

LIBERTY HISTORIC DISTRICT REVIEW COMMISSION

Meeting Summary

January 18, 2022

Zoom Video Conference

4:00 p.m.

Roll Call: John Carr, Vern Drottz, Aimee Gray, Mike Gilmore, Matt Grundy, Dail Hobbs, Martha Reppert, Brett Rinker, Doug Wilson

Present: Vern Drottz, Mike Gilmore, Matt Grundy, Dail Hobbs, Aimee Gray, Martha Reppert, Doug Wilson

Absent: John Carr, Brett Rinker

Staff Present: Jeanine Thill, Community Development Manager and Katherine Sharp, Director of Planning & Development

Chairman Grundy called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Summary: December 7, 2021 HDRC Meeting Summary

A motion was made by Commissioner Gray to approve the December 7, 2021 meeting summary as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Reppert. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Current Business

Election of Chair and Vice Chair of HDRC:

A motion was made by Commissioner Gray to accept the officers as presented, with Matt Grundy as Chairman and John Carr as Vice Chairman, the motion was seconded by Chairman Gilmore. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Preservation Plan Implementation – Priorities:

Page 198 4.7.G – Augment HDRC's Public Engagement; host seminars such as:

- Plaster and lath
- Window Workshop
- Porches 101
- Masonry Repair
- Remediation of asbestos/asbestos identification – types & where to take to get tested
- General Q & A – what HDRC does for you and what resources are available (i.e. Design Sub Committees)
- Send a letter once a year, by district, and invite them to a meeting for a Q & A. We need to be more user friendly.
- Staff is working on making it so that HDLI can be the applicant for Neighborhood Enhancement Grants (NEG)
 - Chairman Grundy and others said they feel having HDLI to be the applicant for improvements for NEG's is important.
- Informational Brochures
- 353 Tax Abatement Seminar – One of the ideas is to use this as an incentive to add historic districts - maybe south of Mill St.

Page 198 4.8.C – Consider expanding existing local historic districts. Is a mid-term goal that the Commission would like to see explored later?

Page 197 4.5.B – Adding a district is a rezoning application

- Ms. Sharp said that ideally you would have the survey identify the priority districts. The low hanging fruit would be the National Register Districts. There can be controversy over re-zoning; with the City initiating a re-zoning brings another layer of challenge. We may want people to see the benefit of being in a historic district first. Currently, you get an extra time on your tax abatement if you are out of the district.
- Commissioner Gilmore said there was an attempt to add a district almost 20 years ago.
- Chairman Grundy asked if the homeowners have a say in rezoning. Ms. Sharp said that in the area to be rezoned, if 1/3 are against it then it would require a super majority of 6 votes at City Council to pass. It can be very contentious and the current City Council would likely not be for that. Ms. Sharp said maybe surveys can be done.
- Commissioner Hobbs said extending the inventory or updating it and identifying what district might be added.
- Commissioner Wilson said he wouldn't want to spend the money on surveying the suburban neighborhoods.
- Commissioner Gilmore said the definition of historic homes is a moving target.
- Commissioner Hobbs said other than districts, there are homes that could be eligible. The entire Ridgeway addition could be historic now.
- Ms. Sharp said our GIS mapping system has dates of homes. Also, there are probably some homes outside the downtown area that could be looked at. HDRC may want to decide what age we want to cap what is deemed historic. Mid-century homes are now something to consider as historic.

Page 197 4.9.D. E. and F.

- **D.** Publicize designated landmarks and host landmark tours – We could encourage people to buy the Century Homes Plaques
- **E.** Landmark Special Incentives – This may not be realistic for us to accomplish
- **F.** Encourage “Liberty History Awards” – Staff will ask Harold Phillips and Bryan Boyd if this is something HDRC could do, or ask if they are planning to do this. Preservation Month is in May, we can do a proclamation. Maybe we could do a plaque or bronze marker for homes recently renovated.

Other Business

Administrative Approvals since the December 7, 2021 meeting:

- 253 W. Kansas – Renewal of COA for windows in back porch
- 449 E. Kansas – HDRC Case 22-001J; COA for roof

Miscellaneous matters from the Commission: None

Miscellaneous matters from Staff:

- Meeting Calendar for 2022: First and Third Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom until further notice.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.