

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD**  
**CITY OF PALATKA**  
**Meeting Minutes March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Roberta Correa at 4:00 pm. Other members present included Lynda Crabill, Meri Rees, Laura Schoenberger, Elizabeth van Rensburg, and Larry Beaton. Absent members included Robert Goodwin and Gilbert Evans Jr. Staff present: Planning Director Thad Crowe and Recording Secretary Ke'Ondra Wright.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Ms. Van Rensburg to approve the January 7, 2016 minutes, seconded by Ms. Crabill. Motion passed unanimously.

**APPEALS PROCEDURE**

Chairperson Correa read the appeals procedures.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Case:** HB 16-08  
**Locations:** 518 Kirby St  
**Applicant:** Greg Rogers  
**Request:** Certificate of Appropriateness to add a 12'X30' pre-fabricated shed.

Mr. Crowe summarized the request and explained that the shed is mostly hidden behind the house and vegetation. There is a line of site view from the driveway to the shed and the Applicant intends to screen this view with a fence section planted with Jasmine vine. The shed will be screened on other sides with a fence. The Board in the past has given Applicants the options of either making the shed compatible using appropriate design and materials, or to screen the shed. In this case the applicant has chosen to screen the proposed shed, which is architecturally incompatible with the District. Staff recommends approval for a storage shed in the rear yard with the following conditions: shed be redesigned to utilize wood siding instead of metal siding, double doors instead of wide door, wooden doors or doors with appearance of wood; OR fencing shall be utilized to screen the shed from adjacent areas, and the front fence section screening the shed from Kirby St. shall be planted with vines.

**Public Comments**

Greg Rogers, 518 Kirby St, Mr. Rogers asked the Board if there were any questions. Ms. Crabill asked if Mr. Rogers had any objections to the staff recommendations. Mr. Rogers answered no. Ms. Crabill asked if he considered using wood siding instead of metal and changing the double doors instead of the wide door. Mr. Rogers responded that he wanted to go with a single roll up door because it much more mechanically a better door and also a more secure door. He added that there was also going to be a normal door on the side. Chairperson Correa said she understands that Mr. Rogers is going with a metal shed and a screening option verses redesigning the shed to be more compatible. Mr. Rogers added that the colors of the shed will match the house.

Ms. van Rensburg said she believed that a shed was temporary in nature, therefore she had no problem with the screening option as opposed to the Applicant having to incur higher costs for a more compatible shed. Ms. van Rensburg asked the trees being taken down will just be the scrubby stuff. Mr. Rogers answered affirmative.

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Mr. Beaton asked if the property owners on the Laurel St side were part of the notification. Mr. Crowe answered that the notified property owners (within 150 feet) included Crill Ave., Dodge St., and Kirby St. Mr. Crowe also advised Mr. Beaton the property was posted for the request.

Claude Banks, 518 Kirby St, said that the neighbor across the street (David) c A.M.E. over personally to let him know that he approved of the proposed shed. Another neighbor (Christine Crowley) said that she approved of the proposed shed.

The Chairperson then closed the public comments portion of this item.

**Motion** by Mr. Beaton to approve staff recommendations for a storage shed in the rear yard with the following conditions: shed be redesigned to utilize wood siding instead of metal siding, double doors instead of wide door, wooden doors or doors with appearance of wood; OR fencing shall be utilized to screen the shed from adjacent areas, and the front fence section screening the shed from Kirby St. shall be planted with vines. Motion seconded by Ms. Van Rensburg and passed unanimously.

<b>Case:</b>	HB 16-13
<b>Locations:</b>	719 Reid St
<b>Applicant:</b>	Pastor Barry McGriff, Bethel A.M.E. Church
<b>Request:</b>	Historic designation (national and local registers) for Bethel A.M.E. Church.

Mr. Crowe summarized the request. Staff was contacted by the Florida Division of Historic Resources in Tallahassee requesting that this item be placed on the agenda. As a Certified Local Government the Board is required to weigh in on National Register nominations in the City. The Board's policy has been to also consider local historic overlay zoning when considering National Register nominations. Local Overlay Historic Zoning provides some measure of protection for historic properties in that the City reviews exterior alterations for compatibility purposes and also reviews demolition of historic properties. The City Commission recommended National Register nomination at their February 26, 2016 by Resolution. Criteria for consideration in this case is simple, pertaining to architectural and cultural significance. In terms of architectural significance the Church is the only example in the City of the Romanesque Revival architectural style. It is a High Victorian style and sort of a blend of Gothic and Syrian architecture, always with rough-faced masonry exteriors and demonstrating such features as wide decorative arches, grouping of windows, and eye-catching towers. The building exterior is unaltered except for the filling in of the west tower windows, the closing of the east entrance, and the addition of a noncontributing wing to south of the building. Staff also notes that there are significant cultural elements associated with the A.M.E. church, founded by Palatka freed slave Dennis Wood. After the Civil War the A.M.E. Florida district stretched from Tallahassee to Jacksonville, and included Palatka. The first church was located at Emmett and Hotel St. Some of the A.M.E. church pioneers such as Rev. Francis Carolina served as a Palatka (and Lake City) councilman and minister/shoemaker Joseph J. Sawyer, also associated with the A.M.E. church served as Palatka's clerk and tax assessor. The congregation purchased the site and construction begin on the current church began in 1905. The builder and architect were unknown, but the stained glass windows were by church specialist Empire Glass and Decoration out of Atlanta in 1908. Enamel painting used on the stained glass is rare- only four Florida historic buildings remain with such stained glass. Staff recommends

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approval to apply HD (Historic District) zoning to church structure at 719 Reid St.; and also to recommend this structure for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Public Comments**

Pastor James McGriff, 1616 E Palmetto St, would like to thank the Palatka Historic Preservation Board for considering Bethel A.M.E. Church for the local and national registry. He said that this church has been standing on the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Reid St for many years and is finally being recognized for being a historic structure. The integrity of the building is very sound. The Church hired an architect to do a study of the building and he wrote a letter stating this is one of the best buildings in Palatka for its age.

Gary McGriff, 500 Magnolia St, said he was happy that Bethel A.M.E. Church would be named on the National Register of Historic places. There is a lot of information that was being explained here this afternoon in reference to Bethel being a part of the community and the cultural aspects of historical preservation. Rev. E.F. Williams is the architect who designed the roof and also designed Allen A.M.E. Chapel in St. Augustine FL during in the 1800s. Bethel A.M.E. also has been associated with the civil rights movement and it should be noted that the historic black school Central Academy was originally across the street from the church prior to burning down in 1937. At that time the white students went to St. James Methodist Church for school and the black students went to Bethel A .M.E. Church for school until the school could be rebuilt.

Abe Alexander said he was a member of Bethel A.M.E. church and also served as the steward and financial director. He advised Board members when they visited the Church to look up at the ceiling, as it was most unusual. It was built by a man who could not even read. In this ceiling, magnetic crosses its entirety, and it doesn't have even have an nail in it. Through the years many visitors passing through Palatka have stopped to take pictures. This church can seat between 500 to 600 people. They did a marvelously job to create a spiritual environment to save souls and detour sarcastic and prejudice behavior among people. The community uses the church to have funerals there. Members keep the building spotless and it is landscaped beautifully.

Chairperson Correa thanked the members of Bethel A.M.E. Church, and then closed the public comments portion of this item.

Ms. Crabill said she was thankful that during the 2004 hurricane the church protected the windows.

Ms. van Rensburg congratulated the speakers and said that back in 2005 this was one of the buildings that drew her to Palatka. She said it's always been very well maintained is a joy to look at.

**Motion** by Ms. Van Rensburg to approve historic designation (national and local registers) for Bethel A.M.E. Church based on architectural and cultural significance. Motion seconded by Ms. Rees and passed unanimously.

<b>Case:</b>	HB 16-14
<b>Locations:</b>	420/422 Kirby St
<b>Applicant:</b>	Henry & Tracey Lesky
<b>Request:</b>	Certificate of Appropriateness to remove two front doors and replace with windows, new exterior door, and new metal roof.

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Mr. Crowe summarized the request and advised the Board that there are three actions for the board to approve. The first was a replacement of two front doors with a single central front door; the second a replacement of the non-historic windows with double hung six-over six windows; the third was the replacement of non-historic north 2<sup>nd</sup> floor windows with a paired double-hung six-over one window. Other actions staff can approve administratively were converting the duplex back into a single family home, painting the exterior, and installing a metal roof. Staff was able to find a Master Site File thanks to Mr. Beaton, and it was provided to Board members and the owner. This house does have a number of original elements - mainly the porch and columns, exterior siding, and metal roof. The rusticated blocks of the foundation and porch columns are a striking feature that were utilized in a number of framed vernacular and bungalow homes in Palatka's historic districts. Alterations in non-historic times included the window replacement, the closing in of the side porch, and conversion to a duplex. Staff and the Applicants have had some discussion about the proposed six-over-six windows. Staff did recommend that the Applicants use windows with fewer lights that are typical of vernacular homes, and the Applicant has been receptive to this idea. Staff did have some issues with the proposed front door because it didn't have simple rectangular features typically found on District front doors. Staff does recommend approval for this item with the front windows to be one-over-one, two-over one, or similar window with fewer lights than the proposed six-over-six; six-over-one arrangement acceptable for the proposed north side 2<sup>nd</sup> story window or similar to other replacement windows; and a single front door to replace the existing non-historic duplex doors. The new door design should incorporate similar rectangular and minimal decorative themes to those doors of the South Historic District.

**Public Comments**

Henry & Tracey Lesky, 416 Kirby St, passed out the front door pictures they are considering. Mr. Lesky told the board that they brought this house, next door to their residence, and would like to restore the house back to single family. She said they planned on getting a roof placed on the house along with some new paint. They were considering a very basic two panel front door with clear glass, and the six-over-one windows that would match the other windows that will be on the north side of the house. It is very hard to find new windows that match historic ones.

Mr. Crowe read an email from James & Maureen Decker into the record, with the Deckers supporting the changes.

With no further comments, the Chairperson then closed the public comments portion of this item.

**Motion** by Mr. Beaton to approve staff recommendation for the front windows to be one-over-one, two-over-one, or similar window with fewer lights than the proposed six-over-six; proposed north side 2<sup>nd</sup> story window to be similar to # 1 above or a six-over-one paired window replacement is acceptable; and single front door to replace existing non-historic duplex. Front door design to incorporate similar rectangular and minimal decorative themes to those doors of the South Historic District. Motion seconded by Ms. Crabill and passed unanimously.

**Other Business**

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Ms. van Rensburg wanted to ask if it would be appropriate to talk with the Applicants about building supplies for their home being that her husband and she are restoration contractors. Mr. Crowe said he doesn't have a problem with Ms. van Rensburg and Mr. & Mrs. Lesky speaking after the meeting.

Mr. Beaton apologized for being late to the meeting. He said he had some minor corrections to the minutes, which Mr. Crowe agreed to make.

**Motion** by Mr. Beaton to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Ms. Rees.

**ADJOURNMENT – meeting was adjourned at 4:43 PM.**