



**Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes
City Commission Chambers, City Hall**

CALL TO ORDER

Ashley Meier called the meeting to order for Mary Ewald-Sayles with a quorum at 7:02 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS and ROLL CALL

Present: Ashley Meier, Jill Putt, Grace Sayles, Lorelie Doerr
Absent: Steve Goss
Excused: Mary Ewald-Sayles
Others: Staff Liaison Terry Moulthane, Lisa Griffiths, Planning & Zoning Administrative Assistant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by G Sayles to approve the meeting minutes for Wednesday, August 25, 2021 as submitted. Seconded by J. Putt. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

HDC 21-26 – 610 N. Grant St.– Timothy Abbott

Applicant is requesting a COA authorizing the replacement of existing wood stairs and pipe handrailing on the home's north elevation along with the addition of porch guardrails using wood materials to match the front porch.

Present: Timothy Abbott and his wife, Owners

Mr. Abbott explained he needed to do some minor repair work on a side porch that was not in view of the road. He said he wanted to repair the stairs and replace the handrailings to bring it up to code. The spindles would match the spindles on the front porch.

A. Meier commented the original railings were short, had "cool" details, and wondered if Mr. Abbott intended on replacing those. Mr. Abbott replied he was because he didn't believe they would comply with building code and they would probably need to be taller; however, he was still going to make the new ones to match the same shape and not use round spindles.

A. Meier agreed the railings would not meet code. She said it was not grandfathered in like the front porch because it is a whole new porch and the railings would need to be recreated in a taller version. Mr. Abbott agreed they would be. A. Meier asked for confirmation that he would be customizing railings to match the front, only taller. Mr. Abbot confirmed he would be.

T. Moulthane asked if Mr. Abbott had spoken with the code official about the project with meeting code. He thought a railing would be needed to be wrapped around to close off the deck where the stairs were in relationship to the width of the deck, and the area where the steps were not covered.

Mr. Abbott explained the stairs were three feet wide on a six-foot porch and agreed he would need to have railings on either side of the stairs.

G. Sayles asked if he was going to extend the length of the step across the full width of the porch. Mr. Abbott said no, only the bottom step could be seen from the road.

T. Moulane asked if it would be centered. Mr. Abbot confirmed it would. T. Moulane then inquired if it would be centered with two side rails. Mr. Abbott's reply was inaudible on the recording. A. Meier commented it may be easier to make the stairs the whole width of the porch and would look appropriate. Mr. Abbott agreed with A. Meier.

A. Meier said it may be tricky to be able to recreate the handrailings for the stairs. She said the spindles would still need to be turned to look appropriate with the house. A. Meier asked if the railing on the front porch was metal. Mrs. Abbott confirmed it was.

Mr. Abbott asked if he would have to eliminate the cement in front if he wanted to make the front stairs more period appropriate.

T. Moulane answered the first choice would be to save the stone wing walls and replace the stairs between them. A. Meier said they were definitely original to the house with metal posts. She thought the posts probably went into the concrete and came down to meet another post at the bottom; they would need to be custom made and would be the most preferred method for the house, but questioned if they would comply with building code and recommended Mr. Abbott consult with the building official.

T. Moulane said he had included a drawing with stair specifications for Mr. Abbott in the staff report to assist with obtaining approval for a building permit. A. Meier explained approval from the historic commission was required first, and then they could apply for their building permit from the building department.

Motion made by G. Sayles:

I move that the Historic District Commission approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for all work described and depicted by the work review application for Case HDC 21-26 submitted by the applicant also including that the steps will run the full length of the porch and will include turned spindles for the railings. The applicant has demonstrated the work will comply with U.S. Secretary of the Interior Standards and Section 64-11(c) of the city's Historic Preservation District regulations.

Seconded by Lorelie Doerr. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Abbott asked if he would be able to bring a porch out and around on another house he owned on Fourth Street. A. Meier responded a formal proposal would be required; they would need to see the house and what the specific change would entail.

OTHER BUSINESS

T. Moulane explained the planning department was still in the hiring phase of the community development planner; introductions and training with the HDC will ensue once the position was filled.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by G. Sayles. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Prepared by: Lisa Griffiths, Planning & Zoning Administrative Assistant