



402 LEE STREET  
DECATUR, ALABAMA 35601  
October 5, 2023

## MINUTES

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Council Chambers

Architectural Review Board

4:00 PM

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**I CALL MEETING TO ORDER 4:01 PM**

**Roll Call:**

Present: Ellis Chennault, Barbara Kelly, Lynn Schuppert, Bill Stone, Jacob Woods

**II APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 14, 2023**

**Approval of September 14, 2023 Minutes:** Motion made by Lynn Schuppert, seconded by Bill Stone. Unanimous approval, motion carried.

**III EXPEDITED CoAs SINCE THE SEPTEMBER MEETING:**

313 Oak (McCarty) repair in kind front porch supports and build new wood front steps (#9 and #53 for the CoA)  
615 1/5 Moulton (Cooper) new roof for garage (#47 for the CoA)  
1022 Sherman (Sandlin) new roof (#47 for the CoA)  
625 Sherman (Broman) new roof (#47 for the CoA)

**IV NEW CoA REVIEWS: (Order of CoAs changed from agenda to accommodate late arrival time for the representative of 609 Oak)**

**CoA #1: Delano Park (Delano Park Conservancy) Barbara Kelly recused herself from voting, she is a board member of the Delano Park Conservancy.**

**Background:** The existing footbridge was originally part of a garden at a house in Old Decatur and was moved to the park sometime between the 1930s and 1940s.

**Action Requested:** Removal of the contemporary concrete retaining walls and a stone/pebble mosaic design representing a stream, using four mill stones for the lily pads. A small bronze sculpture, perhaps a turtle, will be part of the finished art piece.

Project will be approximately 8' wide with a total length of approximately 20'.

**Decatur's Design Review Standards:** The standards don't specifically address art in Delano Park.

**Staff Findings:** This is an art install to accent an existing historic footbridge in the park. It will provide an anchor for a beloved bridge that is somewhat lost in the park landscape. The hardscape nature of it will allow continued access by children, without the worry of landscaping being trampled in a play area.

**Discussion:** Board suggests having final details reviewed by staff, with staff returning to commission is something changes beyond her scope to address.

**Vote:** Motion by Lynn Schuppert, seconded by Bill Stone to approve the CoA as submitted, with staff reviewing final details. Unanimous approval, motion carried.

Barbara Kelly abstained from voting.

**CoA #2: 609 Oak (Hargrove)**

**Background:** Project has a CoA issued for in kind replacement of damaged wood work, brick repointing and new roof on main house. A stop work order was issued on August 24<sup>th</sup> when staff confirmed that new trim was being added to the front gables of the house larger in scale/profile than the original trim, and additional trim pieces were added.

**Action Requested:** Applicant would like to keep the new, larger, trim.

**Decatur's Design Review Standards:** *4.0 Architectural Details*

*4.1 Maintain and preserve historic architectural details and features.* Architectural features help convey a historic building's architectural style. Architectural details should not be covered or removed. Their proper care and maintenance prevent deterioration and loss of individual elements, helping to maintain overall integrity.

*4.2 Repair existing architectural details.* For small areas of deterioration in wood features, repair with wood epoxy. Epoxies are fillers which are used to strengthen and consolidate wood. Cut out larger areas of decay, and fill the void with pieces of new wood. Clean metal features with light corrosion and flaking paint with a wire brush. After cleaning metal features, re-paint them immediately.

*4.3 Replace a missing or severely damaged historic architectural detail and feature in-kind.* Select replacement features that match the original feature in design, proportion, and detail. Historic photographs, drawings, graphics, or other physical evidence are useful aids to determine an appropriate example for a replacement feature. If no historic documentation is available, select a simple design in keeping with the building's historic architectural style and period. Ideally, any replacement feature should be made of the same material as the original, but when necessary, substitute materials may be considered if they successfully match the original appearance.

### **Staff Findings:**

**Front Porch Gable:** The beadboard trim is the wide horizontal trim that runs along the bottom of the front gable, beadboard was already on the house (this replaces it, the beadboard was likely added in the 1950s when the metal porch was added). A 1x3" shelf was added, and 3 ¼" crown molding was added beneath that. These are new elements. The two diagonal sides of the gable had shingle mold added and although crown molding was existing, the profile was changed from the 2 ¾" profile to a larger 3 ¼" profile.

**Main House Gable:** The horizontal portion, the same as on the porch elevation, a 1x3" shelf was added, and 3 ¼" crown molding was added beneath that. These are new elements. The two diagonal sides of the gable had crown molding enlarged (original was 2 ¾, new is 3 ¼") a top 1x6" was added, and cap mold was added.

The design and scale of the new trim is beyond that found on this house originally and Craftsman homes in the district. Guideline 4.2 states to repair existing details. Standard 4.3 states replacement should be in-kind with the same design, proportion, and detail. This CoA is requesting new design elements and different proportions than the historic front of the house.

**Discussion:** Jacob Woods expressed concern that the proposed alterations are not appropriate because they are introducing Greek Revival detailing to a Craftsman house, that they are over scaled. Lynn Schuppert supported his comments.

**Vote:** Motion by Lynn Schuppert, seconded by Barbara Kelly to approve the CoA as submitted. Board members Ellis Chennault and Bill Stone voted in favor, and board members Barbara Kelly, Lynn Schuppert, and Jacob Woods voted against. The motion failed to carry.

The applicant's contractor agreed to continue the project using the original CoA that had been approved - for a replacement in-kind for the exterior trim.

### **CoA #3: 609 Oak (Hargrove)**

**Background:** Project has a CoA issued for in kind replacement of damaged wood work, brick repointing and new roof on main house. A stop work order was issued on August 24<sup>th</sup> when staff confirmed five holes had been drilled for exterior lighting on the front of the house. Staff consulted with the builder and was given the style of the lights.

**Action Requested:** Five new lights, two on uncovered porch, followed by three on covered porch. Lights are a contemporary carriage style.

**Decatur's Design Review Standards:** The Design Review Standards do not address the number of lights on the exterior of a house.

**Staff Findings:** Staff could not find a precedent for the five exterior front lights on a building of this size, nor this era, and felt it best to bring the CoA to the Architectural Review Board.

**Discussion:** Robert Moore, the contractor for the applicant noted that the client had reduced the request to 4 exterior front porch/patio lights. Jacob Woods indicated that three porch lights would be appropriate and provided an illustration showing the location for the three lights.

**Vote:** Motion by Ellis Chennault, seconded by Lynn Schuppert to approve the CoA as submitted. All board members voted against the CoA as presented. The motion failed to carry.

All board members voted to support the three exterior lights has illustrated by Chair Jacob Woods.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 4:34 by Lynn Schuppert, seconded by Ellis Chennault. Unanimous approval, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.