

COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

August 25, 2016

Members Present

Robin Crews
Susan Stilwell
Robert Weir
Robert Stowe

Members Absent

Sean Davis
Michael Nicholas
Jeffrey Bond

Staff

Renee Burton
Anna Levi
Tracie Lancaster
Clarke Whitfield

Vice-Chairman Crews called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

ITEMS FOR PUBLIC HEARING

- 1. Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness, PLCAR2016000231, filed by DRHA to remove the non-historic exterior cladding from 254 Jefferson Avenue.*

Mrs. Crews opened the Public Hearing.

Mrs. Burton stated I will be happy to answer any questions that you have.

Mrs. Stilwell stated I find it incredibly exciting and I can't wait to see what is under that permastone and I love what the building looked like originally.

Mr. Weir stated am I wrong that both item 1 and 2 are the same building?

Mrs. Burton stated no they are actually two separate buildings.

Mr. Weir stated are they?

Mrs. Burton stated they are.

Mrs. Stilwell stated that was West Piano for years and years.

Mrs. Burton stated the one here this was the old piano store.

Mrs. Stilwell stated actually it was red siding originally.

Mrs. Burton stated right there. Southwest Restoration out of Roanoke are currently the contractor for this work. They are set to begin on the Tuesday after Labor day. So we believe they will be complete by Friday that is the plan right now. We have two weeks scheduled just in case but we believe that he will start on Tuesday and it will be

complete by Friday. We do have some permastone that is already letting loose up here in this corner.

Mrs. Stillwell stated there is a lot missing too.

Mrs. Burton stated right so I don't know how difficult it will be to actually get it off. If you are in that area during that week please be cautious because we will have areas blocked off. All of this right now is being covered by a grant from VHDA.

Mr. Weir stated why would this not meet the guidelines? I mean your recommendation says that it doesn't meet the guidelines. If we are getting rid of the non-historical front.

Mr. Stowe stated for the demolition in general right?

Mrs. Burton stated demolition in general does not meet the guidelines. So if we look at it from a general point of demolition it does not.

Mr. Stowe stated so we need to do the two step process if we want to.

Mr. Weir stated in this case we would need to be going through the two step process.

Mrs. Burton stated you will.

Mr. Whitfield stated you will need to determine if it meets the guidelines and if it doesn't meet the guidelines whether it is adverse to the building or to the district as a whole.

Mrs. Crews closed the Public hearing.

Mrs. Stillwell made a motion that *PLCAR2016000231* does not meet the guidelines. Mr. Stowe seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Weir made a motion that *PLCAR2016000231* does not have an adverse effect on the neighborhood or property. Mrs. Stillwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

2. Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness, PLCAR20160000232, filed by DRHA to remove the non-historic exterior cladding from 400 Jefferson Street.

Mrs. Crews opened the Public Hearing.

Mrs. Crews closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Weir stated all we are talking about is taking that siding off again?

Mrs. Burton stated right this actually the 400 Jefferson Street which the aluminum.

Mrs. Stillwell made a motion that *PLCAR20160000232* does not meet the guidelines. Mr. Weir seconds the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Weir made a motion that *PLCAR20160000232* does not have an adverse effect on the neighborhood or property. Mr. Stowe seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINTUES

Mr. Weir made a motion to approve the July 28, 2016 minutes. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Wilson stated I'm going to pass around this information about what herringbone sidewalk looks like. I have been trying to follow up on the sidewalk issue over by Midtown. I was going to present it at the City Council meeting although some of the people ask me not to. If anyone has been to Midtown they took the original sidewalk that was 70 years old or thereabouts and ripped it up and put in another sidewalk. Then they poured white mortar along the curb. They didn't actually finish the sidewalk along the other side of it there is actually a 5 to 8 inch gap of sand. They actually laid the brick down in sand. I was trying to find out who did this. Jane and I decided that we could have done a better job. That picture that I passed around the herringbone pattern that sidewalk was laid 40 plus years ago by Gary Grant. In front of the house that used to belong to Tom Shadrick. So that is actually an illustration of what a herringbone pattern is. Quality Construction has a contract for repairing sidewalks all around town except for brick sidewalks. The City has a blanket order to Lewis Nursery in Cascade for fixing brick sidewalks. It actually is supposed to replace the brick sidewalk in the same pattern as existing. So the top picture here is the sidewalk that they replaced, which was an original herringbone pattern on Gray Street and then put in this other herringbone pattern. Midtown besides whatever you think about the terrible job they did they did put in a herringbone pattern. So it turns out Ronnie Carson in Engineering who is in charge of managing these projects he would like to actually put asphalt down instead of granite. Then they didn't finish the sidewalk at the curb. They left 5 or 8 inch along the curb as sand. When asked why they done that? They said because that is on private property that property belongs to Dr. Jannach. They didn't have permission to build a sidewalk on it. So how come you tore up his sidewalk? They said we can't build the sidewalk over there because they will take us to court and sue us. In the guidelines you undoubtedly know there is a page on herringbone sidewalks. It turns out that the CAR can't force the City to obey the guidelines. We have got a contractor that didn't follow the rules. Ironically, Midtown Market was trying to get them to do it right and they poured the concrete there and they didn't tell anybody. So one woman went in to shop and her heel

went into the concrete. I ask Ronnie Carson how come you did not ask anybody. He said who am I going to ask? I said you can call me. He said you want me to call you every time I'm fixing a sidewalk? I said in the Historic District yes. What I am trying to do is get the sidewalk repair crews to be aware. I'm hoping that since Gary Grant and I met with Brian Dunevant it seems like it might be resolved.

Mrs. Stillwell stated I would like to comment it looks ridiculous. I could have done a better job. The granite curbing I'm glad they tried to save that but it looks like someone put caulking it doesn't even look like concrete between the curb and sidewalk. The bricks are not historic looking at all.

Mr. Weir stated this didn't come before us did it?

Mrs. Burton stated I have had an ongoing conversation with Public Works on this stretch of sidewalk and they are still continuing and we are working through it. There are issues with the contract there and various moving parts to this to try and get it resolved. The reason that concrete was put as I understand it was that there was problems with a shift in the brick work; due to vehicles that were actually pulling up on the sidewalk. We know that everyone does that is a small area so that just what happens. Unfortunately, that happening on the new brick that was laid in sand the way it was it just kept shifting everything. Due to the fact that they had to do some fill in whether that was the right material to use.

Mr. Wilson stated they laid it in sand. I told them it looks like Duke Energy coal ash. There are 8 inches of black sand on one side which they didn't want to get onto Dr. Jannach's property and then there was actually one or two inches or water sand on the street side. What has happen is we have had heavy rains and all of that black sand was in the middle of Grove Street. So Gary collected two wheel barriers full of black sand out of the street that had washed off. The mortar is actually my fault because I called Ronnie Carson and said you laid this in black sand and it has all washed away. He said I will go check into it. Within a day they poured mortar in it and so I ask the inspector Chris Meadows. He said that is the way we do it.

Mr. Weir stated Steve we appreciate your comments but this didn't even come in front of the CAR and from the previous discussions it wouldn't have come before us because it was just a repair. So it would never come here. This is not the body to be complaining to.

Mr. Wilson stated so you can come to the next City Council meeting. I think there is a section here that mentions the City doesn't but the state has an interest in Historic areas.

Mrs. Stillwell stated will you keep us advising. The brick is replaced it's not like they reused the historic brick.

Mrs. Burton stated right the brick crumbled when it was taking a part. So that's how we ended up with the newer brick to beginning with. They made an attempt to keep that curbing and unfortunately we seem to be having problems now with the way the sidewalk is actually functioning due to the curbing and the traffic that is driving onto the curb. We have still been talking and trying to figure out a way to resolve it.

Mrs. Stillwell stated good thank you.

Mrs. Burton stated We are under contract now for two more revitalization projects in the Old West End. So now you have the 864 Pine that is complete. 124 Chestnut is actively under construction, 871 Pine has seen demolition you should see paint on that coming in the next couple of weeks. 860 Green Street if you have gone by what was left of a front porch is now gone. We are getting ready to do some jackhammering and remove that concrete so we can get a new foundation in. That is scheduled to be complete by Thanksgiving. Before that 838 Green Street as well begins construction. We did receive another generous grant from the CLG program for 221 Jefferson Avenue doing an interior and exterior renovation.

Mrs. Stillwell stated that's the brick house?

Mrs. Burton stated yes. Hopefully the plan is to get that out for bid in September and so late fall winter you will see construction on it. Also 136 Chestnut hopefully at the same time you will see construction on it that is interior work too. So I am trying to appeal to the contractors that want to stay in a little bit this winter. Possibly two more 814-816 Pine which is that first duplex past five forks that will more than likely be ready as well. You should see a lot more contracts in by the end of the year.

Mrs. Stillwell stated Pine Street is a different street since those slum lords are gone it has totally completely changed that street.

Mrs. Burton stated we also received approval for that storm sewer project that I mentioned to you guys a while back. The timeline for it is to begin construction in November. So you will see that starting then and there will be some traffic issues right there at the intersection because we will begin at the intersection of five forks first digging up the street and coming up Pine before we go back behind the Pine street houses.

Mrs. Stillwell stated Jefferson Avenue I don't know what you call driving on that because where they have come down it's at least two inches deep.

Mrs. Burton stated they have to go back in.

Mrs. Stillwell stated I go thru there all the time to see what is going on. So that will eventually be repaved?

Mrs. Burton stated it will. They have got the new water lines in and they will have to come back and do the new gas lines. So that's why you are going to have that it should level out. I'm not going to say the whole street will be resurfaced but it should level out.

Mr. Weir stated what about those apartments on Jefferson Avenue?

Mrs. Stillwell stated Jefferson Court.

Mrs. Burton stated the horseshoe? It's under private ownership.

Mr. Weir stated if anything hurts the historical district it is that darn building.

Mrs. Burton stated as far as I know the Inspections Division is aware of it and we have sent notices of violation. We are trying to work with them on that.

Mrs. Stillwell stated stay on them.

Mrs. Burton stated we have been rather aggressive so you will see more and more coming up. We have Aubrey from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources is here she is the CLG coordinator. We just had our four year CLG review. This is the first time so know we have had four years into the program. I didn't want to make you nervous so I thought I would tell you about the review afterwards.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Approved