

## **MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION HELD MAY 12, 2009**

The Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Eufaula met in work session Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. in the Municipal Courtroom at the Eufaula Police Department Complex, 545 East Barbour Street. Upon call of the roll the following members were present: Chairman David Ongemach, Terry Honan, Judi Mathisen. Doug Purcell entered the meeting at 3:33 p.m. Absent: Vice Chairman Curtis Williams, Joel Smith, Sr., Bruce Turner.

Also present: Tiffany Woo, The Eufaula Tribune.

Chairman Ongemach called the work session to order.

Mr. Honan led a discussion of the removal of the chimneys on the Thornton-Rudderman House, noting in the minutes of the April 14, 2009 meeting, Building Inspector Bill Klein referenced the use of the words "should" and "shall" and questioned his point in bringing up the matter. He also stated it was clear to him that City Attorney Jimmy Calton is not familiar with the Commission's Design Guidelines. Chairman Ongemach asked if the Commission members are desirous of having the guidelines re-written. He noted one of the items to be placed on a work session agenda would be further discussion of the guidelines and their permissive versus mandatory nature of interpretation. Chairman Ongemach stated at the HPC meeting Mary Shell of the Alabama Historic Commission suggested the Commission notify city staff of the contractor's failure to obtain a COA for removal of chimneys. Mr. Purcell stated the problem then falls back on the homeowner. The secretary to the Commission was directed to draft a letter to the owner of the Thornton-Rudderman House regarding the removal of the chimneys.

Discussion was held regarding the Martin-Bullock-Ballowe House. Terry Honan distributed a summary of dates and events relating to the renovation of the property. Chairman Ongemach stated the Commission will review the document further at the regular meeting.

Mr. Honan pointed out the Commission's enabling legislation states the Commission can take property owners to court, and asked how that process should begin and be accomplished. The Commission secretary stated the Commission would need to involve the City Attorney, and Mayor Jaxon has previously stated he would have him available to attend the monthly meetings. Chairman Ongemach stated he does not want the City Attorney to attend the monthly meetings on a regular basis.

Chairman Ongemach pointed out the regular meeting of the Commission was scheduled to start, and called for a motion to recess. Mr. Purcell moved to recess

the meeting at 3:59 p.m. Mr. Honan seconded the motion. Voice vote was unanimous.

The recessed meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was reconvened at 4:30 p.m.

In further discussion, Mr. Honan stated it is his opinion the guidelines could be amended to eliminate the need for some COAs (i.e., changing shingle shades/color; upgrading to architectural shingles, etc.). Chairman Ongemach stated there are several documents that need review, including the ordinance, the actual COA, rules and procedures, and the design guidelines. Mr. Purcell cautioned amendment to the ordinance, noting it is a template obtained through the State and some changes would require the matter to be introduced as local legislation.

After discussion, it was determined a work session of the Commission would be held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, followed by the regular meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Honan stated he has received a call from a property owner in the district about an overgrown lot and asked how to proceed with abating the nuisance. Building Inspector Bill Klein stated Mr. Honan should report the matter to the Public Works department.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the work session was duly motioned and seconded to adjourn.

THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF EUFAULA, ALABAMA  
A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

---

David Ongemach, Chairman

ATTEST:

---

Teri Bush, Secretary/CLG Liaison