

MINUTES

ATHENS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

OCTOBER 2, 2025

3:30 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Laura Lenoir
Jona Garrett
Kim Cochran-Graham

MEMBERS ABSENT

Justin White
Jordan Curtis
Timberly Guffey
Chairperson Shawn McKeehan

OTHERS ATTENDING

Nora Cardin

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Approval of September 4, 2025, regular meeting minutes.**

The approval of minutes was not done, due to the lack of a quorum.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Discussion of historic overlay downtown and November 6th informational meeting**

Details for the November 6, 2025, meeting were discussed.

Mrs. Cardin said she was planning to send the letters out the following week. She said they talked about adding a "frequently asked questions" and that Mrs. Lenoir thought it would be good to send it with the letter rather than hand it to them as they come in the door. She said she put four questions on there and if there was anything they wanted to add to that, let her know. She went over the "frequently asked" questions.

Mrs. Cardin said Sam Moser from Sweetwater and Lane Tillner from the State of Tennessee are coming to the meeting. She is working on getting someone that is involved with a Main Street that has a downtown historic district. She said Sandra Kinney from Main Street (Athens) sent out an email to all her contacts and the only person who responded was someone from Columbia. If she were to come, they

would have to pay her travel fees. They may just have Mrs. Kinney be their Main Street representative on the panel.

Mrs. Lenoir asked who was going to give the introduction and talk about why they are interested in the historic district.

Mrs. Cardin said she would think Chairperson McKeehan.

They discussed some things Chairperson McKeehan should talk about during the introduction.

They talked about having Mr. Moser from Sweetwater say a few things before the panel discussion.

Mrs. Cochran-Graham said she thinks all the introductions should be made at the front end.

All present agreed.

Mrs. Cardin talked about letting them submit questions beforehand, they will go over them, and they will ask the panel the questions.

Mrs. Garrett said she knows a couple of people in Cleveland. She asked exactly what kind of person they were looking for.

Mrs. Cardin said she thinks Mrs. Kinney and Chairperson McKeehan want someone who represents a downtown main street and has a downtown historic district.

Mrs. Lenoir asked if one of the goals of Main Street is partly preservation.

Mrs. Cardin said yes.

Mrs. Cardin said Sam Moser has an architect that works for his firm that could speak as well. She (Abigail Lane) minored in historic preservation from Tulane. He said she could come and sit on the panel.

They thought that was a great idea.

Mrs. Cardin asked if they had any other questions they thought might need to be added to the letter.

Mrs. Lenoir said there may be questions about demolition.

Mrs. Lenoir talked about somewhere in the guidelines, it states that people can have a consultation meeting when they are thinking about their application. She said they want them to know that they have put time into this and want to guide them in this.

Mrs. Cochran-Graham asked who can vote, the people who own the buildings downtown.

Mrs. Cardin said it would really be however they want it. They could send a survey, and the owners would be able to have one vote. At the end of the day, they aren't required to do a survey to show support of the district, so they can decide how they want it done.

Mrs. Lenoir said they do it to gain public support.

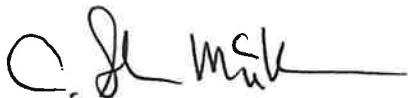
Mrs. Garrett said she would give Mrs. Cardin Nicolas Lillios's contact information as a possible panelist.

There was continued discussion, and the meeting was adjourned.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) request for Laura Lenoir- 500 E. Madison Avenue- for replacement of front porch columns.**
 - a. Owner Comments**
 - b. Public Comments**

This agenda item was not addressed due to the lack of a quorum. Mrs. Cardin said they may be able to administratively approve it. She would check on it.



Shawn McKeehan, Chairperson



Timberly Guffey, Secretary