Historic Preservation Commission
July 25, 2019

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) of the City of Annapolis held its administrative hearing on July 25, 2019 in City Council Chambers. Chair Zeno called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Commissioners Present: Chair Zeno, Vice Chair Leahy, Dr. Scott, Collins, Finch

Staff Present: R. Laynor- Chief, Historic Preservation,

Chair Zeno introduced the commissioners and staff. She stated the Commission’s purpose pursuant to the authority of the land use articles and administered the oath en mass to all persons intending to testify at the hearing.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Laynor announced the article regarding the newest archaeological find behind 63 West Street on property line of 125 Cathedral Street. It was a difficult project regarding the collapsed wall specifically who would take the project and agreement has been reached who would assume responsibility. She requested an archaeological monitoring and described a number of archaeological finds. She also reported that the 2020 Tax Credit season was completed and reminded members that there was a $150,000 cap. Because of the cap, there was a carryover of 14 applicants who have not gotten their credits and 22 applicants were carried over for this year and 17 applicants who received nothing so entire credit was carryover. The HPC asked staff for hard figures on the tax credits on how it has increased by year and the current status in order to support requesting an increase in tax credit funding.

Chair Zeno and Ms. Finch attended the Presentation Maryland Symposium in Frederick where there were a variety of presentations. She will notify HPC members when these presentations will be placed online. She addressed the question raised at the last meeting regarding elections clarifying that she spoke with Hilary Raftovich who suggested that the HPC wait to vote on elections until there is a full compliment. Chair Zeno met regarding tree protocol and the City agreed that it falls under the HPC prevue so Ms. Laynor will be bringing it back for review.

The HPC would like to officially thank Ms. Phillips for her service.

D. PRE APPLICATION

Chair Zeno reminded those present that this is an informal discussion held as a courtesy to the applicants to determine feasibility as well as to address any other issues of concern that may arise at the hearing. This review does not constitute an approval and nothing discussed in this session will be binding on the commissioners or applicants. The applicants acknowledged that this is a pre application and nothing discussed at this pre application meeting would be binding on the applicants or the HPC.
1. **Baltimore Gas and Electric Company** – Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Mr. Jarrell explained that this is a brand new BGE program to offer electric vehicle charging stations that the City would like to take advantage of with no costs to the City. He explained that this is a competitive process so the City needs to apply for consideration. There are two types of chargers specifically DC Fast Charger for a 30-minutes charge and Level 2 for a 60-minutes charge. The dimensions are not very clear but the larger is 2-feet x 2-feet x 6-feet in height so is bulky. He discussed the potential locations specifically the City plans to start off at the Recreation Center but other locations include fast chargers for Market Space, City Dock, and Level 2 chargers for Donner Lot, Hillman Garage, Gotts Garage, Knighton Garage, Back Creek Nature Park and West Annapolis Street. The chargers will be installed in a concrete pad and a meter box as well as a breaker box to be installed close to the charger. There are some concerns regarding the screens for the chargers.

Chair Zeno summarized that Commissioners present believe this is a feasible project. The HPC will be looking at the size, color, how large the charging stations are or will be once installed, and the accessory items such the breaker and meter boxes. The locations that the HPC determined feasible were next to the Harbormaster and the parking lot at Compromise Street. Staff will ask BGE if there is an alternative or less bulky version for both charger types. The HPC looks forward to a full application.

J. **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

1. **Department of Public Works** – Director David Jarrell & Civil Engineer Sam Brice – Replacing concrete sidewalks in the Historic District.

Chair Zeno clarified that there were some sidewalks replacements in Murray Hill that received some complaints at which time the HPC realized that there were no protocols in place for sidewalk replacement in the Historic District.

Mr. Brice explained that there are protocols in the standard details for replacement without an application to the HPC. He briefly discussed the sidewalk replacement process on Cornhill Street and Cathedral Street. Chair Zeno discussed some of the questions from the residents relating to the concrete color/finishing; the patchwork effort of the concrete; the color of the handicap ramps caps, metal cast iron storm drain grates, and out of service fire hydrants to which staff responded.

Chair Zeno clarified that there were concerns/issue relating to the coloring of the concrete and the costs. Mr. Jarrell provided the cost differential for the regular concrete which would be $5.25 per square foot and colored concrete would be $16.11 per square foot. Mr. Jarrell noted that concrete does not stay white for long and will eventually turn brown. Mr. Brice suggested using yellow color material for the handicap ramps with the brick in the historic district; the red color with concrete in the historic district; and cast iron in front of highly significant buildings and sites such as the Brice House. The HPC agreed to look into what other jurisdictions in Maryland and on the east coast are doing comparable to see what they are using and how they are handling this type of issue. The HPC concurs with Mr. Brice’s comments with the exception of recommending a more buff color than bright yellow for handicap ramps on brick sidewalks. The HPC asked that staff pay attention to when squares are cut in half to ensure the entire square is replaced instead of just the damaged area.

K. **ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no further business, Dr. Scott moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:51pm. Vice Chair Leahy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 6-0.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at the City Council Chambers.

Tami Hook, Recorder