

**MINUTES OF THE CALLED MEETING OF THE
KINGSPORT HISTORIC ZONING COMMISSION**

September 22, 2016

12:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jim Henderson, Chairman
Liza Harmon, Vice-Chairman
Dineen West
Beverley Perdue
Ted Como
Jewell McKinney

Members Absent

Perry Crocker, Secretary

Staff Present

Ken Weems, Zoning Administrator

Visitors Present

Skip Norrell
Justus Fry
Sherry Mosley
Michael Thompson, City

Historic Zoning Commission (HZC) Chairman, Jim Henderson, opened the called meeting at 12:00 p.m. Chairman Henderson welcomed the visitors and called for approval of the minutes from the May 2016 meeting. On a motion by Commissioner Como, seconded by Commissioner Perdue the regular meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Under the “New Business” portion of the May HZC meeting an item for discussion was the removal of a tree at 205 W. Wanola Street without a Certificate of Appropriateness. Staff introduced the item and explained that a complaint had been received regarding the property and the tree removal. Justus Fry presented the Commissioners with pictures of the tree explaining the location and issues surrounding the tree and the health of the tree. Commissioner Harmon pointed out that a limb was still entwined in the over-head power lines and that it appears the tree was not salvageable. Commissioner Harmon also pointed out that this is the second time that this house has come before the HZC for issues surrounding not receiving an in-house approval. Justus Fry stated that he cut the tree down with the permission from the property owner and that the tree actually was on both properties. Discussion ensued about the actual ownership of the property. Justus Fry explained that the property had been up for sale and recently sold. Commissioner Como stressed that he did not see how the Commission could require the new owner to plant a tree back. Discussion back and forth between Commissioners occurred as to whether to require the new owner to plant landscaping. Commissioner Harmon suggested a welcome to the neighborhood letter to be mailed to the new owner detailing to them the specifics of living in a Historic District and explaining the situation of the tree removal. Further expanded on Commissioner Harmon’s idea, it was decided by the Commission that it was a good idea to send letters out to all Historic Districts letting them know they are in a Historic District and what that entails. This would be a reoccurring process annually.

Next under “New Business,” Commissioner Perdue explained that she along with Sherry Mosley and Robin Cleary met in early July with an idea about refurbishing Church Circle. They wrote up a grant document to apply for a grant issued by Lowes. There was a time constrain on completing the grant so it was put together as quickly as possible. The City did not receive the grant she indicated. Commissioner Perdue explained that they would like to remove the current tree and replace it with a Fat Albert Spruce. She also indicated that they have already met with the Tree Board and all three

churches for approval. Michael Thompson was present to address the Commission with any questions since Public Works would be managing the project. Sherry Mosley explained how the circle was such an iconic landmark for the City and it should be beautiful. Several discussions around possible pedestrian access to the circle as well as the size of the circle ensued. Beverly expressed that a letter of support for the project is needed from the Historic Zoning Commission. A motion by Commissioner Harmon and seconded by Commissioner McKinney was made to send a letter of support for the Church Circle renovation to DKA and was approved unanimously.

The last item under “New Business” was the establishment of a nominating committee for officer elections. It was decided to bypass the nominating committee and have formal elections at the next meeting.

Next on the agenda was the discussion of items under “Other Business.” Eight in-house approvals were listed for information. Commissioner Harmon indicated that she would like to see more information included in the packet under the in-house approvals. Under the Public Comment portion of the meeting, Skip Norrell expressed concerns over one of the in-house approvals. He also let the Commission know of a repaint in progress at 434 W. Sullivan Street. Mr. Norrell also stated that the HZC was tasked with advising the City on all things historic in nature and that the HZC might want to review the plans for new construction that is proposed for W. Sullivan Street.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry Crocker, Secretary