

Burton Historic District
Architectural Review Board
Minutes
February 20, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

Board members present: Jim Wohlken, Chuck Weikart; Jim Croup (arrived at 7:06 pm); Joe Hernandez

Visitors: Tom Clark, Kevin Luoma, John Dabrowski, Austin Grube, Ann Wishert, Lisa Hernandez

Chairman's Report

Approval of January 26, 2017 minutes. Motion to approve by Mr. Weikart; Seconded by Mr. Hernandez. By voice vote, the motion passed.

Old Business

Permit # 2016-13, (con't)

Burton Fire Department request for a demolition permit for Briggs/Domadia house at 13810 Spring Street

Mr. Luoma of the Fire Department informed the Board that they had listed the property for sale on Craig's List, as well as a "Jewish newspaper in Cleveland." Mr. Clark stated that they tried to list it with a local Kelleher-Williams realtor, Mrs. Porter, but have not been able to yet, as Mrs. Porter has been sick.

Fire Department members stated that the Fire Department held a meeting, and determined that the Fire Department would be unable to find a realtor willing to list the property for only a few months, especially if the realtor knew the Fire Department didn't want to sell it.

Mr. Dabrowski of the Fire Department stated that based on the Village Ordinance [159], the Village is required to issue a [demolition] permit within two months of receiving the [demolition] application. Since this did not occur, it was the feeling of the Fire Department that the Historic District Architectural Review Board had violated their own ordinance. Mr. Dabrowski further stated that with that in mind, this will be the last time the Fire Department meets with the Board.

Mr. Croup and Mr. Hernandez both felt that this was a matter for legal counsel to address. Mr. Dabrowski stated that all of this could be avoided if the Board just issued a permit that evening.

Mr. Dabrowski further stated his belief that the Fire Department had fulfilled all the requirements asked of the Fire Department by the Board, and in fact, the Fire Department had already been issued the necessary permits by the County. Referring to the ordinance, Mr. Dabrowski stated that the Board only has say over the exterior of the structure, not the interior. Mr. Croup replied that that wasn't true when one was referring to, and talking about demolishing, an historic building. Mr. Croup stated that the Board wanted to ensure that the Board was doing everything properly and legally.

Mr. Dabrowski stated that the Board was merely "dragging the issue out," and challenged the actions of the Board. Mr. Dabrowski and Mr. Croup engaged in a verbal debate over the rights of the Board. Mr. Dabrowski began speaking over the members of the Board who were trying to explain the reasons behind the Board's actions. Ms. Hernandez asked everyone not to speak over each other, and Mr. Hernandez asked Mr. Dabrowski to finish his point, at which time Mr. Croup would address what Mr. Dabrowski said. Mr. Dabrowski again stated that the Board had violated its own ordinance, and further stated his belief that the Fire Department had done everything asked of it, and had, in fact, done more than was asked. Mr.

Dabrowski took exception to the fact that there is nothing listed in the ordinance that says the house has to be listed for sale, for any length of time. Mr. Dabrowski then demanded an answer from the Board. Mr. Croup stated that if Mr. Dabrowski wanted legal counsel involved, that was fine. Mr. Dabrowski told Mr. Croup that a lack of an answer indicated an approval of the permit. Mr. Croup disagreed. Mr. Dabrowski appeared to grow increasingly agitated.

Mr. Hernandez asked why the Fire Department was choosing not to work with the Board. Mr. Dabrowski stated the Fire Department did work with the Board. Mr. Hernandez reminded Mr. Dabrowski that the Fire Department agreed [at the last meeting] to list the house with a realtor. Mr. Dabrowski stated that that wasn't the law, that the ordinance was the law.

Mr. Dabrowski stated that the Fire Department had listed the property on a website that he claimed was now defunct. Mr. Dabrowski was reminded that no one could find the home listed on this website.

Ms. Hernandez summoned an officer from the Police Department due to Mr. Dabrowski's behavior.

When Board members indicated to Mr. Dabrowski that no permit would be forthcoming that evening, Mr. Dabrowski indicated that the Board would be hearing from the Fire Department's legal counsel. When the officer arrived, Mr. Dabrowski and the rest of the Fire Department left the meeting.

Adjourn

Mr. Weikart made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm; seconded by Mr. Hernandez. By voice vote, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted – Lisa Hernandez, Clerk