

Toccoa Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)  
Regular Meeting Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The HPC held a regular meeting on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 3:10 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Terrell House. Chair Turner called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m. The following were in attendance: Chair Susan Turner, Commissioner Victor Cuvo, Commissioner Gary Cortellino, TCC Liaison Terry Carter, HP Consultant Joe Rothwell, and Mr. Jeremy Ward. Vice-Chair Allen was absent. Ms. Jessica Waters (WNEG) was present. Mr. and Mrs. Derek Addison, and Ms. Laura Elrod, were also present at the second half of the meeting. Upon a motion by Commissioner Cortellino and seconded by Commissioner Cuvo, the May 4<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Agenda was unanimously approved. Upon a motion made by Chair Turner and seconded by Commissioner Cuvo, the March 7, 2023 minutes were unanimously approved.

### Reports

Chair Turner gave a brief recap of the history of the Terrell House, including the legal struggles and that it eventually was able to be saved. She referenced what a beautiful success story it was, and how it was in active use by Toccoa First Methodist Church. HP Consultant Rothwell and Liaison Carter mentioned an item from the previous agenda's minutes - the window coverings for the Cornerstone Antique Market. Multiple members and Mr. Ward stated that they had followed up with the owner about this over the previous months. Liaison Carter said that perhaps it could be an issue for Code Enforcement. The consensus was that, because it was an interior issue, it did not warrant that. Mr. Ward stated that perhaps Chair Turner could write a letter on behalf of the HPC requesting that they move ahead with the curtains instead. Liaison Carter requested that Mr. Ward write the letter instead, and Mr. Ward agreed.

### I. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

### II. New Business

#### A. Commemoration of the passing of Mr. Thurston Estes.

Chair Turner remarked that Commissioner Estes was a founding member of the HPC, and an instrumental part of saving the Terrell House from demolition. Commissioner Cuvo added that Commissioner Estes was the first person he met in Toccoa, and the reason he was on the HPC. He also remarked that it was a shame that there had not been more meetings recently.

#### B. Consideration of nominations for the open seat.

Chair Turner asked if there were any nominations. She nominated Ms. Brenda Carlan, who she had nominated for a previous opening. Mr. Ward stated that Mr. Steven Gilmer had also requested that his name be thrown in the ring. The HPC voted unanimously to nominate Ms. Brenda Carlan, and stated that it will be good to have another candidate waiting in the wings.

#### C. Presentation by Mr. Joe Rothwell.

Mr. Rothwell gave a presentation on historic preservation in Jacksonville, Florida. In his opinion, the two important goals of historic preservation are preservation of history and education of others about it.

#### D. Certificate of Appropriateness for Sarah and Derek Addison. Request: signage for 26 Doyle Street.

Chair Turner reported that the Addisons were seeking a COA for two exterior signs for the R&R Terminal building, that would be 2'X2' with printed vinyl overlay. Ms. Addison reported that their plan was to keep the sign at the same height as the rest of the similar signs on Doyle Street. Commissioner Cortellino voted to approve the sign; Commissioner Cuvo seconded the motion; and it was approved unanimously. The Commission also discussed the historic plaque installation at R&R Terminal, and it was scheduled for 5:00 on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**E. Certificate of Appropriateness for Laura Elrod. Request: signage for 46 and 44 Rice Lewis Gilliard Way.**

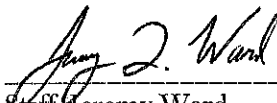
Chair Turner reported that Ms. Elrod was currently renovating two storefronts in the downtown passageway for their custom home store. The application was for signage for front doors of each building, and a flat metal sign with vinyl lettering above an exterior window. The smaller unit will be used for offices, and the larger unit for a showroom. Liaison Carter asked if this was their first office space, to which Ms. Elrod responded that they were moving from a previous model home site at the Currahee Club. Commissioner Cortellino voted to approve the signs, Commissioner Cuvo seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

**F. Discussion of HPC Goals.**

Following the COAs, the HPC discussed goals or objectives for the upcoming year. Chair Turner recapped some of the discussions had in the Sesquicentennial Committee that she was a member of, including the opening of the Terrell House for a week in May. There may be an opportunity there for the HPC to be involved. Liaison Carter recommended the creation and purchase of an HPC vertical banner for use at that event and future events, and requested that the Community Development Department get that designed and ordered. Liaison Carter and Commissioner Cortellino also mentioned the idea of expanding the historic district or creating a new historic district, currently only downtown/commercial, to include some of the surrounding residential neighborhoods as well. Specific areas mentioned were Savannah Street, Doyle Street, and Tugalo Street. Chair Turner discussed the reasons that had not been enacted in the past, and Liaison Carter and Mr. Rothwell stated the benefits of doing it. Mr. Rothwell stated that several other cities in the region have done so. Mr. Ward asked how the governance of that would be handled, and Mr. Rothwell stated that COAs for renovations to houses in the residential district could be handled the same as COAs for buildings in the historic district. Mr. Ward then stated that the best course of action would be for staff and HPC to review this proposal, and reconvene on the issue at the regularly scheduled meeting next month. Commissioner Cortellino also requested that the HPC meet every month regardless of there being a COA, and this was also discussed and recommended to be added to the discussion agenda for next month's meeting.

There being no further business or public comments, upon a motion made by Commissioner Cortellino and seconded by Commissioner Cuvo, the regular HPC meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

  
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Chair, Susan Turner

  
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Staff, Jeremy Ward