

Athens City Historic and Architecture Preservation Commission
MINUTES
June 12, 2023

1.Call to Order Chairperson Mary Anne Reeves called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Members present include Mark Snider, Richard Vedder, Cyrus Moore, Bill Walker, Tim Anderson, and John Valentour. Quorum established. All members are present.

2.Disposition of Minutes Previous minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve by Richard, second Bill. Minutes approved by the commission.

3. Next Meeting July 10, 2023, at 5:30 PM

4. New Business

A. A semi-annual report needs to be prepared for the commission. We assume Andrew Chiki will provide this report.

B. Mary Anne discussed the potential to obtain grants through a certified local government to assist in historic district development. The commission should assist property owners and contractors understand the process and expectations. Completing the information packet (brochure), started years ago will provide a resource. It was noted the commission will need assistance from the City of Athens. Members were asked to bring to the next meeting anything related to the work done on the brochure.

C. Mary Anne provided a copy of the Buckeye Hills Regional Council Guidebook. This is a good promotional tool for our area.

D. Richard brought up the issue of senior housing proposed by Ohio University. It was determined the historic commission would not be involved.

E. The commission discussed the potential of expansion of the existing historic district. A preliminary concept for this expansion has been developed. John V. will provide copies to all commission members.

It was noted the commission would need assistance from the city to make this objective happen.

F. Bill brought up the interesting fact that West Washington Street once was a residential area for black Americans, investigation will continue concerning the potential historic significance.

G. Cyrus indicated he is working with Andrew on the armory renovation project.

5.Old Business

A. The Presbyterian Church plaque was discussed, this award is taking very long to present. The commission is hopeful Andrew can make this happen.

B. We discussed the repair work needed at the cross walks uptown and the general condition of the brick streets. Utility work causes needed repairs to the brick streets, are design standards in place for patching? Do the fees paid by uptown property owners contribute to sidewalk, curb, and street work?

C. Construction is scheduled to begin on the Lostro Building. The Certificate of Appropriateness has been issued by the City.

6. Adjournment

All agenda items satisfied and no additional business or announcements. Mark motioned to adjourn the meeting, second John V. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:40PM

John Valentour