

**ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 18, 2023**

The Athens-Clarke County Historic Preservation Commission met and considered the following items at a public meeting on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held at 120 W. Dougherty Street, Athens, Georgia.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joanna Beckman, Heather Fletcher (Chair) Lindsey Roper, Worth Van Linden, Ellen Walker, Thomas White

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bobbie Epting

STAFF PRESENT: Amber Eskew, Austin Jackson (ACC Attorney's Office,) Maddie Markle (HP intern,) John Rogeberg

CALL TO ORDER:

1. Determination of Quorum: Quorum present
2. Introduction of staff reports and all other documents submitted to the Historic Preservation Commission at this meeting into the official record: Motion to receive all documents into the official record passed unanimously.
3. Adoption of the minutes of the September 20, 2023 agenda review: Motion to adopt the minutes of the September 20, 2023 agenda review passed unanimously.
4. Adoption of the minutes of the September 20, 2023 meeting: Motion to adopt the minutes of the September 20, 2023 meeting passed unanimously.
5. Ex-Partee communications: none

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

CONCEPTUAL PRELIMINARY DESIGN REVIEW:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. 227 Woodlawn Avenue
Petitioner:
Request:
Information: | COA-2023-10-1990
David Matheny / AMT for Jason & Melissa Eisele
Concept of a Breezeway Connection
124B2 F005, Woodlawn, RS-15 |
|--|---|

Ms. Eskew presented the staff report. As this is a conceptual review, there will be discussion only. No decisions will be made at this meeting.

Agent / Owner: David Matheny

In Favor: none

Opposed: Kevin O'Neil, Rich McCormack

Discussion:

- Reduced to 12' breezeway length.

- An aerial of the property would be helpful.
- Breezeways are not addressed in the guidelines.
- Ms. Walker noted that we are not setting precedent.
- We should not consider what is visible as much as what fits the character.

Action Taken: comments only

TRAINING:

1. Understanding Appeals and Making Defensible Decisions
 - Guided by Mr. Jackson and Ms. Eskew, there was an in-depth discussion regarding Section 8-5-5(o) of the ordinance and of the Guidelines.
 - Mr. Jackson stressed that because an appeal is filed does not mean that the HPC did something wrong or abused discretion.
2. Understanding Period Appropriate Materials and Historic Precedent
 - Ms. Eskew described in detail the differences between period appropriate and historic precedent which led to a lengthy discussion.
 - She also added that if the HPC disagrees with the way the guidelines are written and interpreted, especially if a certain guideline is not allowing something that you think is appropriate, the Commission should look at changing the guidelines.
3. Discussion of Recent Training Opportunities
 - a. NAPC Summer Short Course Session
 - Brief explanation and discussion of the session topics from this multi-session two-day training on August 23 and 24.
 - b. NAPC Creating a Realtor Program
 - Discussed the lessons from this training held October 12th and how they might be applied with a local realtor program.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **Growth Concept Plan Public Input Exercise:**
An explanation of the exercise and the upcoming public input opportunities was given by staff with HPC members encouraged to attend a session.
- **Strategic Plan Update:**
 - The updated format of the general set of Design Guidelines is ready.
 - The printing has been done of the Districts and Landmarks book. Distribution to follow.
 - Creating a realtor program is part of the strategic plan.
- **Designation Committee Report**
 - No meeting held this month.
 - Research is ongoing with the Boyles Drive property.
 - No status update regarding the Mack-Burney House as a potential designation.
- **Education Committee Report**
 - No meeting held this month.
 - 2023 Annual Report is underway and to be ready in January.
- **Miscellaneous Announcements**
 - Two COA items on the November agenda. Ms. Fletcher to be absent from the November hearing.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.