



402 LEE STREET  
DECATUR, ALABAMA 35601  
APRIL 11, 2023

## MINUTES

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Council Chambers

Historic Preservation Commission

4:00 PM

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### I CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

#### Roll Call:

Present: John Allison, Trudy Grisham, Dodie Hall, Michelle Washington, Phil Wirey, Angie Whittington

Absent: Caroline Duncan

### II APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **None**

### III ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR:

Motion by Dodie Hall, seconded by Angie Whittington to nominate John Allison as Chair. Unanimous approval, motion carried.

Motion by Trudy Grisham, seconded by Phil Wirey to nominate Dodie Hall as vice-chair. Unanimous approval, motion carried.

### IV BOARD BRIEFING/BUSINESS:

#### Vote on updated rules of procedure

**Vote:** Motion by John Allison to approve the rules of procedure as presented, seconded by Michelle. Unanimous approval, motion carried.

## **V BOARD BRIEFING/BUSINESS:**

### **Vote on option to livestream ARB meetings**

**Background:** The HPC, at the request of the city, began having meeting sessions live-streamed during the pandemic. This action supported pandemic related legal changes which among other things allowed commissioners to dial in without being present, and vote. The legal framework that allowed for that meeting flexibility has expired and has not been renewed by the state. Commission members must meet in person now to cast votes. Streaming the meeting requires resources from the IT department. Some commissioners asked if the commission still needs to utilize these municipal resources for our meetings. The HPC voted to suspend livestreaming at their May 2022 meeting.

**Staff Findings:** Staff queried the legal department and was told there is no legal requirement to streaming the meetings. It is at the board's discretion. Some municipal boards do livestream (Ambulance Review Board, Planning Commission), some do not (Park and Rec, Personnel, Library Board).

Staff checked with IT, meeting recordings are not archived by the city.

Staff checked with the other CLGs in the state, the vast majority do not livestream HPCs or Architectural Review Boards. Huntsville does, Birmingham records audio only (no video).

**Discussion:** Council member Pike spoke in favor of livestreaming.

**Vote:** Motion by Trudy Grisham to live-stream ARB meetings, seconded by Dodie Hall. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 1 against. Commission member Michelle Washington opposed the motion.

## **VI STAFF UPDATES**

### **Planning**

Preservation Month in May

### **Current Grants**

Educational Trust Fund (EFT) Grants

Girl Scout Little House

Sykes Cemetery

Certified Local Government (CLG) Grants:

Update Design Review Guidelines

Old State Bank Historic Structures Report (HSR)

**Underrepresented Communities Grant (from the National Park Service)**

Sub Committee to help research, John Allison, Trudy Grisham, Dodie Hall, and Phil Wirey volunteered

**Training (National Alliance of Preservation Commissions)**

In person training, June 17, 9 am – 1:45 (Morgan County Archives)

Training will cover outreach, planning, and section 106 review

Motion to adjourn meeting at 5:15 by Dodie Hall, seconded by John Allison. Unanimous approval, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.