



**Historic District Commission Meeting**  
Tuesday, February 13, 2018 5:30 PM  
City Hall, Council Chambers

**MINUTES**  
**Approved 4/26/2018**

**I. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** David Messier, Kristin Kenniston, Richard Wahrlich  
**Absent:**

**II. Review and comment on City project at 46-54 and 56 Opera House Square (N. Merrill)**

Ms. Merrill presented the plans to install an elevator and stairway on the back sides of the Farwell Block and 56 Opera House Square. The elevator will provide ADA access to the upper floors of both buildings. The stair way will also provide access to the upper floors of both buildings and will be code compliant. The elevator will be housed in a single addition.

The lower and mid-levels of the Farwell have been renovated and are occupied, but the upper floor is empty due to lack of access. 56 Opera House Square has been vacant for 25 years.

The Dental Center, which currently occupies the lower portion of the Farwell, would like to expand to the upper story of the Farwell. The West Claremont Center for Music and the Arts would like to occupy 56 Opera House Square. They envision a gallery and music practice rooms as well as concert space.

Conceptual drawings were provided to the Commission for review.

The Commission's input on the project was sought as part of the funding requirements for the project.

Access to the addition will be from the front of City Hall. Entrance will require a key card.

The addition is being designed to blend with the materials of the atrium. It will be located on the site of a building that had been removed last year. The foundation of that building remains and has been capped. It houses the electrical utilities for the Farwell. The utilities will be moved and the foundation filled in. The mechanicals that are currently behind the Farwell will also be moved.

They do not anticipate any exterior work being done to either building aside from some cleaning and brick-pointing. A doorway and two windows may be affected, although it is not clear at this time.

Ms. Merrill solicited the Commission's opinion of the project and asked if the Commission had any conditions to add.

Ms. Kenniston said she was okay with what had been presented so far and was pleased that the project will clean up an area that needs it. Mr. Wahrlich was okay with it. Mr. Messier said he liked the simplicity of the design and its compatibility with the atrium. He also liked that it will be made of brick. All agreed that it will be good to get two buildings back into full use.

Ms. Merrill said the CDA will continue to work with the Commission as the plans develop.

A letter will be drafted for Mr. Messier to sign on behalf of the Commission.

**III. Other**

**IV. Adjournment**

**Motion:**

**Made by:**

**Second:**

**Vote:**

Meeting adjourned at \_ PM

Respectfully submitted by,

*deForest Bearse*

Resource Coordinator