

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD
CITY OF PALATKA
Draft-Meeting Minutes September 1, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Roberta Correa at 4:03 pm. Other members present included Lynda Crabill, Laura Shoenberger, Elizabeth Rensburg, Larry Beaton, and Meri Rees. Absent members included Gilbert Evans Jr., and Robert Goodwin. Staff present: Planning Director Thad Crowe and Recording Secretary Ke'Ondra Wright.

APPEALS PROCEDURE

Chairperson Roberta Correa read the appeals procedures into the record.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Beaton to approve the August 4th, 2016 minutes, seconded by Ms. Van Rensburg, Motion approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Case: HB 16-47
Locations: 627 Crill Avenue
Applicant: Coenraad van Rensburg
Request: Certificate of Appropriateness for addition of handicapped ramp on rear of home, and shortening of rear window (South Historic District).

Ms. van Rensburg advised the board that since her company is the contractor for this property, she would like to recuse herself from the case.

Mr. Beaton advised the board that as the property owner he would also like to recuse himself from the case.

Mr. Crowe summarized the request with a power point presentation. The reason for the requested window shortening is to allow for more counter space in the kitchen. The handicapped ramp is a fairly low level improvement and therefore will not be prominently visible. Criteria for consideration of these alterations include design and appearance factors including material, textures, and colors. While the window will be shorter, it will retain a similar appearance in terms of verticality and the pane arrangement. The rear ramp will be partially screened by vegetation and its low height. The alterations are minimal, and will not detract from historic structures and the surroundings homes. Staff recommends approval of the addition of handicapped ramp on the rear of home, and shortening of rear window with the following recommendations:

- The work shall be in keeping with the schematics presented by the applicant, with understanding that the ramp should present minimum visual impacts with simple railings.
- Utilize natural wood color for ramp so as to better blend with the rear yard, as opposed to tying into the house color.

Public Comments

Coenraad van Renburg, 310 N 3rd St, said that the window would not be replaced, but modified. As far as the ramp, the building code requires railings when a ramp exceeds 30 inches above ground level. This handicapped ramp will not reach 20 inches. The ramp will attract less attention with only a simple hand rail attached to the existing railing on the porch. The material of the handicapped ramp will be wood, and the Applicant is fine with

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leaving the wood unpainted. He said that if the wood was painted the color main house color on the walking part and the railing would be painted white to match the house color.

Ms. Crabill asked if the house is white and the handicapped ramp is not being painted white, would the nature color stand out. Chairperson Correa asked what the exterior color of the house would be. Mr. Beaton replied white. Mr. Crowe said that if the columns and spindles would be white, then painting the ramp white would tie it to the house, and as a ramp is not an historic feature, it would detract from the historic structure. His suggestion was to not paint the handicapped ramp white, however if the board thinks differently that is their prerogative. He observed that an earth color would identify more with the grass and the ground more than with the white of the house. Chairperson Correa asked what would be the deck color on the porch. Mr. van Rensburg replied that it would be a dark grey color.

Ms. Crabill expressed concern that without railings someone could fall off the ramp. Mr. van Rensburg answered that because the handicapped ramp is less than 30 inches in height this should not be a problem. Ms. Crabill asked where the ramp would meet the porch And Mr. van Rensburg answered in the middle of the rear porch.

Ms. Crabill asked if the handicapped ramp could be seen from Morris St. Chairperson Correa answered yes.

Chairperson Correa closed the public comments.

Motion made by Ms. Rees and seconded by Ms. Scheonberger to approve the requested Certificate of Appropriateness for the addition of a handicapped ramp on the rear of home, and the shortening of rear window with the following recommendations: the work shall be in keeping with the schematics presented by the applicant, with the understanding that the ramp present minimum visual impacts with simple railings, and with a natural wood color for ramp so as to better blend with the rear yard, as opposed to tying into the house color.

Other Business

Ms. Rees asked Staff if he was able to follow up with the faux windows issue for the 414 River St. COA. Mr. Crowe answered that Staff has not heard back from the applicant and as far as he know that project is on hold.

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.