

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
February 13, 2023
Virtual Meeting
6:01 p.m. – 7:19 p.m.**

Minutes

Present

Victoria Archibald/County
Robert Barfield/County/HLC Secretary
Akadius Berry/County
Lesley Carroll/County
Brian Clarke/County/HLC Vice Chair/Survey Committee Chair
Andra Eaves/County
Nadine Ford/City
William Hughes/City/HLC Chair
Edwin Wilson/City/HLC Treasurer
Stewart Gray, HLC Historic Resources Program Manager
Elizabeth Stuart, HLC Senior Administrative Support Assistant
Tommy Warlick, HLC Consulting Preservation Planner
Leslie Johnson, Deputy County Manager
Edward Yeager, Senior Deputy County Attorney
Ron Gibson, HLC Counsel

Note: This meeting was held virtually through the Microsoft Teams video conferencing platform.

1. Consideration of Minutes

Commissioner Wilson presented a motion seconded by Commissioner Barfield that the minutes for the January 9, 2023, meeting of the Historic Landmarks Commission be approved. The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

2. Chair's Report: William Hughes

Chair Hughes stated his appreciation of the Commission's work and asked the Commissioners to remain engaged.

3. Public Comment Period (Up to 3 Minutes Per Person)

Chair Hughes stated that this is the period for the public to speak on any matter within the Commission's purview that is not associated with the quasi-judicial hearings.

Historic Resources Program Manager Gray stated that Eric Levinson intended to speak to the Commission but was not able to attend and may speak at the March meeting instead.

Arlene Douglas stated her interest in purchasing the Torrence-Lytle School to turn into a non-profit learning center. Gray explained that Douglas previously contacted staff and staff responded that they were not able to discuss this property but encouraged her to speak at this meeting to make her interest known to the full Commission. Gray advised the Commission to not comment.

4. HLC Closed Session

Commissioner Barfield presented a motion seconded by Commissioner Carroll that the Historic Landmarks Commission convene in closed session. The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

Commissioner Wilson presented a motion seconded by Vice Chair Clarke that the Historic Landmarks Commission reconvene in open session. The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

5. HLC Staff Updates: Leslie Johnson

Deputy County Manager Johnson stated that the Executive Director job posting should be live soon. She noted that a plan is being developed to build redundancies to cross train staff for certain accountabilities so that the department is better positioned if something unexpected happens. She stated that the revolving fund is still being reconciled with plans to report the findings at the next monthly meeting. She stated that the County has kicked off budget season and she plans to submit a request for an additional staff position to support the increase in plan reviews and related tasks.

6. Public Hearing for the Renfrow Commercial Properties, Matthews

Gray stated that the Commission's public hearing is to solicit public comment about the potential designation of the Renfrow Commercial Properties. He stated that the Town of Matthews will also hold a public hearing. He explained that public hearings are required by statute and noted that the lack of public comment at this public hearing is not a true reflection of the interest in this property. Gray concluded the public hearing.

7. Appointment of Secretary to Sign Written Decisions from Quasi-Judicial Hearings

Chair Hughes stated that he has assigned the responsibility of signing written decisions from quasi-judicial hearings to the position of the Secretary, currently held by Commissioner Robert Barfield. Gray explained that this only applies to quasi-judicial hearings for Certificate of Appropriateness applications.

8. Consent Agenda for the Charles and Laura Alexander House, 203 S. Church Street, Huntersville

Vice Chair Clarke presented a motion seconded by Commissioner Berry that the Historic Landmarks Commission approve the consent agenda as presented for the Charles and Laura Alexander House, 203 S. Church Street, Huntersville, N.C. The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

9. Quasi-Judicial Hearing for the Charlotte Fire Station #2, 1212 South Boulevard, Charlotte

Chair Hughes stated that this item is deferred due to outstanding information needed.

10. Financial Report: Stewart Gray

Gray stated that Johnson covered this item with her update on the revolving fund.

11. HLC Staff Report

a. Historic Plaques

Gray reminded the Commission that it had a productive discussion regarding historic plaques at the November meeting. He explained that the office ran out of the bronze plaques that are to mount on designated landmarks prior to the pandemic. He stated that an order for these plaques has been placed and is expected to be delivered in April.

Gray stated that staff has also discussed having QR codes available for all designated properties and which would include a link to the Commission's website for more information.

Commissioner Wilson thanked staff for proceeding with these items.

b. BOCC Annual Report Presentation

Gray reported that staff, Chair Hughes, and Vice Chair Clarke will present the HLC annual report to the BOCC on February 21. The final presentation will be included at the HLC's March 13 meeting.

c. Adventure Club February Outing

Senior Administrative Support Assistant Stuart reminded the Commission that the Adventure Club is heading to the Charlotte Coliseum on Saturday, February 18 at 2:30 p.m. for a tour of the Coliseum and Ovens Auditorium. She thanked those who have indicated they are attending.

Consulting Preservation Planner Warlick stated that April 22 is the tentative date for another preservation event at Steele Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

12. Old Business

There was no old business.

13. New Business

a. Commissioner Ford has asked to discuss the HLC's approach to handling public comments on social media.

Ford stated that she was recently informed of a Facebook post that did not accurately represent the work of the Commission. She reported that she contacted the person with an invitation to a future Commission meeting.

Staff answered questions from the Commission regarding the handling of public comments on social media.

Commissioner Barfield presented a motion seconded by Commissioner Berry that the meeting of the Historic Landmarks Commission adjourn. The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.