

**Minutes of the
New Bern Historic Preservation Commission
September 15, 2010**

The New Bern Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) held its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 15, 2010, in the City of New Bern Planning Department Conference Room, 3rd Floor, 248 Craven Street.

Members Present: Jack Morton, Jr., Chair Peter Adolph, Vice-chair
Bradley Cummins Richard Parsons
Johnny Harrison Peggy Broadway

Members Excused/Absent: Rich Frye (E); Karen Britton (E)

Staff Present: Annette Stone, AICP, City Planner
Leigh Anne Friesen, AICP, Volunteer

The meeting was opened and roll call was taken. A quorum was present. The reading of the minutes to be approved was waived upon unanimous vote for a motion by Commissioner Adolph, seconded by Commissioner Harrison. The minutes were approved as submitted upon unanimous vote with a motion by Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner Adolph. Chairman Morton discussed the function and qualifications of the Historic Preservation Commission and its members. Witnesses were sworn in.

Witnesses Sworn: Susan Moffat-Thomas, Lucien Vaughn, Kathy Adolph, Charlie Buck, Stevie Bennett and others.

New Business

1. Consider COA for proposed location of Spider Lily Sculpture behind the New Bern River Front Convention Center. The applicants are City of New Bern and Swiss Bear.

Staff Comments: Staff Annette Stone gave a description of the project. She discussed the new location proposed and introduced Swiss Bear Director Susan Moffat-Thomas to do an updated presentation about the project.

Applicant's Comments: Mrs. Moffat-Thomas described the project and how the Spider Lily Sculpture would be located behind the Convention Center. She noted that the formerly proposed site became problematic.

Public Comments: NONE

Discussion by the Commission: The Commissioners discussed issues regarding storage location for pre-assembly and the amount of walking space around the sculpture base.

Finding(s) of Fact: Commissioner Adolph moved to find the application congruous with the Historic Preservation Guidelines, citing Section 15-427 Certificate of Appropriateness required; Section 15-429 Review Criteria, citing the following guidelines: “Parks and Public Spaces”, pages 77-80, guideline(s)#12. Commissioner Parsons seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote, all Commissioners voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Statement(s) of Reason: (1) The sculpture will be located on City property along the riverwalk; (2) The sculpture will be a focal point.

Condition(s): NONE

Motion: Commissioner Parsons moved to issue the COA, seconded by Commissioner Cummins. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Consider COA for Tabernacle Baptist Church, 606 Broad Street, to replace existing wood columns with a fiberglass column of the same size and style.

Staff Comments: Staff Annette Stone noted that the church project should be evaluated using the “New Construction” guidelines as it is not a contributing structure to the District. She stated that the existing wooden columns had been improperly installed, thus causing a lot of the damage that necessitates the replacement columns. The only change is in the material: from wood to fiberglass. Otherwise the new columns will be the same as the existing.

Applicant Comments: Charlie Buck, Church Building Representative, spoke on behalf of the church. He brought along a sample of the proposed material for the Commission to review. He stated the columns are 500 pounds each and will have a visible seam upon installation that will be eliminated once the columns are sanded and painted. Project cost \$70,000-\$75,000 installed.

Public Comments: NONE

Discussion by the Commission: The Commissioners discussed issues including concerns that the fiberglass may blister and whether the new columns would be the same scale as existing.

Finding(s) of Fact: Commissioner Morton moved to find the application congruous with the Historic Preservation Guidelines, citing Section 15-427 Certificate of Appropriateness required; Section 15-429 Review Criteria, citing the following guidelines: “New Construction Materials”, pages 68-69, guideline(s)#3-4. Commissioner Adolph seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote, all Commissioners voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Statement(s) of Reason: (1) The existing material is deteriorated; (2) The proposed material is fiberglass; (3) The new columns will match the old in size and style.

Condition(s): NONE

Motion: Commissioner Parsons moved to issue the COA, seconded by Commissioner Cummins. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Consider COA for Bern Investment Group Inc., 901 Pollock Street to consider re-placing doors and re-introducing windows into the Pollock Street side of the property.

Staff Comments: Staff Annette Stone said that this application is a re-application, as the applicant is continuing to develop this property. The requests are well detailed on the “Project Description” portion of the application, for Buildings “A” and “B”.

Applicant Comments: Contractor Lucien Vaughn and Owner Kathy Adolph spoke about the project details. They stated they would bring back the proposed staircase design, and discussed elements of the project such as stairs, entry gate, and metal walkway cover.

Public Comments: *Stevie Bennett*, 1312 National Avenue, talked about the original configuration of the buildings and said she approved of the project.

Discussion by the Commission: Commissioner Adolph recused himself from the discussion and vote. The Commissioners discussed issues including the width and pitch of the proposed walkway cover, and the reasoning behind the proposed stair configuration.

Finding(s) of Fact: Commissioner Harrison moved to find the application congruous with the Historic Preservation Guidelines, citing Section 15-427 Certificate of Appropriateness required; Section 15-429 Review Criteria, citing the following guidelines: “Windows and Doors”, pages 26-30, guideline(s)#4, and “Accessibility and Life Safety”, pages 46-47, guideline(s)#1-4. Commissioner Parsons seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote, all Commissioners voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Statement(s) of Reason: (1) The new windows of Building B will restore existing blocked in openings; (2) The new windows on Building B will match the existing windows on Building A in materials and style; (3) The steel exterior staircase on Building A is needed for access to the second floor; (4) The aluminum covered walkway will provide dry access between Buildings A and B and is not a primary area of visual concern; (5) The glass and metal doors on Building B will replace a metal garage door and improve accessibility.

Condition(s): NONE

Motion: Commissioner Parsons moved to issue the COA, seconded by Commissioner Cummins. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Jack Morton, Chair

Annette Stone, AICP
Commission Administrator