

NORTH LITTLE ROCK HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

**506 Main Street
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114
Telephone (501) 371-0755; Fax (501) 371-8360**

**MINUTES
NORTH LITTLE ROCK HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING
August 8, 2019
506 Main Street
North Little Rock, AR
5:30 P.M.**

Commission Members Present:

**Tom Marr
Charlie Hart
Debra Roberts
Ross Maestas
Ken Davenport
Mason Toms**

Commissioners Absent:

Susan Markman

Others Present:

**Sandra Taylor Smith, Director
Cary Bradburn, Historian
Kristen Graham
Geraldo Carcamo
Don Chambers
Jared Northcutt
Alan New
Greg Nabholz
Jason Carter**

Chairman Tom Marr called the North Little Rock Historic District Commission meeting of August 8, 2019 to order at 5:30 P.M. and a quorum was established. Commissioner Susan Markman had an excused absence. Mr. Marr welcomed guests and asked them to introduce themselves.

CORRECTION AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Chairman Marr asked if Commissioners had read the minutes of the July 11, 2019 Historic District Commission meeting. Debra Roberts moved to approve the minutes of the July 2019 HDC meeting. Mason Toms seconded the motion and it was approved 6-0 in roll call vote.

New Business:

A. 5G Small Cell Light Poles

Kristen Graham and Geraldo Carcamo representing Verizon Wireless were in attendance to present the application and answer any questions. The application was for installation of four poles on Main Street. The proposed locations of the poles are 1) U S Bank parking lot 2) Parking lot in the 400 block of Main 3) 600 block of Main 4) 8th and Main. Kristen

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Graham said the difference in the new poles and the current poles would not be noticeable unless looking up. The poles will be 35ft. tall. Debra Roberts asked the size of the base of the new poles. Geraldo Carcamo said he would have to get back with that information. Jared Northcutt, with the North Little Rock Electric Department said electricians from the department have been working with Verizon on this project. He said they will have to tear up the sidewalks some. Debra Roberts asked if there would be disruption in service. Mr. Northcutt said there should be minimal to no disruption of service if the work is done right. Ms. Roberts asked about other carriers and if there would be more poles. Mr. Northcutt said that has not been discussed.

Jason Carter, attorney representing Arkansas Municipal Power said a FCC ruling last year lays the roadway for better coverage. He said the 5G higher band width has a shorter range. Mr. Carter said there will be more 5G with AT&T, Sprint, etc. He said the ordinance the city will be voting on at the City Council meeting of August 12 does not allow co-location of cells on poles to reduce bulkiness.

Debra Roberts said this is setting a precedent. Don Chambers said the current light poles are 28" at the base and 22ft. tall. Kristen Graham said Verizon is not working on putting the 5G on rooftops so they can avoid dealing with leases with private property owners.

Ms. Graham said it is highly unlikely the poles would be abandoned due to the cost of the poles. Jason Carter said that if the cell is not used for a year, it must be removed according to the ordinance.

Debra Roberts said she does not want to vote on this issue without knowing the dimension of the poles. Jason Carter told Commissioners that this technology cannot be legally prohibited. Ms. Graham said the base may be a little wider, but they will try to stay close to the diameter of the existing poles, but will be some wider and 35ft. tall. Jared Northcutt said the Electric Department prefers a larger base to support all of the wiring that will be necessary.

Charlie Hart asked if it would be possible to approve the poles so the design could be made. Mr. Carcamo said he could get the specs for the poles within two weeks. Commissioners discussed the streetcar poles which are larger in diameter than the light poles. Jason Carter said the streetcar poles have been deemed appropriate to the district. Tom Marr pointed out that the Historic District Commission did not review the streetcar poles before they were installed.

Debra Roberts said she will pass on this issue until dimension are provided. Kristen Graham thanked everyone for their feedback on the proposed project. She said it should take about two weeks to get the information on the diameter of the proposed new poles.

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On a motion by Ken Davenport and second by Debra Roberts, the application was tabled. It was approved 6-0 in roll call vote.

Comments

Planning Commissioner Don Chambers addressed the Commission concerning rebuilding houses on lots in the Argenta Historic District. He said the city prohibits rebuilding on a lot that is not standard size, or less than 7,000 square ft. Many of the lots in the historic district are sub-standard size. He said there is a proposed amendment to the ordinance that would allow rebuilding on the same footprint only in the Argenta Historic District. He said the Planning Commission is looking for approval from the Historic District Commission for a special provision which would allow rebuilding of houses in the historic district on their footprint. On a motion by Debra Roberts and second by Ross Maestas, the Commission approved support for the rebuilding on sub-standard size lots on the same footprint as what existed. Commissioners approved the motion 6-0 in roll call vote.

Staff Report

Sandra Smith informed Commissioners that the City Attorney's office said a citation has been issued on the illegally installed windows at 116 Melrose Divide and attorneys are working on it.

After determining there was no further business to discuss, Charlie Hart moved to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Mason Toms. Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director