



**City of Southport
Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes March 3, 2024
Indian Trail Meeting Hall, 113 W. Moore St.**

Member's Present: Jim McKee, Bonnie Bray, Joanne Wesson, Tal West, Alexis-Gore Graves, and Bonner Herring.

Members Absent: Charles Drew, Rick Pukenas, and Josh McGee

Staff Present: City Planner Mo Meehan and Deputy Clerk Tanya Shannon

Aldermen Liaison: Robert Carroll

- A. Vice-Chair Jim McKee called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
- B. The Invocation was given by Ms. Alexis-Gore Graves
- C. Vice-Chair McKee led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Ms. Bray and Mr. West were appointed voting members in the absence of other members.
- D. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Bray and seconded by Mr. Wesson. ***Unanimous Vote; Motion Carried.***
- E. Motion to approve the February 7, 2024, Meeting Minutes by Mr. West and seconded by Ms. Wesson. ***Unanimous Vote; Motion Carried.***
- F. **Public Comment:** None
- G. **Old Business:** None
- H. **New Business:**

Review of Local Historic District Map

City Planner Mo Meehan distributed copies of the 1980 historical district map to everyone. She explained the boundaries' meeting points and suggested ways to make them more distinct and uniform. Ms. Meehan reminded everyone that a report must be sent to the State Historic Office, and a consultant would be hired to prepare an inventory report before presenting the amended district and standards to the Planning Board review and recommendation to the Board of Aldermen.

Mr. McKee proposed a plan to straighten the south side of Brown Street, making it a direct route to Rhett and Hillcrest. Ms. Bray expressed concern that the two adjacent neighborhoods have different architectural styles. However, Mr. Herring commented that most of the houses in the area fit in with the character.

There is some discussion on the yacht basin and how to identify and create a historic district at this location. Ms. Bray brought up the empty parking lot between Bay and Moore and questioned if this was developed and how new construction would be incorporated into the district. Mr. McKee said developing there would be highly improbable unless built on stilts because it used to be spoil piles. It really isn't buildable.

Recapping what the proposed historic district boundary lines will be. Ms. Meehan explained that taking the original National Registry District as is and bringing the line up to W. Brown Street and straight across to E. Brown St. and then taking out the loss of integrity lots around the Kingsley Park area and then the district will remain as is.

Mr. McKee motioned to expand the proposed local Historic District Boundary to the south side of Brown Street, which includes East and West Brown Street, and to eliminate the Kingsley Street section from Moore Street to Bay Street on the west side, seconded by Mr. West. **Unanimous Vote; Motion Carried.**

I. Other Business:

Discussion on Feedback from the February 15th Planning Board Meeting.

Ms. Meehan discussed some comments that were made at the meeting. She said the Board appreciated the hard work and was impressed with the standards. Mr. Chris Jones, a member of the Planning Board, was concerned about some of the languages and thought that it might be subjective and may need more defined terms. However, Ms. Meehan explained that the Certificate of Appropriations is a case-by-case approval, and the language would need to be slightly subjective depending on the application. Mr. Jones realized that the HPC standards were different from the UDO policies.

Ms. Meehan provided an update on the ongoing process. She mentioned that the Consultants are expected to arrive in April to complete the inventory report, which will then be submitted to the State National Registry for approval. The Standards and the Boundary Revision will be sent to the Planning Board for a detailed review, and based on their recommendation, the Board of Aldermen will make the final decision.

Mr. West suggested that signage and the location for marking the district should be discussed. He expressed his desire for the budget to include funds for signs and markers for the Historic District. Ms. Meehan agreed with Mr. West's suggestion and mentioned that the Board of Aldermen could request the necessary funds once the boundaries and standards are approved. There was discussion on how and who will design the signs and if the ones on state roads will be funded by the state.

J. Announcements: None

Ms. Bray and Mr. West were designated back to alternate positions.

Ms. Wesson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Herring. The motion was carried unanimously, as there were no further questions or comments.

Adjourn: 4:54 p.m.

Vice-Chair, Jim McKee

Deputy Clerk, Tanya Shannon