

Athens City Historic and Architecture Preservation Commission  
MINUTES  
Athens City Hall, First Floor Conference Room  
August 13, 2018 5:30 PM

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**1. Call to Order**—Commission member Mary Anne Reeves called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Members present include Ms. Reeves, Cyrus Moore, John Valentour, Guy Philips, and Richard Vedder. Members reporting their absence in advance include Chairman Keith Chapman and Pam Callahan. Quorum was established with 5 members present. Guests include Sara Marris-Maxfield, Ashley Rattanasengchanh, City Council rep Chris Fahl, Rick Camino, Jay Hostetler, and Scott Johnson. City planner Paul Logue recorded minutes for the commission.

**2. Disposition of Minutes**—the minutes from August 2018 were reviewed by the commission. Mr. Philips motioned to approve the minutes as submitted by Mr. Logue. Mr. Vedder seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The minutes were approved 5-0.

**3. Next Meeting**—September 10, 2018 at 5:30 PM. Philips reported his absence from that meeting.

**5. New Business**

- A. New member—Richard Vedder. He was appointed by Athens City Council last week. Mr. Vedder is a professor of economics emeritus at Ohio University. He specializes as an economics historian and has served many roles in Athens including Athens City School Board, Ohio Valley Summer Community Theater board, and Ohio University Community Music School board. He has also been a champion of the maintenance and expansion of our historical heritage. The commission members introduced themselves to Dr. Vedder and welcomed him to the commission.
  
- B. Stewart MacDonald 21 N. Shaffer Street local historic registry request—Logue provided some background on the requirements for designation as listed in ACC 45.11. The board's responsibility is to make recommendations to City Council. City Council then votes to approve a site for local designation. Building owners presented a summary document that contains information on the long history of the building on the west side of Athens.

Sara Marris-Maxfield introduced herself to the commission. Ms. Marris-Maxfield is the Executive Director of the Athens County Economic Development Council. She has been working with the Stewart MacDonald owners to expand their business in Athens. Stewart MacDonald is a guitar supplies company that has been in Athens for 50 years. As part of their efforts to rehab they are looking at pursuing state and federal historic tax credits. For state historic tax credits that are asking for a local designation in order to move forward with an application by the end of September. The building is built with Logan Block and long leaf pine from Georgia. They provided a summary historic narrative on the building. Millers Chicken will remain. The

ownership of the building are committed to preservation of the building and believes the building is worthy of a local historic preservation designation.

Vedder asked for some background on the nature of this request and its relevance to preservation goals for the city. The commission discussed long term strategies to maintain Athens heritage. Chris Fahl sees the building as a landmark anchor for the West Side that can help spur development in that neighborhood. The commission discussed looking at other areas near Stewart MacDonald for local designation down the road.

Vedder made a motion to recommend that City Council designate the building as a local historic building. Mr. Philips seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0 with 1 abstention. Mary Anne Reeves was the abstention.

Logue stated that council will have to hold a public hearing on the matter. There is a 30 day public notice requirement on the hearing so it won't occur until mid-September.

#### **4. Old Business**

A. Joanne Prisley Award—Mr. Moore provided a Word document of Pam Callahan's handwritten approved motion that establishes the award and suggested text for a certificate or plaque. He will finish this document and bring forward at the September meeting.

B. Walking tour—Cyrus provided a walking tour guide draft for comment. He is working on graphics and brief building descriptions.

#### **6. Announcements and Updates**

There were no announcements and updates.

#### **7. Adjournment**

With all agenda items satisfied and no new business to attend to Mr. Philips made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Reeves seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Logue