

MINUTES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
October 19, 2011
8:30 A.M.

THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES AND RULES APPLY TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

In accordance with Title 1, Section 1.7 of the Code of Ordinances, all items on this agenda are open for public comment. Those members of the public desiring to speak on a particular item should approach the podium and request to speak after the item is announced by the Chairman. They will be required to give their name and address and the Chairman will allocate a specific amount of time for members of the public to speak.

1. ROLL CALL

Camm Morton, Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. with the following members present: Morton, Rhorer, Salomon, Sykes, Tyler, and Ulmer. Also present were Ellen Miller, Assistant Planning Director; Ryan Holcomb, Planning Project Coordinator; Gilles Morin, Acting Current Planning Manager; Tiffany Johnson-Wells, Land Use and Zoning Coordinator, and Cyndi Bohrer, Parish Attorney.

2. INTRODUCE NEW HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEMBER

Chairman Morton introduced Thomas Tyler to the Historic Preservation Commission.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. HPC-2-11 661 North 7th Street

This property is located on the west side of North 7th Street, south of University Walk, on Lot L of Spanish Town Subdivision. (Council District 10-Wicker)

COMMISSION ACTION Motion by Sykes and seconded by Salomon to defer until November 9, 2011.

6 Yeas (Morton, Rhorer, Salomon, Sykes, Tyler, and Ulmer), 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Bennett, Bonton, and Boyles), and the motion carried.

B. HPC-3-11 714 North 5th Street

This property is located on the east side of North 5th Street, north of University Walk, on Lot 12 of Spanish Town Subdivision. (Council District 10-Wicker)

COMMISSION ACTION Motion by Rhorer and seconded by Sykes to approve.

6 Yeas (Morton, Rhorer, Salomon, Sykes, Tyler, and Ulmer), 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Bennett, Bonton, and Boyles), and the motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (July 20, 2011)

COMMISSION ACTION Motion by Rhorer and seconded by Ulmer to approve minutes.

6 Yeas (Morton, Rhorer, Salomon, Sykes, Tyler, and Ulmer), 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Bennett, Bonton, and Boyles), and the motion carried.

5. STAFF REPORTS AND UPDATES

A. CLG Grant (Tiffany Johnson-Wells)

Tiffany Johnson-Wells informed the HPC that the City of Baton Rouge was awarded the 2011-2012 Certified Local Government Grant to create an interactive historic website available to the public. The website will allow the public to view historic maps and photographs of the five (5) National Register Districts in Baton Rouge.

Commissioner Sykes requested a copy of the CLG Grant application be given to all Commissioners.

B. HPC Ordinance (Tiffany Johnson-Wells)

Chairman Morton reminded the Commission that the proposed HPC ordinance has been an ordinance the Commission has worked on for over two (2) years. The ordinance addresses issues brought to the Planning Commission Staff and Commission's attention.

Tiffany Johnson-Wells summarized the process of revising the HPC ordinance initiated in April 2009. The HPC and the Planning Commission Staff have reviewed the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) process, Certified Local Government (CLG) requirements, application fees, historic district guidelines, posting of signs, Demolition by Neglect, and demolition/relocation of historic structures.

Commissioner Sykes expressed concerns about the ordinance process for adoption. He also stated that some Spanish Town residents were not aware of the proposed changes. He recommended that the proposed ordinance be deferred for more review time. Commissioner Sykes had other concerns including the HPC appointees, staff level process, maintaining CLG status, and HPC Minutes from the July 20, 2011 HPC meeting.

Commissioner Solomon expressed concerns that she was unaware of the process for adoption. Also, residents in Drehr Place are unaware of the proposed changes. Other concerns include the definitions for Section 3.5, the scope of the COA, and the jurisdiction of COA review for the HPC.

4. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Strategic Planning Committee Report (Carolyn Bennett)

No items to report.

6. ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.