

Fairhope Historical Preservation Committee
11/16/22 at the Fairhope History Museum

Attendees: Skip Jones, Gary Gover, Mara Hunter, Holly Palughi, and Amy Molyneux
Museum liaison Alex Box and Gabriel Gold-Vukson, Guest: James Watson
On Zoom: Jay Robinson

Call to Order: 9:30 - Gary Gover

Agenda

1) K-1 Center restoration plans post-storm - City council will vote on whether Watermark engineer has the project. Create a recommendation for the preservation of the facade to the council, and as much of building as possible. Present statement to Jay [Does grant for restoration makes preservation part of the contract?].

2) Our Funds — cannot be used for 501c3, but can be used for student essay contest. Received approval too late to begin essay contest this year. How do we find a way to attract and spend donations without an ordinance that permits a 501c3 through the city?

3) The Hardware Store - Demolition Moratorium? City Purchase? [Later, the mayor is quoted as saying the Hardware store is a teardown, though a real estate agent from Mobile subsequently inquired whether the property was eligible for the tax credits].

Question: can developers get a tax incentive for historic preservation such as that the city council awarded to the Publix?

Answer (Jay): case by case basis.

4) The Lewis House - was torn down. What, if anything, we could have done better, and how can we help make sure the new buyers/developers agree to the marker?

Also-can we publish a statement on our website about this and the K-1 project?

Discussion:

- 1) Committee presented case for historic nature of the house to the planning commission publicly at a meeting, and to individual commission members and the city council. Members of the committee also communicated with members of the community, and the property developer. The committee also developed a plan to raise money to move the house and found some public support, but the house was torn down before such a plan could gather momentum. The city lawyer later informed the committee that it would need an ordinance to establish a 501c3 to support such activities. Finally, the committee concluded (barring an ordinance) it could make a more public stance by presenting a written recommendation to the city council that could be then posted on the committee's city webpage.

- 2) The provision with marker will convey with the plan approved by the city council and planning commission. But if buyers present a new plan, then the marker will have to be renegotiated.
- 5) Other:
 - a) An event:
 - 1). Earth Day exhibit on Fairhope historic properties associated with the K-1 center.
 - 2). Panel Presentation with museum on African American history of Fairhope.
 - b) "Close Encounters": Update-Facebook group in touch with the developer who reaffirms that the house will be moved into the interior of the development.
 - c) Land Use Plan: What's ahead? Have we provided all the key input we should?