



Minutes
Architectural Review Board
September 9, 2019
Council Chambers, City Hall
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Members Present

Jonathan Gerlach, Chair
Kerri S. Barile
Susan Pates
James Whitman
Sabina Weitzman

Members Absent

Carthon Davis, III, Vice Chair
Karen Irvin

Staff

Kate Schwartz
Allison Martin
Kathleen Dooley

Mr. Gerlach called the Architectural Review Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Gerlach determined that a quorum was present, and asked if public notice requirements had been met. Ms. Schwartz confirmed that all requirements had been met.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Weitzman motioned to move COA 2019-42, 401-405 William Street, to Other Business to allow the public comment period to occur first. Ms. Pates seconded. The motion carried 5-0. Ms. Weitzman motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Whitman seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Gerlach asked if there were any changes or additions to the minutes of the regular meeting dated August 12, 2019. Dr. Barile motioned to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Weitzman seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Gerlach asked if any Board member had engaged in any *ex parte* communication on any item before the Board. Ms. Weitzman stated that she had spoken earlier this evening with the applicant for items COA 2019-46 and COA 2019-47 regarding ownership of those two properties, determining there would be no conflict of interests for these items.

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Mr. Gerlach asked if any Board member had a conflict of interest for any item before the Board. Dr. Barile noted that she had a conflict with COA 2019-42, 401-405 William Street, as she had provided archaeological services for the property owner and project. She said she would not participate in the discussion or vote. There were no further conflicts of interest reported.

CONSENT AGENDA

- i. COA 2019-44 – 1111-1113 Caroline Street – Shutter Installation
- ii. COA 2019-45 – 401 William Street – Signs

Ms. Weitzman made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Dr. Barile seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

- i. **COA 2019-46** – 612 Prince Edward Street – William Dickinson requests to remove the asphalt shingle siding on the dormers at this single-family residence and replace it with fiber cement lapped siding.

The applicant, William Dickinson, 1507 Winchester Street, was present. There were no public comments.

Ms. Weitzman questioned if there was another product available other than vinyl that had the channel profile to match the structure's existing siding. She suggested Boral siding. Mr. Dickinson said he was not willing to use Boral siding because of the placement height and expense. He requested to use asphalt shingles as the replacement material in the event the Board did not approve the proposed fiber cement lapped siding.

Dr. Barile said she understood the applicant's concern, but said if there is a product that meets the applicant's need as well as the preservation standards, the Board should support the staff recommendations.

Mr. Whitman motioned to approve the application as submitted. Ms. Weitzman seconded the motion and the Board discussed the appearance of channel siding versus traditional lap siding. The motion failed 2-3, with Ms. Weitzman, Ms. Pates, and Dr. Barile against.

Ms. Weitzman motioned to approve the application on condition that the new siding matches the profile of the channel siding on the body of the structure. Dr. Barile seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

- ii. **COA 2019-47** – 401-405 William Street – William Dickinson requests to remove the slate shingles from the sides of the dormers on the Knoxana Building and replace them with metal siding panels.

The applicant, William Dickinson, 1507 Winchester Street, was present. Mr. Dickinson stated that the dormers were clad in a mix of slate and asphalt on the sides. He wants to provide a more stable product due to the deteriorated conditions. There were no public comments.

Mr. Whitman asked if the applicant would consider using synthetic slate for the repairs. Mr. Dickinson responded that this would be a considerable expense, stating he would repair what is existing if the Board is unwilling to approve the metal panels. There was some discussion of the visibility of the dormers.

Ms. Weitzman briefly detailed from the staff report that a previous Certificate of Appropriateness was granted with the understanding that the dormers would remain clad in slate. Ms. Schwartz added that due to the limited visibility, this building is a good candidate for the use of synthetic materials.

Mr. Whitman motioned to approve the application as submitted. Ms. Weitzman seconded. Ms. Weitzman noted that this is a vulnerable spot, but the guidelines on materials are clear and synthetic seems a good choice in this circumstance. Discussion was held about the applicant proposing a 30-year product when the existing slate has been there for almost 200 years. Board members noted that the metal panels proposed are a modern material, which has no precedent on this building. The motion failed 1-4, with Ms. Weitzman, Ms. Pates, Dr. Barile, and Mr. Gerlach against.

Dr. Barile motioned to deny the replacement of siding on the dormers with metal panels in accordance with the staff recommendation. Ms. Weitzman seconded. The motioned carried 4-1, with Mr. Whitman against.

- iii. **COA 2019-48** – 312 William Street – Janet Edson requests to replace the 2nd floor and dormer vinyl windows of this residential building with solid wood windows.

Jacob Walters, 115 Sycamore Ridge Road, was present to represent the application. There were no public comments.

Dr. Barile motioned to approve the application as presented. Ms. Pates Seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. David James, 213 Princess Anne Street, President of the Board of Directors of the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc. requested that the Board deny the application to relocate the Slave Auction Block. He said historical items should be left in place and that the ARB should not remain silent on this issue.

Mr. Robert Lamb, Spotsylvania County, requested that the Board act to deny the application and leave the block in its current location, adding that moving the auction block destroys its context and value.

Matthew Kelly, 1309 Hanover Street, City Councilman, spoke about his concerns with the process for the Slave Auction Block application. He said the City Council put the ARB in a unique position, but that this process is the beginning of a conversation that goes beyond this one issue. He said the process is important, that everyone should be able to participate, and that it was important for the ARB to make a decision and state its reasons.

Rupert Farley, 1305 Caroline Street, said he was conflicted on the issue of the auction block as there is nothing like having an object in its proper context. However, he said he was also concerned about vandalism.

William Dickinson, 1507 Winchester Street, said he was concerned that it seemed like the City Council had intervened in the ARB's process. He said if his applications can be denied, the ARB should be able to deny the City Council's as well.

OTHER BUSINESS

- i. The public hearing advertisement for the Planning Commission's September meeting was transmitted to the ARB.
- ii. **COA 2019-42** – 401-405 William Street – The City of Fredericksburg proposes to relocate the Slave Auction Block at the corner of William and Charles Streets to the Fredericksburg Area Museum.

City Attorney Kathleen Dooley provided a brief review of the City's process regarding the auction block since August 2017, including the City Council's votes and the sessions held by the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience. Ms. Dooley stated that the City Council was committed to building community and asked that the ARB remain engaged in the process, as its perspective is important and provides value in this conversation. She requested that the ARB hold a work session on the matter on September 23.

Mr. Gerlach directed staff to schedule the work session as requested. Ms. Pates said she was concerned about the lack of public attendance at work sessions in the conference room and wants to discuss the matter publicly. Ms. Schwartz noted that the meeting would be advertised and could be scheduled to take place in the larger room at Executive Plaza.

Ms. Weitzman made a motion to continue the application to a work session on September 23. The motion failed for lack of a second. Ms. Schwartz noted that work sessions may be scheduled at the applicant's request, and the meeting would be set for the date requested.

STAFF UPDATE

Ms. Schwartz stated that the City was currently seeking consultants for an update to the Historic District Handbook. The RFP will be advertised until the end of September.

Ms. Schwartz also provided an update on the proposed archaeological ordinance and noted that a public meeting would be scheduled later in the month.

COMMITTEE REPORT

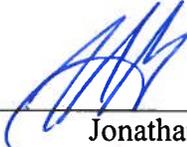
None.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Weitzman motioned to adjourn. Mr. Whitman seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.



Jonathan Gerlach, ARB Chair