

Historic NBS Preservation Commission Meeting

October 13, 2021 at 5:30 pm - Video of the meeting can be found [here](#):

Commissioners Present: Joanna Mahood (chair), Curtis Hodges (vice chair), Angeline Barretta-Herman, Christie Abramovic and Terry Bledsoe.

Absent: Lianne Bennett, Suzanne Ladd.

Others Present: Assistant City Attorney Shey McCurdy, Senior Planner Robert Mathen, and Board Secretary Stephanie Ferrara.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES for the September 8, 2021 meeting were approved with corrections.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Antoinette Bass, 1106 Palmetto Street, asked the Commission to consider seeking Historic Landmark status for the original school building currently being used as the City Gym.

New Business

The Commission reviewed a proposed amendment to the Land Development Regulations regarding Vintage Signs designations. The City Commission has given an extension to the previous requirement that all pole signs must be removed and has also allowed for Vintage Sign designation to allow certain signs to be exempt from removal. The amendment is intended to establish criteria and to create an approval process for Vintage Sign designation under the authority of the Historic Preservation Commission.

Commissioner Barretta-Herman stated that there should be a time limit to the process, and the commission agreed that 60 days would be appropriate. Commissioner Bledsoe stated that there was a need for specific criteria, so each decision was not a case-by-case decision and thereby easily challenged. Commissioner Mahood inquired whether the businesses had received notification of this requirement. Staff replied that they had previously prepared notices, but that they want to have the process more nailed down before sending those out.

Commissioners voted 3-1, with Commissioner Terry Bledsoe dissenting, to approve the proposed amendment

Staff reviewed the Donnadine Miller Preservation Award history as the application process for this year's awards is being opened. Applications are available at City Hall and on the city's website. It was also noted that last year's awards were just received because the small foundry in Pennsylvania was shut down much of the past year.

An update was given on the process of establishing local historic districts. A neighborhood meeting was held in the Coronado historic district on Saturday, October 30 in the Coronado Civic Center at 150 South Pine Street. Approximately 35 more property owners are needed for approval of this local historic district. Staff hopes to schedule a neighborhood meeting for the mainland district in November, but availability of a venue has been an issue.

Comments from Commission Members and City Staff

Commissioner Barretta-Herman congratulated the community for its support of the NSB Residents' Coalition Charming Home Tour held on October 7. She feels that this year's participation by the community demonstrated strong support for historic preservation. Commissioner Mahood commented on the City Gym building brought up in public participation and asked whether this building would be a good selection for historic landmark status. Staff indicated they have reached out to the school board to see if the building meets the criteria. They are currently evaluating 14 sites and will soon provide recommendations to the Commission.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2021.