

Historic District Commission
Thursday, April 28, 2005
Council Chambers, City Hall, 7:00 pm

Minutes

1. Workshop—Began at 6:25

The Commission continued to compare the Historic District Assessment prepared by Preservation Consultant, Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, to their guidelines and regulations. They discussed Sec. 22-410.Findings and Sec. 22-411.Appeals. The next workshop will be held on May 26, 2005.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

2. Roll Call:

Present: Jeffrey Barrette, Tony Zullo, David Messier, Susan Doody, Deborah Cutts
Absent: Frederick Kuriger

3. Report of Secretary

Minutes of March 23, 2005 were reviewed.

Motion: To accept the minutes of March 23, 2005 as presented.

Made by: Mr. Barrette Second: Ms. Doody

Vote: Unanimous

4. New Business

- **Jaime Contois**—would like to install a mural on the existing plywood which temporarily covers the western store front of 42 Opera House Square. The mural is a collaborative community project involving local artist, community members and students. Map 120, Lot 45

Ms. Contois, Mural Project Coordinator, introduced the principal organizers called The Downtown Claremont Mural Project—Ms. Jemma Newton, Student, Stevens High School; Ms. Laura Maki, Student, Stevens High School; Ms. Lindsey Caruso, Student, Stevens High School; Mr. Chad Turner, Stevens High School Alumni '98 and professional illustrator with Gigunda Graphics Inc., Manchester.

Ms. Contois expressed the group's vision for the downtown area. Their goal is to beautify not only the area but the building. The group also feels that the mural will draw people to the downtown area. The mural will be visible from anywhere on Opera House Square, and to some extent from Sullivan Street, Main Street, Pleasant Street and Broad Street. She handed out a color printout of the image and some photos that illustrate how it will look when the mural is finished and installed.

There was question as to what would happen to the mural should the building be sold? The group will create a temporary structure by attaching a plywood backing to the mural that can be removed should ownership of the build change.

Mr. Zullo removed himself from the board since he is an abutter.

Ms. Contois stated what the group brings to the project, i.e., professionalism, community organization, artistic talent and inspiration. Mr. Turner explained that the image selected represents growth, hope, new beginnings, youth, new potential and history. The history will be portrayed in the dark blue areas of the image in the form of a collage. They will use old newspaper clippings in black and white printout and go over it with a color wash. The entire image will be covered with a waterproof based lacquer to seal it.

Abutter Present

Mr. F. Tony Zullo advised the group that the location selected for the mural may pose a potential danger since it appears there might be some loose bricks. It was requested by the Commission that this be brought to the attention of the City's Building and Code Enforcement Officer. Ms. Bodi will submit that report.

There were some suggestions from the board as to various types of materials that can be used to protect or better stabilize the mural. The board suggested a write up be made available to the public with an overview of why they decided on this project and what the benefit would be to the community. The Commission also recommended public education through the Eagle Times and possibly CCTV.

Motion: To approve the mural design and timeline as presented by The Downtown Claremont Mural Project group.

Mr. Barrette asked how long they plan to keep the mural on display and who would take ownership. Ms. Contois' responded that a two year timeframe was the goal and the group would retain ownership; however, there was always the possibility that the community could become custodians of the mural.

Chairperson Messier reserved the right to review the length of time the mural will remain in placed based on conditions.

Amended Motion: To approve the mural design and timeline as presented by The Downtown Claremont Mural Project group, and review as necessary if conditions warrant.
Made by: Ms. Cutts Second: Ms. Doody
Vote: Unanimous

5. **Future Topics**

A special HDC meeting will be held on May 12th and a workshop will be held on May 26th.

6. **Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn
Made by: Mr. Barrette Second: Ms. Snelling
Vote: Unanimous
Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Carmen L. Bodi
Board and Commission Coordinator