

The Wauchula Historic Preservation Board met Monday, December 9, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Chair Tanya Royal, Raafat Zakhary, Dr. Sylvia Collins, Cynthia Paxton, and Jennifer Clark.

Board Members Linda Burnett and William Boynton were absent.

Also present were Community Development Coordinator Kyle Long and City Clerk Holly Smith.

Royal called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from the November 12, 2019 Meeting

Collins motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Clark. With no discussion, Royal called for all in favor, all responded aye. For those opposed like sign, no response. Minutes were approved.

Certificate of Appropriateness – 130 W. Main Street (balcony/stairway)

Royal explained the stairway on the side of the building was necessary to be used as a fire escape in order for Utilitech to use the second story. Long explained Utilitech purchased the building and wanted to add office space to the second floor but the Hardee County Building Department would not let them do that unless they had a fire escape. Long stated almost a year to date they came before you with a different balcony concept and stated he was unsure as to why such a change had occurred in the drawings. Paxton replied it is basically a fire escape. Royal stated she had spoken with Kirk and he said after the awnings were removed the County informed them they could not construct the balcony because it would be in the County right of way. Long noted on the west side of the building along 7th Avenue, the City's right of way goes right up to the building, however he would be drafting an easement allowing them to install the poles for the balcony on the sidewalk. Long stated staff did not have any objections.

Kirk Thompson arrived at 5:05pm and addressed the Board. Thompson stated the egress on 7th Avenue was due to fire code regulations because we have to have two means of egress. Thompson explained the County's Road and Bridge Department would not give them an easement for the balcony on Main Street. Thompson stated the plan before you is plan b. Royal asked what color the balcony would be. Thompson stated the proposed color was a powder coated gray. Thompson represented the proposed colors for the building. Thompson noted the trim across the top of the building and future awnings would be black. Collins asked if the balcony could be a different color. Thompson replied they could make it a tan color or make it black like the trim. Zakhary asked regarding safety measures regarding the stairs. Thompson replied the stairs would have whatever safety requirements were required by the Florida Building Code and Fire. The Board had more discussion on the color of the balcony. Clark and Paxton suggested the balcony be cream or tan powder coated. Clark motioned to approve the certificate of appropriateness with the balcony color matching the building color as much as possible and the color of the building being Downing Cream which was presented to the Board, seconded by Paxton. With no further discussion, Royal called for all in favor, all responded aye. For those opposed like sign, no response. Motion carried.

With there being no further business, Paxton motioned to adjourn, seconded by Zakhary.

With no discussion, Royal called for all in favor, all responded aye. For those opposed like sign, no response.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Holly Smith, City Clerk