

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
July 17, 2019

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at the Mount Vernon Visitors Center. Members present were Mary Evans, Machele Pelkey, Hugh Lifson, Suzette Astley, Leah Rogers, Peter Ault and Guy Booth. Also present were Les and Katrena Garner for design review, and Corey Hoffman, also for design review.

Upon motion made and seconded, the Minutes of the meeting of July 6, 2019 were approved.

The first design review on the agenda relates to the construction of a new garage at 109 10th Ave. SW. The property is in the Cornell Historic District. Les and Katrina Garner have presented a diagram and site plan for a new garage that will be built adjacent to the residence on the property. This site plan and the proposed renovation of the house, as well as the garage, have been through pre-review with the Commission. The design and architectural drawings have been prepared by Ed Sauter. The garage will be an appropriate structure to go with the historic property. Upon motion made by Hugh Lifson, seconded by Suzette Astley, a certificate of appropriateness was unanimously approved.

The second design review on the agenda is for property at 112 8th Ave. NW, Mount Vernon. This property is also in the Cornell Historic District. Corey Hoffman, the owner of the property, is requesting approval of the new siding to be placed on the house. He indicates the siding will be vinyl siding with the size of the siding to be similar to houses in the historic district. He is looking for either a tan or grey siding with white trim. The house that is going to be re-sided is not a significant contributor to the district. It is a ranch-style house that was built in the late 1950's. The new siding is appropriate for this structure. Upon motion made by Hugh Lifson, seconded by Suzette Astley, a certificate of no material effect was approved unanimously.

The third design review request is for the property at 609 5th Ave. NW. This property is in the Ash Park Historic District. The owner, Elias Schroeder had filed a request for approval of siding, windows, and roof. In reviewing the submitted material, it appears an application for a building permit has not been submitted. Further, there was very little information that described the type of siding, the type of windows, or the type of roof material that was to be used. Mr. Schroeder was not in attendance at the meeting. It was noted that some work has begun on the house that includes removal of the current vinyl siding, and a replacement of two doors. These particular doors have not been submitted with an application for approval by the Commission. Upon motion made by Guy Booth, seconded by Mary Evans, the request for a certificate of appropriateness was tabled until there is clarification of the type of materials that will be used, and the design of the windows that will be replaced. The motion to table this application was approved.

Under new business, Hugh Lifson discussed a letter that recognizes the contributions made to the Cornell Historic District research by Leslie Timbel, who graduated from Cornell in 1979. Ms. Timbel has recently passed away. Hugh has contacted professor Richard Thomas to prepare a letter acknowledging the work and the determination of Ms. Timbel which was a

significant contribution to the establishment of the Cornell Historic District. In addition, Dr. Thomas singled out Joanna Leggett Sinnwell, also a 1979 graduate of Cornell, as being involved in the substantial research that was done for the district. Ms. Timbel and Ms. Sinnwell are commended as unheralded historians of Cornell College. Hugh will continue to work with Dr. Thomas to complete the letter of recognition.

Hugh Lifson also gave a report on work that is being done by Pratt Institute in New York City regarding the restoration and significance of memorials in Virginia. In particular, the student researchers from Pratt Institute are acknowledging the implication and historical significance of these memorials.

Hugh Lifson also reported that he feels he will be unable to lead the effort that he has worked on over the last number of years in lining up a visit by the Commission to outstanding historical sites. Hugh has done a fine job in shepherding the annual trips.

Under old business, Machele expressed some concern about the level of response that she receives from Commission members when a meeting is scheduled. It is important to know how many Commission members are available to be at the meeting, as any design review request will need a quorum of the Commission to be able to grant the requested certificate. Both Machele and Leah want to strongly encourage all Commission members to respond as quickly as possible as to whether they will be in attendance at the scheduled meeting. It is difficult to schedule a meeting, post the agenda, and then have to worry if the meeting can be held if there is not a quorum present. Please make an effort to respond as quickly as possible.

Guy Booth commented that the renovation of a home in the 700 block of 6th Ave. NW is under way. However, a building permit has not been issued, and the owner seemed to not realize that a permit is necessary. Leah has had contact with the owner and the owner will be present at a future meeting. This once again highlights the need for educating City Hall, as well as the public regarding what projects on properties in the historic district need permits, both from the City or county, and a certificate from HPC.

There was a brief discussion regarding plaques that could go on historic properties. The Commission may want to recommend a certain style plaque for houses that have recently been approved for the National Register of Historic Places. The expense of purchasing and installing the plaque would be borne by the homeowner. Hugh Lifson also asked about a plaque that will give historic perspective to the Kollman home.

Under old business, Mary Evans indicated the CDG is interested in having a monitor in the Visitor's Center that will run a continuing loop of information about Mount Vernon. This is a project of CDG, and not a project of our Commission. However, if there is historical material that would be of importance to have on the video, we would be willing to help develop the video images.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next meeting will be August 3, 2019 at 9:15 a.m. at the Mount Vernon Visitor's Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary