

MINUTES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
October 11, 2023
City of High Point
Municipal Office Building
3rd Floor Large Conference Room
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Janet Catania
Holly Davis, Vice Chair
Mary Powell DeLille
Jeremy Fennema, Chair
John Fitzwater
Rodney Smith
Brenda Stewart
Brianne Verstat

MEMBERS

ABSENT: None

STAFF

PRESENT: David Fencl, Senior Planner
Genine Solis, Clerk to the Historic Preservation Commission
Meghan Maguire, City Attorney (remote)

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Conference Room.

A. Call to Order

Mr. Fennema, Chair, determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

B. Approval of Minutes

1. August 9, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission

Ms. DeLille made a motion to approve the August 9, 2023 minutes for the regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission as presented. Ms. Davis seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0.

C. New Business

1. Design Standards Update Work Session

Ms. Catania arrived immediately following the approval of the minutes.

Mr. Fencl led a discussion of possible changes, additions, and clarifications to the Design Standards.

Some changes that were discussed include:

- Additions for the Washington Street Historic District whenever that is approved
- A section addressing awnings, murals, and public art
- Renewal of expired Certificate of Appropriateness by staff
- Clarification of items that do not need approval or that can be done with staff approval as a Minor Work
- Changes to tree size requirement for a COA
- Clarification of treatment of contributing and non-contributing buildings

The Commission also discussed ideas of how to keep homeowners accountable for upkeep. These ideas include

- Meetings for each of the historic districts to explain changes to the Design Standards and to answer any questions regarding the Certificate of Appropriateness process
- Referrals to the High Point Historic Preservation Society for assistance
- A façade improvement loan program
- Education on tax credits for improvements done on historic homes

It was decided that Mr. Fencl will make a first draft of the new Design Standards and will bring it back to the Historic Preservation Commission for further input and suggestions.

D. Announcements

1. Certified Local Government Training Requirements

Mr. Fencl reported that the Certified Local Government training requirements have been met for the year.

Mr. Fitzwater, Ms. Davis, and Mr. Smith spoke briefly on some topics that were covered in the seminars they attended.

2. Quasi-judicial Training

Ms. Maguire mentioned potential upcoming training on quasi-judicial hearing rules and procedures.

E. Adjournment

Ms. DeLille made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fitzwater seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Jeremy Fennema, Chair

Date