

Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission Minutes

February 18, 2016

A meeting of the Louisville Metro Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission was held on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at Locust Grove, 561 Blankenbaker Lane, Louisville, Kentucky.

Commission Member(s) present:

Bob Vice, Chair
Jay Stottman
Joanne Weeter
Emily Liu
Robert Kirchdorfer
Amin Omidy
Roberto Bajandas
Milton Haskins Jr.
Reba Doutrick
Chris Hartman
Carrye Jones
Tamika Jackson

Staff Members Present:

Bob Keesaer, Urban Design Supervisor
Cynthia Johnson, Historic Preservation Officer
Burcum Keeton, Architectural Projects Coordinator
Joe Haberman, Planning and Design Manager
Savannah Darr, Historic Preservation Specialist
Becky Gorman, Historic Preservation Specialist
Andrea Luago, Associate Planner
Joe Reverman, Assistant Director, Planning & Design Services
John Carroll, Legal Counsel
Sue Reid, Management Assistant

The following matters were considered:

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of the January 21, 2016 Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission meeting.

On a motion by Commissioner Haskins, seconded by Commissioner Weeter, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Louisville Metro Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission does hereby **APPROVE** the minutes of the meeting conducted on January 21, 2016, with **REPLACEMENT** pages 6 and 7 distributed at today's meeting.

The vote was as follows:

YES: Commissioners Liu, Kirchdorfer, Omidy, Bajandas, Weeter, Haskins, Doutrick, Hartman, Jackson, Jones, Stottman and Chair Vice

NO: No one

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OldLouARCNom_02.18.16

Request: Nomination of Mary Frances Clark to Old Lou. ARC
Project Name: Nomination of Mary Frances Clark to Old Lou. ARC
Jurisdiction: Louisville Metro Government
Council District: District 6
Case Manager: Bob Keesaer

An audio recording of the Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission meeting related to this case is available on the Planning & Design Services website, or you may contact the Customer Service staff to obtain a copy.

Chair Vice presented the nomination of Mary Frances Clark to the Old Louisville ARC and provided information on Ms. Clark's background and experience.

On a motion by Commissioner Weeter, seconded by Commissioner Bajandas, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Louisville Metro Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission does hereby **RECOMMEND** to the Louisville Metro Council that the proposed nomination of Mary Frances Clark to the Old Louisville ARC be **APPROVED**.

The vote was as follows:

YES: Commissioners Liu, Kirchdorfer, Omidy, Bajandas, Weeter, Haskins, Doutrick, Hartman, Jackson, Jones, Stottman and Chair Vice

NO: No one

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Chairman Remarks

Request: Chairman's Remarks-Bob Vice
Project Name: Opening Remarks for Annual Meeting
Jurisdiction: Louisville Metro Government
Case Manager: Bob Vice, Landmarks Commission Chair

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Chair Vice introduced a special guest at today's meeting, Scott Kremer. Chair Vice stated Mr. Kremer has served on the Butchertown and Clifton ARC's and has given countless hours of service. Chair Vice stated they would like to present a Resolution of the Louisville Metro Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission to Mr. Kremer in recognition of his service. Chair Vice read the Resolution into the record.

On a motion by Commissioner Bajandas, seconded by Commissioner Liu, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Louisville Metro Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission does hereby **APPROVE** the Resolution presented to Mr. Kremer.

The vote was as follows:

YES: Commissioners Liu, Kirchdorfer, Omidy, Bajandas, Weeter, Haskins, Doutrick, Hartman, Jackson, Jones, Stottman and Chair Vice

NO: No one

Mr. Kremer gave a short acceptance speech, thanking everyone for the recognition. Mr. Kremer stated he has been honored to serve.

NOTE: Chair Vice announced that Tom Owen will be joining the Louisville Metro Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission as a Metro Council appointment.

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ARC Remarks

Request: District and Individual ARC Committee Reports
Project Name: District and Individual ARC Committee Reports
Jurisdiction: Louisville Metro Government
Case Manager: ARC Chairs or Representatives

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Old Louisville ARC

Herb Fink spoke on behalf of the Old Louisville ARC. Mr. Fink stated they have been focusing on vacant and deteriorating buildings and feels progress is being made. Mr. Fink stated they have been working diligently on bicycle lanes, and all are complete except for Fourth Street. Mr. Fink stated the Bike Share Program will be in place this summer. He also passed out flyers containing information about the Tree Planting Program. Mr. Fink stated there will be an extensive tree planting on March 19th on Sixth Street; the City will provide the trees and volunteers will plant them. Mr. Fink stated there is a lot of construction going on right now related to the University of Louisville (six major developments are in progress), and with that comes problems such as railings made of 2x4's and back yards, which are supposed to be green space, being used for parking. Mr. Fink showed an example of how insulation used for A/C lines are being clumped together on the outside of buildings and stated "this is not okay". Mr. Fink stated the proposed changes to the Old Louisville/Limerick TNZD have created division in the neighborhood. Commissioner Bajandas stated the concern is for historic buildings to be designated as commercial creates an incentive for development to change the buildings with ramps, doors, windows, etc., and this will ultimately create a conflict with the Landmarks Commission.

Limerick ARC

Stephen Peterson spoke on behalf of the Limerick ARC. Mr. Peterson pointed out the Limerick area on the map. Mr. Peterson stated A/C lines are installed like this in the Limerick Neighborhood as well. He stated it is sometimes tough to report things for fear of being threatened by a neighbor for reporting an issue. Mr. Peterson stated Limerick is also suffering from vacant and abandoned properties and some are tied up in legal mumbo-jumbo. He stated it appears

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there is no rhyme or reason as to how they are handled. Mr. Peterson stated he is looking forward to seeing what the new guidelines will bring.

Clifton ARC

Michaelle Warner spoke on behalf of the Clifton ARC. Ms. Warner stated they had finished the guidelines and it was a very long process because of trying to find that balance between the needs of the neighborhood and the guidelines. Phil Samuels stated before the guidelines are approved by the Clifton ARC and Metro Council they will be working toward making them more educational and including pictures of good examples. Jay Stottman stated the guideline review continued from last year was not necessarily about verbiage, but about the way it is laid out. He stated there has been a lot of input from residents, staff and the Committee in an effort to make it easy to understand. He also welcomed new members Jessica Murphy and Pam Vetter.

Commissioner Weeter asked if there were any information about the case on Vernon Avenue. Bob Keesaer stated nothing official has been submitted. Mr. Samuels stated the Clifton ARC is having a meeting tonight in regard to the proposal; however, the applicant still has some work to do. Commissioner Weeter stated if it is going to involve demolition of a historic building it will come before the ARC and the Landmarks Commission.

Herb Fink stated the Filson Historic Society development is moving forward and suggested having the annual meeting there next year. Johna Picco stated they are currently looking at occupancy and events for this coming Fall.

Cherokee Triangle ARC

Michael Gross spoke on behalf of the Cherokee Triangle ARC. Mr. Gross spoke in regard to the redevelopment of Camelot Apartments. He stated they also have some abandoned buildings that have been rehabbed. Mr. Gross stated a lot of their work has to do with education of new residents on what can and can't be done to a house without seeking approval. Monica Orr stated they are working on tree problems. Carolyn Brooks added there is also a stairs project on Cherokee Road and a big landscaping project. Christopher Quirk stated this is a single family residence and it is nearing completion. Mr. Quirk stated that property values have doubled in the PVA, and he thinks the increase has been due to the Landmarks Commission and the quality of work that is going on. Jessica Murphy stated the same thing is happening in the Clifton neighborhood.

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Deborah Stewart stated that the Speed Art Museum has undergone major renovation, and is technically not in their district. Ms. Stewart stated the Speed Art Museum has raised \$400,000 and it takes \$200,000 to make admission free on Sundays. Ms. Stewart stated it is really gratifying having Speed make this gesture to the community, and she just wanted to tip her hat to Speed for this.

Individual Landmarks ARC

The Individual Landmarks ARC did not meet last year.

West Main Street ARC

The West Main Street ARC did not meet last year.

Butchertown ARC

There was no representative to speak on behalf of the Butchertown ARC.

Chair Vice thanked all of the Committee Members for their service.

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Annual Report

Request: 2015 Annual Report
Project Name: Presentation of 2015 Annual Report
Jurisdiction: Louisville Metro Government
Case Manager: Bob Keesaer, Cynthia Johnson

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Bob Keesaer reviewed highlights from the Annual Report. Mr. Keesaer stated the Louisville Metro Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission is also influencing other projects. He noted that Angel's Envy has been renovating a building rather than demolishing it. Mr. Keesaer stated JCTC wanted to tear down the building at 100 East Broadway. He stated that he and Cynthia Johnson met with them and they have restored the buildings and the University is going to occupy the building.

Mr. Keesaer introduced Savannah Darr who joined staff this year. Mr. Keesaer stated there were four nominations to the National Register in 2015. He also added this year celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Mr. Keesaer stated the Brick Paver Ordinance was passed in 2015. This ordinance requires brick streets and alleyways to be maintained with reclaimed material as the primary source for repairs. Mr. Keesaer stated that staff has surveyed every alley and street (all in historic districts) and have rated them. He stated that Savannah has done research for source materials for repairing streets and alleys. Commissioner Stottman asked if that includes curbs. Mr. Keesaer stated that includes other materials as well as brick.

Mr. Keesaer spoke in regard to the Historic Structure Plaque Program which launched in January, 2015, and stated that 19 plaques have been awarded since the program started.

Mr. Keesaer stated 276 cases were reviewed for Certificates of Appropriateness in 2015, which was a 7% increase from the previous year.

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Cynthia Johnson stated they are still waiting to hear from the National Register on the December nominations. Ms. Johnson stated an additional nomination to the National Register will be coming up in April.

Ms. Johnson stated that demolitions must meet Landmarks, ARC and other guidelines. Ms. Johnson stated that in accordance with the Wrecking Ordinance buildings over sixty-five years old come to the Landmarks Commission for review. Ms. Johnson encouraged everyone to sign up to receive these notices.

Ms. Johnson stated they had applied for, and were awarded, a federal grant to hire a consultant to work with the Landmarks Commission to revise the Standard Design Guidelines. Ms. Johnson stated the RFP is currently at OMB and will hopefully go out soon. Mr. Gross asked if each ARC will be different. Chair Vice stated they are all the same, although Clifton had modified theirs, and he assumes that each ARC could tweak the guidelines for their areas. Mr. Gross stated maybe the ARC's should be involved in the general guidelines. Ms. Johnson stated there is a timeline to prepare the guidelines, and having guidelines approved for each individual ARC becomes mind-boggling. Commissioner Weeter stated she couldn't agree more, and she feels the guidelines are intended to be interpreted in regard to each individual district. Carolyn Brooks asked if the Clifton guidelines would be used to form the new guidelines, and Ms. Johnson said no, only to the extent of formatting not necessarily rules. Commissioner Liu stated Planning and Design Services started to send out weekly reports last year, and this year they intend to focus more on education for the general public as well as commissioners. Ms. Liu stated another major project is the Louisville Metro Comprehensive Plan. She stated Cornerstone 2020 is getting outdated, and they are working on a new Comprehensive Plan which will address Historic Preservation to a greater degree.

Scott Kremer encouraged all committee members to read the Clifton guidelines. He stated the Clifton guidelines brought preservation to the front and demolition to the end (versus other guidelines).

Mr. Peterson inquired about Planning & Design Services archiving of records. Joe Haberman stated that procedure is in process. Ms. Liu stated that staff is working on that in their spare time. Mr. Keesaer stated they are looking into partnering with some universities to assist in archiving.

Chair Vice stated this has been a great discussion today, with a good venue.

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The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.