

Historic Preservation Commission
August 11, 2025
City Hall, Edward & Martha Berry Conference Room

Attendance:

Members – Mary Anne Reeves, Bill Walker, Richard Vedder, Mark Snider, Meghan Jennings, Cyrus Moore, John Valentour, and Tim Anderson

Guests – Sue Righi and Art Oestrike with Jackie O's.

Absent – None.

Agenda

1. **Call to Order** – Mary Anne, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.
2. **Disposition of Minutes** from the July 14 meeting.
 - Richard motioned to approve the July minutes.
 - Tim seconded.
 - All in favor. None opposed. Mary Anne and Bill abstained. Motion passed.
3. **Old Business**
 - Certificate of Appropriateness – 43 & 45 S. Court Street
 - Mark left the room due to a conflict of interest; he informed the Commission of his conflict of interest before the project.
 - Meghan reviewed the documentation that was presented to the Commission.
 - Art Oestrike clarified that the new windows will be glass paned.
 - The Commission discussed how they are not in favor of vinyl windows. The Commission reviewed the potential safety concerns about students partying on the balconies along Court Street.
 - Art mentioned that the bay window will significantly reduce the amount of space available on the balcony. He also mentioned that the railing will be higher than what is required; they will be providing 4-foot high railings.
 - Tim stated that he believes that the Commission's review should focus on the historic appropriateness of the balcony and not the review of code compliance. He understands that there may be concerns about the Commission recommending approval of a structure that isn't code compliance. He suggested that within the Commission's approval they could include language that addresses any potential code compliance issues.
 - Cyrus reported that he found photos of historic balconies on other structures throughout uptown for reference for the Commission and what design and materials may be appropriate for the proposal.
 - Richard S. discussed that they have modified the design of the balconies to 4ft deep and would be painted metal. He stated that the balconies would be similar to the existing balconies over Hot Box Chicken but that they would not include the angled bracket support. He clarified that the proposed balconies would be cantilevered.
 - Cyrus motioned to approve the concept, design, and materials for the balconies as proposed.
 - John seconded the motion.
 - All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.
 - Certificate of Appropriateness - 65 N. Court Street
 - Mary Anne asked if there were any updates on the previously discussed application. She shared that she still has concerns about vertical clearance

between potential balconies and the parked vehicles along the side of the building.

4. New Business

- The Lostro
 - The Commission discussed the ongoing construction and commented on their observations of the construction work.
- The Armory
 - Richard mentioned the Mayor mentioned the NLC event.
 - Meghan gave a brief summary of the event.
- Mount Zion Black Cultural Center
 - Sue Righi informed the Commission that it's grant season. She mentioned that she came to the meeting in order to update the Commission on the rehabilitation project. She mentioned that they previously received \$7,042,000 from the Appalachian Community Grant Program from the State of Ohio. She stated that in this current economy, money doesn't go as far as it used to. She reported that progress with the construction is still going on and that they are still intending to construct an elevator just not as a building addition.
 - Tim asked for an update on the windows.
 - Sue reported that windows are the first out and the last in due to protection. She mentioned that the ACGP grant monies need to be spent by October 2026. She reported that there will be a museum inside and that they are looking for additional funding to complete the project. She asked the Commission if they would be willing to write a letter of support for their grant applications.
 - The Commission stated that they would gladly submit a letter of support.
 - John asked if other structural changes were being proposed that may need Commission review and approval.
 - Sue reported that they are having to relocate some interior stairs due to not being able to meet code requirements. She stated that the new elevator will be located near the front entrance of the building.
- Menasseh Cutler Statue
 - Richard reported that the Board of Trustees gave approval of the sculpture. He reported that the Trustees have formed a committee in order to decide where to put it on College Green. He stated their goal is to complete the structure by July 2026.

5. Announcements

- Cyrus stated that The Armory's ribbon cutting is scheduled for September 30th.
- Mary Anne stated that she would follow up with the Presbyterian Church on the Joanne Prisley award.
- Mary Anne announced that the next scheduled meeting is September 8, 2025.

6. Adjourn

- Cyrus motioned to adjourn at 6:18 p.m.
 - John seconded the motion.
- All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed.