businesses located within the historic district. Rosemary Rillo made a motion to approve the proposed design and proceed with pursuing funding for the three signs which will replace the median signs; second by George Beaver. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion. Once the directional signs are installed all median signs will be required to be removed.
- Update on 303 W. Weed Street – Ms. Westberry informed the HPC that City Council upheld the decision of the Planning Commission to deny the minor subdivision for 303 W. Weed Street.
- Update on Sign Discussions with the Planning Commission – Roger Weaver informed the HPC the Planning Commission will be reviewing the proposed changes for the sign ordinance in regard to the historic district on Tuesday, October 22, 2013.

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING: George Beaver made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Second by Winona Hartung. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08PM.