

Athens City Historic and Architecture Preservation Commission
Minutes
Athens City Hall, First Floor Conference Room
January 11, 2016

1. Call to Order—Members present include Mary Anne Reeves, Keith Chapman, Cyrus Moore, Ann Fidler, Joanne Prisley, and Guy Philips. Jim Sands was absent. Quorum was established. Guests include Michael Carruthers and David Moran from RVC Architects, and Conor Morris from the Athens News.

2. Disposition of Minutes—Guy moved to approve the minutes from December 2015. Ann seconded the minutes. All voted in favor.

3. Next Meeting

February 8, 2016—Guy will not be present.

4. Old Business

a. 12 West Union Street site plan changes—David Moran and Michael Carruthers from RVC Architects introduced themselves to the commission and discussed the changes that they have proposed for 12 West Union Street. This site plan was approved in 2015 by the commission but site conditions warrant a 4 story building with no basement. Previous plans were for a 3.5 story building with a basement. They discovered a high water table during site preparation. Updated site plans were presented to the commission. The commission discussed the brackets that were shown on the earlier plans and whether they should be retained. There was a general discussion on the overall plans for the block. RVC expressed concerns about the need to move fast in order to get the project completed. Windows will not be reflective. **The 4th floor façade will be set back from the primary south elevation.** David said the new brick will be Belden brick and a close match to the original. Mary Anne suggested a decorative touch should be added to the outside the 4th floor window if it doesn't take away from the cornice. Mary Anne prefers the new proposal to the earlier version. Joanne made a motion to approve the new plans. There was no second. Cyrus motioned to approve as shown provided that RVC explore stained glass transoms on the 3rd floor front bay if possible. Ann seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0. Guy Philips abstained.

b. OU Science Hall demo—Mary Anne distributed a copy of a letter from Bob Eichenberg, Tim Traxler, and Karl Runser expressing their concerns regarding the demolition. Ann asked if the commission wants to respond to the proposal being presented to the OU trustees. Keith asked if any decision makers will listen. Cyrus thought there may be some disagreement and we should encourage alternatives to demolition. Ann distributed an updated draft letter proposal. Cyrus thought this should be sent to the board prior to their meeting on January 22. A few changes were suggested by the commission. Guy motioned to approve Ann's draft with the suggested changes. Joanne seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Cyrus reported that the historical society is also writing a letter on this issue. Paul asked to add Mayor Patterson and city council to the CC list before is sent.

5. New Business

a. Uptown district expansion—Chris Fahl will attend February meeting to discuss. Cyrus suggested looking at Oxford's program. In short term, use historic pictures and documents to guide decisions and design. The historical society can be a resource for this. Paul will get copies of the US Dept of Interior standards.

b. Building Doctor Program—Nathan Bevil emailed with a date of May 19/20. BDT, RVC, Historical Society, and ACCVB will be co-sponsors.

c. CLG grant—The commission discussed the grant and potential needs including the expanding the existing uptown district to include more buildings and streets. They are suggesting an expanded district that includes Union Street to Congress, College Street (Greek homes), State, and Carpenter Street. Paul will check on match and what is needed to apply.

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.