



CITY OF ALBANY
LANDMARKS COMMISSION

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

6:00 p.m.

Remote Meeting

Approved: August 5, 2020

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

6:02 p.m.

Chair McQuillin called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners present: Kerry McQuillin, Claudia Dean, Bill Ryals, Cathy LeSuer, Keith Kolkow, Chad Robinson, Jolene Thomson

Commissioners absent:

Staff present: Laura LaRoque, planner III; David Martineau, planning manager; Jennifer Sullivan, administrative assistant I

Others Present: See sign in sheet

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6:04 p.m.

Commissioner Thomson moved to approve the March 4, 2020, minutes as presented. Commissioner LeSuer seconded the motion, and it passed 8 – 0.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

6:05 p.m.

- a. Business from the Public
None

6:05 p.m.

- b. Business from the Commission
None

6:05 p.m.

- c. Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing

6:08 p.m.

- Mark and Tina Siegner, 525 and 533 Fourth Avenue SW, 331 Calapooia Street SW
 - HI-04-20: New Mixed-Use Development in Monteith National Register Historic District

Bill Ryals recused himself after declaring a conflict of interest because he is the architect for the applicant.

No other conflicts of interest were declared.

Chair McQuillin declared site visits and ex parte contact because she heard neighbors talking about the project.

City attorney Sean Kidd reviewed ex parte communications, conflict of interest, site visits, and bias. Kidd brought up that two commissioners may need to provide a statement that they are unbiased or recuse themselves.

Chair McQuillin declared that she does not feel biased on making a decision regarding this project.

Thomson declared site visit in the last week and also stated that she feels she can make a decision free of any bias.

Robinson declared a site visit and also stated that he felt that he is capable of rendering a decision without bias.

Dean declared a site visit.

Kolkow declared a site visit.

The participation of Thompson was challenged by Mark Siegner who said that based on her previous comments he does not feel she can make an unbiased decision. Kidd advised that with Thompson's statement that she feels she can be impartial she can proceed but that could be challenged to LUBA.

The meeting procedures were read by David Martineau, planning manager.

LaRoque provided the staff report for planning file number HI-04-20 and presented a PowerPoint slideshow. Discussion ensued with commissioners asking questions of LaRoque. Wall height was discussed with building manager Johnathan Balkema providing information about requirements.

Applicant Mark and Tina Siegner; 516 Koons Drive, Albany, and their architect Bill Ryals at 935 Jones Avenue introduced themselves. Mark Siegner addressed the commission and talked about the meaning of the Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) zone.

Public comment was provided by members of the public and then 10 written letters of comments submitted beforehand were read aloud into the record by staff.

The applicant and architect responded to the comments received with Ryals appealing to the board to approve the application.

LaRoque responded to questions asked about development code standards. Planning Manager Martineau provided clarification to concerns heard during testimony including wall height in historic districts and said there are no parking space requirements on properties located within the parking assessment district. LaRoque said some of the concerns that were brought up are not part of the Landmarks Commissions scope of approval (i.e., parking requirements) and would be reviewed at a later time.

Ryals responded to staff confirming that the roof height is permitted in the DMU zone.

Martineau clarified that the public hearing is being declared closed tonight with the record remaining open providing time for the public to respond in writing in time for the May 19, 2020, meeting.

McQuillin closed the public hearing at 9:39 p.m. with the record remaining open for the May 19, 2020, meeting.

Business from the commission:

9:41 p.m.

McQuillin mentioned that it is historic preservation month and that although there are fewer activities taking place this time there are some virtual activities taking place and two hashtags have been set up to group pictures and videos together #AlbanyORPreservation2020 #SociallyDistantMiniTour. Ryals mentioned that work is proceeding on the Saint Francis rehabilitation project and that they plan to follow the Secretary of the Interior's recommendations for the interior and exterior of the building. Discussion about other preservation activities and the Explore Albany self-guided virtual tour ensued.

NEXT MEETING DATE

9:50 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be May 19, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

9:50 p.m.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file

David Martineau
Planning Manager