

LIBERTY HISTORIC DISTRICT REVIEW COMMISSION
Meeting Summary
September 5, 2023
5:30 pm
City Council Chambers

Roll Call: Paemon Aramjoo, Linda Armstrong, John Carr, Kathy Chelton, Vern Drottz, Aimee Gray, Matt Grundy, Brett Rinker, Katie Schmidt

Present: Matt Grundy, Paemon Aramjoo, Linda Armstrong, John Carr, Kathy Chelton, Aimee Gray, Brett Rinker, Katie Schmidt

Absent: Vern Drottz

Applicants: Tom Draper, Steve Mierowsky

Staff Present: Jeanine Thill, Community Development Manager

Chairman Grundy called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Summary: July 18, 2023 HDRC Meeting Summary

A motion was made by Commissioner Aramjoo to approve the meeting summary as corrected and was seconded by Commissioner Gray. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Current Business

HDRC Case#23-005LS Consideration of like in kind repairs and replacement at 16 E. Franklin, and 108 & 110 N. Water, Liberty Square Historic District, a 353 Project.

- Mr. Mierowsky said the building is very well built, but some maintenance is needed. The original ballroom upstairs that was used for events, was separated into offices. He said it was a soft brick originally and that's the reason it's deteriorated. All repairs will be like in kind.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Carr to approve the application because it meets the standards and guidelines. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gray. The motion passed 8-0-0.

HDRC Case#23-012J Consideration of deck expansion and concrete driveway at 460 E. Mill St., Jewell Historic District, a 353 Project

- Commissioner Rinker asked about lattice and if we have a finishing recommendation on framing it, as we have with past applications.
- Commissioner Gray suggested they picture frame the lattice, she would recommend that for every lattice application.

- Vice Chairman Carr clarified that framing the lattice with 1x3 or 1x4 will help with the aesthetics, but the deck is not visible from the street or the alley.
- Commissioner Gray said she thinks it is a better standard for highly visible porches. She added that with the grade slipping away, it might look awkward. It is not a requirement from the commission to add the lattice and trim it out.
- Commissioner Gray added it does help to stabilize it.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rinker to approve the application because it meets the standards for review and the guidelines. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chelton. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Other Business

Administrative Approvals since the July 18, 2023 meeting:

- 334 W Kansas Like in kind repairs to soffit and roof
- 218 W Kansas Like in kind repairs to exterior
- 511 W Franklin picket fence in rear and side yard

Miscellaneous Matters from the Commission:

- 462 E Kansas – Vice Chairman Carr commented that there are K Style gutters on the back of the home. He thought that HDRC approved rebuilding the built-in gutters. Also, the application said ½ round gutters would be used where there were no built in gutters.
- Commissioner Gray asked if there are other instances where K Style gutters were approved.
- Vice Chairman Carr said there are projects where they are appropriate, but we need to make sure that what was approved was what was installed.
- Chairman Grundy added that with the tax abatement on this project, it is important.
- Commissioner Armstrong agreed that we want to make sure that what is done is what was approved is done, adding that we are more interested in if was done appropriately.
- Vice Chairman Carr added that there are some temporary doors where there is brick molding on the door frames. There should be proper framework and trim. They are on the east and west elevations.
- The Commission agreed that sometimes we just need to have staff ask the applicant for clarification as to why there was a change.
- Chairman Grundy commented that we want to make sure that he doesn't get hung up on the other end of the 353 Tax Abatement process. He added that he doesn't want the applicant to come back to the Commission just for the change of the type of gutters.
- Commissioner Rinker commented that we probably should confirm that the doors are temporary.
- Commissioner Gray asked that staff ask him for a list of any modifications for the record.
- Commissioner Armstrong said when there is a project that has so many parts, maybe staff should do a walkaround and make sure that what was done is what was approved.

She added that some time has passed and it's hard to keep track of a project that is that large. Maybe we consider an exit interview. It doesn't have to be every project and looking into every detail.

- Commissioner Gray added that it could be an opportunity for them to give feedback.
- Commissioner Armstrong said that we don't want the applicant to feel nitpicked, we want to make sure it's done right.
- Staff will contact Mr. Personett and ask for a summary of any changes that may have been made that are different from what was approved in the application.

Miscellaneous Matters from Staff:

- Ms. Thill said that new rotating sculptures will be installed in the downtown area over the next few weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 pm.