

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

OCTOBER 3, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mathilde Lejeune-Faust, Georgene Brazer, Jack Giddens

STAFF PRESENT: Amanda Styer, Christy Sherman

Meeting opened at 3:00 pm. In the absence of the Chairman, Cecilia Bird, and the Vice-Chairman, Joye Reno, the Secretary, Mathilde Lejeune-Faust was acting as Chairman.

1. Approval/disapproval of June 6, 2019 minutes.

Jack Giddens made a motion to approve the June 6 minutes; motion seconded by Georgene Brazer.

2. Review of the Historic Preservation Fund Grant Program FFY 2019.

Amanda Styer reviewed the Historic Preservation Fund Grant Program for the HPC in order for the commission to be aware of what is required by the State as part of the grant agreement. She explained the effort to become a CLG has allowed the City to get funding from the State.

3. Review and recommendation to City Council of the proposals submitted for the Historic Preservation Fund Grant Program FFY 2019.

The HPC reviewed the two proposals received, from Thomason & Associates and Ethos. The Commission noticed that both proposals are similar in price, but Ethos is local which makes them more available. They also noted that Rebecca Fenwick with Ethos knows the project, and has a good relationship with the City from her experience working on other projects in Richmond Hill, such as the Historic Preservation Ordinance, the Historic Resources Survey Report, and the Ford Bakery project. In addition, they all agreed she does great quality work.

Georgene Brazer made a motion to recommend Ethos; motion seconded by Jack Giddens.

4. Review the final city-wide survey.

Amanda Styer announced there was not much change since the last draft the HPC reviewed. The final survey has been sent to the HPD, copies are available for review in the Planning & Zoning office, as well as on the City's website. She explained the findings of the survey will now be used to

Jack Giddens asked if since the survey is filed with the State, are the properties automatically part of the National Registry. Christy Sherman replied that is more complicated and has to be done by the property owners, but we might be able to do it as a district.

5. Updates from Statewide Historic Preservation Conference.

Christy Sherman and Amanda Styer attended the Statewide Historic Preservation Conference where Richmond Hill was used as an example to follow for non-CLG members.

Christy Sherman distributed a preservation brief to the Commission as well as the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. She directed the attention of the Commission to the four principles mentioned in 1.8 Philosophy of the Four Treatments. She explained these four principles (maintain rather than repair, repair rather than replace, preserve rather than restore, restore rather than reconstruct) would be useful in Richmond Hill and for the Commission.

During the conference, it was also mentioned that Commissions should be involved in educational activities. The group discussed that the residential historic districts being created will take some time and, in the meantime, the HPC could create a newcomer packet that can be distributed to new property owners who purchase a home that was found to be historic in our survey. They discussed the packet could have a list of architects and contractors who know how to restore the house in a way that fits the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. It was discussed the packet could include images to show newcomers the architecture of Richmond Hill and encourage them to follow it. Mathilde Lejeune-Faust suggested to get that packet out to realtors as well so that new buyers are aware, they are purchasing a home found to be historic. Jack Giddens propose to call the areas "Historic Neighborhoods" for the moment until the residential historic districts are created.

It was explained the conference also showed that many Historic Preservation Commissions throughout the state have their own logos and that might be something to consider designing for this Commission.

Amanda Styer reminded the board that May is Historic Preservation Month and now would be a good time to begin brainstorming ideas for activities to raise awareness of our historic resources and get the community involved and excited about our efforts. Christy Sherman proposed the HPC work with the Historical Society to plan some events for Historic Preservation Month.

6. Other business

Georgene Brazer thanked Amanda Styer and Christy Sherman for their continuous effort and work for Richmond Hill and the Historic Preservation Commission.

With nothing further, Georgene Brazer made a motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Jack Giddens and carried by all.

Meeting closed at 3:51 pm.