

Fairhope Historic Preservation Committee
Monthly Meeting Notes
September 13, 2023

Fairhope Museum of History

Attendance: Mara Hunter, Gary, Gover, Skip Jones, Cynthia Rush, Amy Molyneux, and Elizabeth Williams

City Council Liaison: Jay Robinson, Special Guest: Erik Cortinas

Call to order: Mara Hunter, 9:00 a.m.

Old Business:

- August Minutes Approved.
- Chris Williams produced a version of the ordinance that differed significantly from the committees' version. Confusion at the meeting because Mr. Williams presented his version as if it were the Committee's version. Mr. William's version was compiled from the original state sample ordinance and the statute of Mobile AL. The committee's version aimed to represent the views of Fairhope residents, i.e. a balance that respected individual property rights through incentives to preserve.
- Committee expresses appreciation that the mayor and city council is willing to move forward and engage in discussions.
- What is the timeline for the revision going to the city council? JR: If we can get this plan to the work session, when would it come to the city council?
- Erik Cortinas: Discusses issues with building code in relation to proposed ordinance.

Questions from the committee meeting for the Mayor:

- 1) Who is running the meeting? Is it a special meeting or a work session?
- 2) Will this committee have input during the meeting?
- 3) What happened to our draft?
- 4) Will we have an opportunity to present the key points, and what we think needed to be changed?
- 5) Does the city council realize that the draft the lawyer presented was not our recommendation?
- 6) Can we have Mr. William's response to our initial draft? What were the specific issues he had with it passing a CLG?
- 7) Email Jay and ask him to ask the council members for a list of items they would like discussed or changed.

Talking points reiterated:

- We have spent quite a bit of time amending the model ordinance that is suitable to Fairhope.

- Both the planning and building department have reviewed the document and we have incorporated their comments.
- Impact on city resources: Low impact. Maybe some matching some funds for a grant for surveying the municipality, for which the city can apply for a grant.
- Remind that passage of ordinance does not create restrictions on use of property. Instead, any possible restrictions related to historic districts would go through a separate process overseen by a new commission, and would only go into effect if the proposal met city council approval.

Meeting ended: MK, 10:30 a.m.