

Fairhope Historic Preservation Committee

Monthly Meeting Notes

March 11, 2020

9:30 a.m.

Fairhope Museum of History

Attendance: Gary Gover, Cooper Norman, Gabriel Gold-Vukson, Skip Jones, Mara Hunter, Council Liaison Jimmy Conyers, and Jessica Walker – Committee members NOT present –Andrew Ousley, Jill Godard, Jim Huggins

Call to order: 9:35 by Gary Gover

Old Business

Mayor and two City Councilors polled by Skip for feedback on establishing an historical preservation ordinance. In sum, those polled expressed respect for Fairhope's history, and understood the need to develop a plan for preserving Fairhope's history for future generations. A request was made for the state wide historical ordinance before giving it their full support. Skip believes the new state ordinance, which provides numerous occasions for public input and city council approvals, will appease their concerns. Subsequent discussion in the committee revolved around the following recommendations:

- 1) Organize a workshop for the city council and the mayor and other integral parties that lays out the ordinance with a substantial Q&A
- 2) Develop clear hypotheticals - e.g. take an historical property through the process of approvals so that people better understand the autonomy retained by property owners and the city in the new state ordinance.
- 3) Hold public lectures on the historical preservation, particularly someone who can speak to economic impacts, along with a Q&A. Steve McNair, Cart Blackwell raised as potential speakers.
- 4) Boost transparency of the HPC's activities [after Jimmy and Jessica departed, the committee agreed to develop the HPC committee page on the city site with an email, and other useful information TBD, publish meeting minutes and agendas in the city as possible].
- 5) Take time to develop the workshop/education plan so that the public is fully aware of what the HPC is proposing, and that it goes into the city council calendar at the right.

New Business

Barnwell Landmark district: After assessing available information, the Committee concluded it does not have a role in that discussion at this time.

End Meeting: 10:40

Minutes presented by MH

NOTE: April meeting cancelled due to pandemic. Next HPC meeting provisionally set for May 13.