

The Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Harlem, Georgia met for their Regular Meeting on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at the Public Safety Building at 6:30 p.m. with Chairman Bill Speer presiding.

Present: COMMISSION: Chairman Bill Speer, Vice Chairman Diane Holland, and Commissioner Lynda Morris; STAFF: Community Development Director David Jenkins; ABSENT: Commissioner John Paul Stout and City Clerk Leona Holley; GUEST: Robert Fields.

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Speer at 6:30 p.m.

The Invocation was given by Vice Chairman Holland.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Morris.

Approval of the Agenda: Commissioner Morris made the motion to approve the Agenda as presented; 2nd by Vice Chairman Holland. The motion carried with Commissioners Holland, Morris, and Speer voting in the affirmative.

Approval of the Minutes: Commissioner Morris made the motion to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2023, Regular Meeting as written; 2nd by Chairman Speer. The motion carried with Commissioners Morris and Speer voting in the affirmative. Vice Chairman Holland abstained from the vote due to being absent at the November 9, 2023 meeting.

Continued COA Application: None.

NEW COA Application: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Digital Historic Districts/Properties Map: Mr. Jenkins reported that the Digital Historic/Properties Map was still on hold due to Columbia County information technology issues.

NEW BUSINESS:

Adoption of 2024 Meeting Calendar: The Commission considered their 2024 Meeting Calendar. After discussion, Vice Chairman Holland made the motion to adopt the 2024 HPC Meeting Calendar; 2nd by Commissioner Speer. The motion carried with Commissioners Holland, Morris, and Speer voting in the affirmative.

Existing Commissioner Term Limits: The Commission discussed the existing term limits situation in the Harlem Code of Ordinances for the HPC. The term limits exist as the ordinance is based on the Model Ordinance provided by the state Historic Preservation Commission. Term limits are not required by state law. After discussion, the Commission is requesting that the Mayor and Council remove the term limits requirement as shown in a staff provided draft text amendment. Vice Chairman Holland made the motion to request the removal of the term limit requirement for the Historic Preservation Commission; 2nd by

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd):

Existing Commissioner Term Limits (cont'd): Commissioner Morris. The motion carried with Commissioners Holland, Morris, and Speer voting in the affirmative.

Potential Commission Projects: The Commission discussed Commissioner Projects for 2024. These included a cemetery project, a Rosenwald School project, and a museum project. The first project to be pursued by the Commissioners is a display case for the Model T automobile at the Harlem Museum. There was extensive discussion of the cemetery project that included a project scheduling handout presented by Chairman Speer.

City Attorney Report: None.

Staff Report:

Potential Development Properties: A presentation of possible 2024 projects on Milledgeville Road and Louisville Street were given. Mr. Jenkins urged the Commissioners to become familiar with properties that might be developed.

January Officer Elections: Mr. Jenkins reminded the Commissioners of the upcoming January officer election.

Mr. Jenkins reported there was a staff approval of a West Forrest Subdivision entrance sign. Mr. Jenkins reported Second Mt. Moriah Baptist Church had been demolished and presented a photograph of the site. There were Commissioner inquiries about whether all Certificate of Appropriateness conditions had been met; Mr. Jenkins responded that compliance was being reviewed. Also discussed was the recent resignation of Commissioner Eremus. There was discussion of this being the last meeting of Mr. Jenkins with thanks being given for his service.

Chairman's Comments: Chairman Speer thanked the Commission for their work, as well as thanking Mr. Jenkins for his service.

With there being nothing further before the Commission for discussion, Vice Chairman Holland made the motion to adjourn the meeting; 2nd by Commissioner Morris. The motion carried with Commissioners Holland, Morris, and Speer voting in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

The minutes were taken by Mr. Jenkins.

Respectfully submitted,

Leona H. Holley, City Clerk