



**Landmark Preservation Board
Thursday, March 6, 2014**

Meeting Minutes

Common Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Don Radke called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Tom Cantwell, Cynthia Carter, Bob Haley, Dan Leary, Julia Marshall, Don Radke, Jeff Romano, Joe Saya

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

C. Carter made a motion to accept the minutes of February 20, 2014, which was seconded by D. Leary. The motion passed unanimously with the following correction:

Project Site Review: 205 + 213 Schuyler St/216 N. Lowell Ave. The project representative, Marty Masterpole, was present at the meeting. The Board reviewed the plans to expand the parking lot at St. Patrick's Church. The expansion required the demolition of a ~~late~~ mid-19th century frame house and an early 20th-century concrete block garage.

OLD BUSINESS

Project Site Review: 205-09 E. Jefferson Street. William Walton (Walton Architectural Group) presented revised drawings based on comments from the previous meeting. The revised drawings (date 03/04/14) show a terra-cotta-tile-faced first-floor façade with two storefronts separated by a center residential entrance. Over each storefront is a cement board sign. The shopfronts have multi-pane windows and cement board siding at the baseboard level. The trim around the doors and shopfronts is made of a cellular pvc product.

The Board discussed the first-floor façade in detail. W. Walton confirmed that they had yet to uncover any portion of the first-floor facade, which has been significantly altered and covered by a synthetic brick, and so could not yet speak to any remaining original materials on the façade. The Board requested that the design be simplified and the number of different types of materials used reduced. Specifically, it recommended against the use of any pvc trim on the façade. Instead of the baseboard clapboard-style siding, it recommended AZAK product or similar for plain panels below the shopfront windows. The Board also suggested that the windows should be undivided single pane windows and recommended against the large trim pieces that divide the individual shopfronts into sections. Instead, it recommended removing the vertical trim so that each shopfront reads as a single storefront system. Finally, the Board recommended that instead of cement board sign above the residential entrance that this either be a transom or spandrel glass with numbers painted on the glass.

Project Site Review: 205 + 213 Schuyler St/216 N. Lowell Ave. K. Auwaerter noted that the requested landscape and lighting plans had not yet been submitted to Zoning. The Board agreed to hold the case open.

NEW BUSINESS

CA-14-01: 501 Park Street former Holy Trinity Church/Northside Learning Ctr). Mirza Tihic presented the application that included removing the exterior metal crosses from the roof of the former church and the installation of a 6' chain link fence around the perimeter of the property that includes the former rectory and school. M. Tihic explained that the Northside Learning Center has purchased the entire property. It intends to rent the former church to an Islamic congregation. As a result, they wish to remove 6 metal crosses from the roof of the church and store them in the basement of the building. They are currently working with an SU design class to develop possible replacement finials that would be appropriate to the congregation moving into the building. If this is not financially feasible, then they will cap the bases to make sure they are weather tight. D. Leary emphasized the importance of creating a watertight cap and that they should hire someone trained in traditional building materials to identify and install the appropriate cap. *In addition, the crosses will need to be photo documented thoroughly, including how each is attached to the building, to facilitate future reinstallation.*

In regard to the proposed fence, M. Tihic explained that the former school building is being leased currently by the City School District, which holds classes in the building during working hours. In addition, the Northside Learning Center will be offering evening (5-8pm) classes to the surrounding immigrant community and their children. He noted that the neighborhood had significant crime issues and it was essential that the students, volunteers and teachers feel safe in the building and in the parking lot. For this reason, they were proposing to install a 6' high, chain-link fence around the entire property. (There is already fencing in the rear of the property facing Jasper Street.) The proposal also includes gates, which D. Leary noted were much larger than necessary.

The Board discussed the proposal in detail. The Board agreed that the height and type of fencing at the rear of the property was acceptable and focused its comments primarily on the proposed fencing along Park Street. It was noted that City code allows only a 4' high fence in front yards and that this proposal required a waiver from Zoning. The Board noted its concern about the scale of the fence proposal and recommended that the applicant replicate the type of fence located immediately west of the church – a low, open-rail, metal fence on a parapet wall. It also recommended that the fence not wrap around the corner of Highland and Park streets, but stop at Highland. There should be no fencing located along the Highland Street frontage. The Board also recommended that they consider cameras and lighting as additional safety measures. B. Haley noted that the tree lawn and sidewalk had been entirely covered in asphalt. M. Tihic said it was their desire to reestablish grass in the tree lawn area. The Board encouraged the applicant to reconsider the proposal as discussed. The Board held the application open pending further discussion and review.

Project Site Review: 237-43 E. Genesee Street. The Board tabled this proposal until the next meeting when the project architect would be able to attend to explain the details of the proposal.

Civic Strip Draft Design Report Review

Kimberly Lyons Creatore (Onondaga County) and Mary Rollings (Barton & Loguidice) presented the plans for a portion of the Civic Strip streetscape improvements. They explained that the project is a collaboration between the County and Syracuse University's Connective Corridor project, designed by SU's Upstate Design Center. The County is responsible for implementing the project along Montgomery and State Streets between Adams and Montgomery Streets, and Syracuse University and the City are responsible for implementation along Montgomery Street from Jefferson Street to E. Genesee Street. The County's portion of the project that they were presenting included enhanced crosswalks and curb cut improvements, including the installation of countdown timers and audible signals at the crosswalks. In addition, the plans include highlighting the entrances to the OnCenter, Civic Center and War Memorial with colored pavers.

The Board requested to see the entire concept for the full Civic Strip rather than a single portion. J. Marshall also requested renderings of the streetscape enhancements (signage, banners, etc) not just plan views in order to understand the intent as well as visual impact of the proposed work.

DISCUSSION

D. Radke reported that the Board should anticipate a revision to the Skyler Commons apartment building planned for behind the Skyler Hotel. Because of soil test results, the hotel will have generally the same appearance; however the first floor garage has been removed and it will be one story shorter.

ADJOURN

J. Marshall made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by J. Romano. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.