

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HAPC)

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, November 13, 2024

6:00 P.M.

I. Call to Order

The November 13, 2024 meeting of the Oxford Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Dana Miller.

Those members present: Alex French, Rémah Dinç, Alia Levar Wegner, Sean Wagner, Dana Miller, and Brad Spurlock

Those members excused: Corey Watt

Staff members present: Sam Perry, Community Development Director

Staff members excused: None

II. Approval of Agenda

Tours Update was added to the Discussion Items. All were in favor.

III. Election of Vice Chair

Mr. Miller made a motion to nominate Mr. Spurlock for Vice Chair. Ms. French seconded the motion. All were in favor.

IV. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

V. Approval of Minutes of September 11, 2024

Ms. French made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Dinç seconded the motion. All were in favor.

VI. Discussion

Update on Design Guidelines & Historic Preservation Plan

Mr. Miller stated the City of Oxford contracted with McKenna to update the Planning & Zoning Code and with Preservation Forward for the Historic Preservation Plan. Two people from Preservation Forward visited the town, and they were taken on both walking and driving tours in the Historic District. One suggestion was to apply for US Historic Designation for the Mile Square.

Mr. Spurlock wondered what can be done regarding the State designated historic buildings, how HAPC can be involved in that. Mr. Perry pointed out that working with an outside consultant would give the opportunity to review and identify areas to improve the work of the

HAPC. One area of improvement would be registering historic properties with the State, thus creating avenues to apply for funding for rehab and restoration, added Mr. Perry.

Mr. Spurlock suggested it would be good to determine which properties are the most significant historically and architecturally to preserve not just in the Mile Square/Historic District.

Mr. Perry mentioned there will be a public meeting in January and more information will be available.

Future of the Cannon in the Uptown MLK Park

Mr. Miller stated there is a proposal for a public restroom in the Uptown Park across O Pub, and the project could potentially affect the placement of the cannon. Mr. Perry explained there is enough room to leave the cannon at its current location. However, there will be construction work going on as the project moves along and this would be a good time to relocate the cannon, further explained Mr. Perry.

Mr. Spurlock gave a summary of the history of the cannon and what his research revealed. Ms. Wegner added to Mr. Spurlock's comments by explaining that through an Act of Congress there is a list of decommissioned cannons and who they were given. Ms. Wegner mentioned she did brief research on Oxford and could not find anything. However, there might be information or records under Indiana or Hamilton. Mr. Spurlock stated he found a record that mentions the cannon was given to the Oxford Chapter and originally placed in the East Park in 1885.

Ms. Wegner offered to do additional research on the history of the cannon so the future of the cannon could be determined considering the additional research.

Ms. Dinç made a motion to temporarily move the cannon, do the research and when the restroom project is completed, then decide the future location of the cannon. Ms. Dinç did not want to see the cannon being damaged in any way. Ms. Wegner mentioned building a structure around the cannon would be another way of protecting it. Ms. French brought up the option of moving the cannon to the Woodside Cemetery. Mr. Spurlock said it would be an interesting idea since there were a substantial number of black veterans from Oxford who served in the Civil War.

Ms. Dinç suggested to incorporate the cost of the relocation of the cannon or the building of a protective structure around it in the bidding process or quote, as one option, and have another option presented for bidding as well.

Ms. Dinç withdrew her previous motion. Ms. Dinç made a motion that HAPC's suggestion is that the requirements for the bidding process include specs in alternate plans for the cannon to be either protected in some way or relocated elsewhere for protection during the construction process of the restrooms. Ms. French seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Tours Update

Ms. French reported there were three successful cemetery tours which were well attended despite that the registration was slower this year. Mr. Spurlock shared the number of attended

on each tour – 19, 24, 26. Jennifer Lorenzetti from the McGuffey Museum led a tour. Ms. French noted one of the tours fell on the Parents' Weekend at the university and lots of students attended. Ms. French shared that her and Mr. Spurlock had discussions about having the tours in the Woodside Cemetery next year, having a tour on Veterans Day, and an evening tour as well.

Ms. Dinç asked whether there was an idea to have a Legends and Lore tour. Ms. French liked the idea of having a tour like that and perhaps working together with Enjoy Oxford on this.

Mr. Spurlock reported on the success of the Walking Tours. Curt Ellison led the Western Alumni Tour with 37 attendants. West High Tour had good feedback on this guided tour which was attended by 23 people. Coulter and Hillcrest Tour was guided by Steve Gordon and 18 people attended. Mr. Spurlock would like to have at least another downtown tour and another subdivision tour next year.

VII. Administrative Decisions (Previously Decided)

HAPC-2024-13, 16 S Campus Avenue, CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS, hanging sign, Geneva Blackmer, Applicant

HAPC-2024-14, 129 W Walnut Street, CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS, replacement of front porch columns, John Broering, Applicant

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. French made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wagner seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.