

THE MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
February 13, 2023

A regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on Monday, February 13, 2023 at 5:30 P.M. in the Planning Department conference room at City Hall.

Members present: Eric Prunty
 Beth Pulliam
 Jackie Valentine
 Charles Yarbrough
 Wanda Stophel
 Blanche Hailey

Members absent: Frank Reid
 Louise Price

Staff present: Jeff Alderman, Planner

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Hailey.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of a regular meeting on January 9, 2023 were presented to the Commission. Mrs. Pulliam made a motion that the minutes be approved. Mrs. Valentine seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

SPRAY COTTON MILL UPDATE.

Mr. Alderman stated to the Commission that the Spray Cotton Mill had caught fire recently and perceived to be a total loss. He also stated to the Commission that the Spray Cotton Mill had been designated as a local landmark in June of 2022. Mr. Alderman also stated that he had been in contact with representatives from the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NC SHPO) about the process of withdrawing the designation of a local landmark. He also stated that he plans to reach out to the owner of the Spray Cotton Mill, but would like to be respectful and would wait for the appropriate time to discuss with the owner about the tragedy. Members discussed the situation further amongst themselves.

DRAPER BALL PARK.

Mrs. Stophel inquired about the Draper Ball Park. Mr. Alderman stated that City Council initiated a request to rezone the parcel in which the Ball Park is located on, and that City Council approved the rezoning request at January's City Council meeting.

SPRAY MERCANTILE BUILDING.

Mrs. Valentine inquired about the old Spray Mercantile building, which is adjacent to the Spray Cotton Mill. Members discussed the topic further amongst themselves.

OLD BUSINESS:

BUDGET PROPOSAL/BUDGET RETREAT UPDATE.

Mr. Alderman stated to the Commission that the Department heads for the City of Eden have had their preliminary Budget Meeting, and that the Budget Retreat meeting will be taking place on March 16th. Mrs. Hailey inquired about the account balance for the book sales. Mr. Alderman stated that according to the Finance Department's records, there is a balance of \$640.00 in the account. Members discussed the budget and account topic further amongst themselves.

FERRY ROAD SIGN.

Mr. Yarbrough inquired about the Ferry Road sign project progress. Mr. Alderman stated that the project cost was included in the Commission's Budget Proposal.

ITEMS FROM STAFF.

There were no further items presented to the Commission from the staff.

ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION.

SPRAY TRAFFIC CIRCLE FOUNTAIN PROJECT.

Mrs. Valentine stated to the Commission that she would love to see the Spray Traffic Circle Fountain Project come to fruition. Members and staff agreed with Mrs. Valentine. Mr. Alderman re-presented the Commission with email conversations between City employees and NC DOT and NC Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ) departments pertaining to a monitoring well that was installed at the Spray Traffic Circle in November of 2022. Mr. Prunty stated to the Commission the purpose of the monitoring well, which is to monitor potential leaks from a neighboring gas station, into an underground aquifer beneath the Spray Traffic Circle. Mrs. Stophel suggested to the Commission implementing a statue at the Spray Traffic Circle instead of a fountain, to honor Mrs. Aiken for service to the Historic Preservation Commission. Mrs. Pulliam referred to the Commission of a river otter statue located at the Smith River Greenway, recommending a similar statue to be installed at the Spray Traffic Circle. Members discussed other potential ways to honor Mrs. Aiken at the Spray Traffic Circle amongst themselves, stating that, due to Mrs. Aiken's age, time is of the essence. Mr. Alderman also stated that the Commission has invested a large amount of funding for the fountain project, and would prefer to see the project move forward. All members agreed. Members discussed the situation further amongst themselves. Mr. Alderman stated the he would reach out to NC DOT and NC DEQ representatives to acquire more information about the situation. Mr. Yarbrough suggested to implement a plane statue and a flower garden to honor both Gus Shinn and Mrs. Aiken. Mrs. Hailey stated to the Commission that members and staff should stay persistent with the project due to the amount of funding that has been invested.

GUS SHINN MURAL PROJECT.

Mrs. Hailey inquired about the status of the Gus Shinn Mural Project. Mr. Alderman stated that he had reached out to the property owner of Lawrence HVAC (potential site for the mural) and mentioned that the owner was not in favor of his building being used for the mural.


NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH POWWOW.

Mr. Yarbrough stated to the Commission that he likes the direction the City of Eden is moving with Native American recognition, referring to the Native American Youth Powwow program that will be held at Grogan Park on April 1st. Members discussed the topic further amongst themselves.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Alderman, Administrative Assistant
to the Eden Preservation Commission

Attest:



Blanche Hailey, Chair