

**Minutes of the
New Bern Historic Preservation Commission
Special Called Meeting
May 4, 2011**

The New Bern Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) held a special called meeting on Wednesday, May 4, 2011, in the second floor courtroom of City Hall, 300 Pollock Street.

Members Present: Jack Morton, Jr., Chairman Peter Adolph, Vice-chair
Richard Parsons Peggy Broadway
Bradley Cummins Karen Britton
Rich Frye Johnny Harrison

Members Excused/Absent: NONE

Staff Present: Michael Avery, AICP, Planning and Inspections Director
Leigh Anne Friesen, AICP, Volunteer

The meeting was opened and roll call was taken. A quorum was present. Witnesses were sworn in.

Witnesses Sworn: Jennifer Knight, Jerry Hobbins and others.

Tabled Business

1. Consider application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for Heritage Park, owned by the City of New Bern, for development of green space between City Hall and Christ Episcopal Church (300 Pollock Street).

Staff Comments: NONE

Applicant Comments: Applicant Jennifer Knight presented on the curb cut details, the lighting plan, the reflecting pool details (along with presenting a sample brick and monument masonry), and Flemish Bond paving pattern. She also noted that the City Attorney is checking into water liability issues and will report back if that impacts the existing design of the pool.

Public Comments: *Jerry Hobbins*, 229 New Street, thinks there is too much hardscape for a park. He is glad the existing trees will remain. He approves of the plaque being in a more prominent location. He does not approve of a double entrance, and inquired about the fate of the vegetation currently screening the City Hall utilities.

Discussion by the Commission: The Commissioners discussed issues including the source of the drawing of Flemish Bond brick pattern, the direction of the pavers, a clarification of the drawing related to benches, the texture of the granite top of the pool, various lengths, the separation of materials, the amount of shade in the park, the fate of vegetation on the other side of the proposed fence, and the improvement of the fence versus vegetation to screen the utilities.

Finding(s) of Fact: Commissioner Parsons 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: “Landscaping”, pages 73-76; “Parks and Public Spaces”, page 77, and “Fences and Garden Walls”, pages 78-79. . 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 proposed park would enhance pedestrian access and use, screen existing utilities, and not obscure architectural details.

Condition(s):

- Flag poles shall not exceed 24 feet in height
- Curb cuts are to be beveled to match existing
- Three trees on Christ Episcopal’s Church not part of this COA
- Reflecting Pool is not part of this COA
- Existing plaque to be moved to City Hall on Craven Street
- If COA expires, this project is to be re-approved by the Commission, not by City Staff

Motion: Commissioner Parsons moved to issue the COA, seconded by Commissioner Cummins. All Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Jack Morton, Jr., Chairman

Michael Avery, AICP
Planning and Inspections Director