



402 LEE STREET
DECATUR, ALABAMA 35601
May 14, 2026
MINUTES

Council Chambers

Architectural Review Board

4:00 PM

I CALL MEETING TO ORDER 4:00 PM

Roll Call:

Present: Paige Bridges, Jay Clark, Matt Cross, Jacob Woods

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 12, 2026

Vote: Motion made by Paige Bridges to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Jay Clark. Unanimous approval, motion carried.

III EXPEDITED CoAs SINCE THE FEBRUARY MEETING:

643 Johnston Street SE (Backe) new roof (#47 for the CoA)
651 Moulton Street East (Hopkins) new roof (#47 for the CoA)
820 Jackson Street SE (Joiner) replace rotting rear deck in kind. (#16 for the CoA)
651 Moulton Street E (Hopkins) repair porch ceiling in kind (#9 for the CoA)
605 Ferry Street NE (Faulkner) install chimney caps and repair fascia boards (#15 and #9 for the CoA)
101 Walnut Street NE (Hill) new roof (#47 for the CoA)
213 Cherry Street NE (Ryan) replace rear fence (#24 for the CoA)
521 Oak Street NE (Mitchell) replace failing porch tiles (#9 for the CoA)
442 Jackson Street SE (Flemming) install rear paver patio (#35 for the CoA)

IV 2025 HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH AWARDS:

Christy Bourtin for stewardship of 609 Oak Street NE

Paige Bridges for stewardship of 409 Oak Street NE

Billy and Wendy Davis, Jr. for stewardship 422 Vine Street SE

Carol Harris for stewardship at 840 Jackson Street SE

Hannah & Nathan Howard for stewardship of 616 Moulton Street E

Danielle Dutcher, dedicated volunteer

William G. Stone, Jr., lifetime achievement in Historic Preservation

V COURTESY REVIEW

406 Canal Street NE (Davis)

This is a courtesy review of a new garage which will be located at the rear of the lot.

This is a courtesy review of the project to level set expectations for location, siding, roofing, and windows before the project goes into full design for a CoA submittal later in the year.

Discussion: Ms. Davis stated that she wished to keep her existing garden house, but remove the sliding gate/fence to accommodate a new garage at a future date. Board expressed no significant concerns if the building is not visible from the public right-of-ways along Canal or Cherry Streets. Board indicated a Hardi Plank, or similar product would be acceptable if reveal was similar, with an architectural shingle roof. They asked about power and sewer line locations.

VI NEW CoA REVIEWS

CoA #1: 515 Oak Street NE (Odom) Street Tree plantings

Action Requested: This is a retroactive CoA request for tree plantings in the front planting strip along Oak Street NE. The plantings consist of 2 Little Gem Magnolias and 1 dogwood.

Decatur's Design Review Guidelines: For tree plantings the HPC approved the "Standard Specifications for Street Tree Planting" in 2022. Tree plantings in the planting strip, which are city rights-of-ways, are addressed by this document and the Approved Tree List (Appendix A). This document was created with input from Decatur Utilities as well. The document outlines appropriate size of trees, tree placement, and when root barriers are required to mitigate sidewalk damage from tree roots. Both documents were distributed to staff with the agenda for this month.

Staff Report: The planting strip is approximately 12' wide, the trees are centered, giving approximately 6' clearance to sidewalk or street. Staff reached out to Decatur Utilities since the planting strip is under an electrical line. They did not have any concerns with the dogwood tree, and dogwood trees are on the approved planting list.

Discussion: Ms. Odom was in attendance with her mother, June Odom. Lynn and Ken Schuppert (618 Line Street) were in attendance with the Odoms and spoke as well.

The Schupperts emphasized that they wanted consistency in enforcement within the district.

Jacob Woods is concerned that the magnolia lacks a root barrier. He asks if staff can check with arborist about suitability of Little Gem Magnolias and add it to the tree list in the appropriate category. He would like a root barrier added to the magnolias, but only if it doesn't harm the tree.

Paige Bridges would like to see the magnolia on the approved list before it can be approved.

Matt Cross indicates concern about the sidewalks without a root barrier.

Vote: Motion made by Jay Clark to approve the CoA, but staff needs to reach out to city arborist first to determine if a root barrier is needed and can it be added without damaging the magnolias. If root barrier is needed and won't damage the tree, it should be added. Motion seconded by Paige Bridges. Unanimous approval, motion carried.

Staff asked to check with city arborist to determine if Little Gem Magnolia should be added on the approved or not approved list for future street plantings and to update the list accordingly.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 5:02 by Matt Cross, seconded by Paige Bridges. Unanimous approval, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.