

Athens City Historic and Architecture Preservation Commission
Minutes
December 14, 2020 5:30 PM

1. Call to Order—Mary Ann Reeves called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM. Members present include Mary Ann Reeves, Cyrus Moore, Mark Snider, Guy Philips, Pam Callahan, John Valentour, and Richard Vedder. Quorum was established. Paul Logue recorded minutes.

2. Disposition of Minutes—Guy Philips made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Cyrus Moore seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion was approved.

3. Next Meeting—January 11, 2021 5:30PM

4. Old Business

A. Design Review—Paul reported that city admin is working on the permitting process for this. Permitting staff have been provided with relevant documents and have been instructed to watch for permits in the uptown area.

B. Prisley Award—Mary Ann has written some brief narrative and has been given some historic records from the 1st Presbyterian Church. Vedder and Reeves thought the plaque should be a modest feature on the building. Rev. Martin asked for something to be written about the church history. Reeves suggested that a plaque be mounted at Court Street elevation at corner with Washington Street. Pam Callahan thanked Mary Ann for her work on this. Callahan asked about timing for press release and organizing event. Cyrus Moore recommended the board invite Rev. Martin to a meeting prior to finalizing. Paul Logue will coordinate plaque ordering once everything is set. Callahan and Philips suggesting having narrative, press release, and plaque language prepped before having Rev. Martin attend a meeting. Vedder noted that Charles Ping gave a presentation on the history of 1st Presbyterian about 10 years ago. He may be willing to do an oral history on this.

5. New Business

A. Ridges—Pam reported on the recent Ridges Advisory Committee meeting held a few weeks ago. Pam stated that the university is committed to the Ridges and understands the importance of the land and buildings to the community.

There are issues with the roof failing in buildings 2/3/4 that were part of a stabilization package that OU did a few years ago. The roofs are repairable and OU has gotten estimates for the work (~\$1MM), but no funding source has been identified yet. Athens City Council President and Advisory Committee member Chris Knisely is drafting a letter on behalf of the Advisory Committee on this matter. Callahan asked if the preservation board would like to be part of this effort too. Philips asked if Callahan would draft a letter. Snider mentioned serving on a board prior to when OU took ownership and the challenges back then. He believes the university taking ownership saved those buildings. Vedder stressed the need to maintain the building and the complication with the current financial issues at OU. Snider suggested the letter should thank them for their efforts at the Ridges and appeal for their continued support on this. Vedder reported that the state's finances aren't as bad as expected. Vedder suggested that OU Advancement be consulted regarding next OU capital campaign. This could be a separate item from OU's budget. Pam will forward the photos to the board. Philips motioned for the board to draft a letter

in support of preservation of the Ridges buildings. Snider seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion was approved.

B. Pilcher House—Discussion on sealed bid action this Friday, Dec 18, at 3 PM. Board members reported that some community members are interested in submitting bids on this matter.

6. Announcements and Updates—there were no announcements or updates

7. Adjournment—with all agenda items satisfied and no additional business, John Valentour motioned to adjourn the meeting. Moore seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15PM.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Logue