

Minutes of Hammond Historic District Commission
February 15, 2017 11:00A.M.
Hammond City Council Chamber- 312 East Charles

- Meeting called to order by Mr. Ryan Faulk at 11:00am. Verification of meeting notice given.
- Roll call taken: Present: Ryan Faulk, Barbara McKaskle, Jessica Shirey, Marguerite Walter, Susan Owens and. Shauna Seals Absent- Howard Nichols
- Motion by Mr. Faulk to table the acceptance of the minutes for January 18, 2017 Second by Mrs. Shirey. Vote taken with unanimous approval
- New Business:
 - 116 N Cate Street- Sign - Application presented by Mr. Dan Lambert. The sign would be the same design and size as the existing wooden sign, but the material would be alumalite. The sign would also be mounted in the same place at the bottom of the awning
Motion to accept by Mrs. McKaskle Second by Mrs. Walter. Vote taken with unanimous approval
116 N. Cate- Fence- Mr. Lambert submitted a second application for a fence in the alley facing facade of the building to conceal the air conditioning units, and garbage cans. The application read that the fence would measure eight feet, but Mr. Lambert changed and initialed the application to meet the six foot fence requirement of the Historic District Guidelines. Mr. Faulk asked if the fence would be painted. Mr. Lambert said he had planned treated wood, but he could paint it white. Mrs. Owens suggested a matching the building pointing out that white would show dirt very easily. Mr. Lambert agreed, and said he would paint it the same color as the building Navajo Red. Mrs. Shirey made a motion to accept the application with the condition that the fence measure six feet and be painted to match the building. Mr. Faulk made a second and a vote was taken with unanimous approval.
 - 101 West Thomas Street-Signage – Application presented by Mr. Jeanne Crayton for approval of the vinyl signage on the store front and transom windows of the building which is located on the corner of Thomas and Railroad Ave. Mrs. Walter asked if the windows should be covered. Mrs. Ricketts pointed out that it was lettering not solid, and Mrs. Crayton confirmed that it was individual lettering. Mrs. Shirey asked how a small sign was attached to the building. Mrs. Crayton said it was just stuck on it wasn't screwed in, and she understood that the brick could not be damaged. Mr. Faulk expressed concern that there was no precedent that allowed transom windows to be used for vinyl signage. Mrs. Ricketts stated that this was an example of a gap in the guidelines that needed to be clarified. She recommended that the guidelines be revised. Mrs. Walter suggested tabling the application, Mr. Faulk agreed. Mrs. Owens asked if all of the lettering wasn't already existing on the windows. Mrs. Crayton said yes, with the exception of the lettering on the transoms. Mr. Faulk asked if the lettering on the windows would remain. Mrs. Crayton said yes, but the ribbon across the top was no longer there, as it had been damaged by bleach when the building was cleaned. Mrs. Shirey noted that it was hard to determine without specific measurements for all of the elements and pointed out that the guidelines allowed for vinyl letters to be twelve inches high. Mrs. Ricketts replied that the twelve inch requirement had been waived in so many other applications that it was no longer valid. She also reminded the Commission that should the Guidelines be revised they would have to go to the SHPO and through the City Council for approval first, and that would be a long time for the applicant

to wait. Mrs. Owens was concerned about the amount of lettering and Mr. Faulk and Mrs. Walters were concerned about the covering of the transoms. Mrs. Ricketts asked if it would be more acceptable if the lettering was translucent, as the applicant was also experiencing issues with excessive sunlight through the transoms. Mrs. Crayton also noted that many buildings in the district had their windows painted out completely. Mrs. Ricketts suggested that the applicant have the sign company mock up the translucent letters and see if it was something she would be interested in and if it would be more acceptable to the Commission. Mrs. Seals asked if someone could explain to her the regulations that did not allow for lettering on the transoms. Mr. Faulk said that it came down to the aesthetics, and how it effects the overall building especially on such a prominent corner. Mrs. Ricketts stated as far as the guidelines the question may be more about the amount of signage allowed based on the frontage of the building. Mrs. Owens said she felt the application was acceptable based on the lack of clarity in the guidelines. Mr. Faulk said he understood the guidelines weren't clear, but he felt that with signage on every window and the doors it was an excessive amount of signage and he would have a hard time approving it. Mrs. Ricketts asked if having the lettering translucent wouldn't be a compromise. Mr. Faulk said possibly but he wasn't sure. Mrs. Ricketts asked if it were mocked up by the sign company providing a more accurate visual representation could it could allow the Commission a clearer idea of what the final result would be. Mrs. Walter said she would prefer to see a mock up prior to rendering a decision. Mrs. Ricketts also recommended the sign maker may also be able to supply a sample of some translucent lettering options for clarity. Mrs. Seals moved to table the application until Mrs. Crayton supplied a more accurate rendering. Second by Mrs. Owens. Vote taken with unanimous approval.

- National Register of Historic Places Nomination Review- First Christian Church, Greater St. James AME, Miller Memorial Library. Mrs. Walter made a motion to table the nominations until the next meeting.
- Update from Director- Mrs. Ricketts told the Commission that a project that had been planned with the Hammond Regional Art Center had been cancelled, and asked that the Commission allow the funds to be used towards the design and printing of a tourism brochure. Motion made by Mr. Faulk Second by Mrs. Owens vote taken with unanimous approval. Updated the Commission on the fees for the P.O. Box.
- Mrs. Shirey had a question about a building that she thought it was re-painting in violation of the guidelines. Mrs. Ricketts explained that violations are submitted to the Building Department, and administrative approval and "in-kind". Mr. Faulk requested a special meeting be scheduled to discuss the expansion of the HHDC. Lacy Landrum Director of Administration agreed that the Commission should meet to determine some of the questions that will come up around the expansion, and suggested that any questions that could not be easily answered in the HHDC office could be posed to City Attorney Andre Coudrain.
- Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Walter Second Mrs. Shirey vote taken with unanimous approval.