

CITY OF DARLINGTON
HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

The City of Darlington Historic Landmark Commission met on **February 1, 2021**, at City Hall, 400 Pearl St. Attending were commission members, Ms. Pierson, Ms. Brasington, Ms. Pruitt, Mr. Chace, Ms. Elvington, and Ms. Howle, as well as staff member, Ms. Rock.

Ms. Pierson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Introduction of New Member: Ms. Elvington took the floor and introduced herself as a Darlington native and history buff who serves as the new President for the Greater Darlington Chamber of Commerce. She said her father worked at the News & Press for 47 years.

Minutes: Ms. Brasington made a motion to accept the minutes from the **November 2, 2020**, meeting. Mr. Chace made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Posters on SCDOT Traffic Control Boxes: The Commission requested advance notice to approve of images and information showing the history of the buildings, neighborhoods, old churches, and showing their transformations on the traffic control boxes. Mayor Boyd and Mr. Hardee had the one at the old Post Office, 201 Pearl St., wrapped with information and images about the history of Darlington Raceway. The Commission wanted some recourse since it had not been approved. The Commission reiterated that it would be best to use only historic photos with a sepia tone to signify the historical nature of the photos. Ms. Rock suggested preemptively getting the images and information to the Mayor, who is personally paying for the installation. The next box on the Mayor's list of 10 was the one in front of the Coleman Block Building that includes the Chamber office where he intended to put the story of the Park Terrace Hotel that burned. Ms. Rock said she proposed adding the significance of the Coleman Building to at least one side. Ms. Elvington said she has seen places like Sullivan's Island use local artist renderings of historic buildings as well as children's art on traffic control boxes. The Commission asked that the post office information be added to at least one side of the box at 201 Pearl. The Commission suggested the following: The old courthouse, The old City Hall with the clock tower, the Opera House once located at Exchange Street and Carolina Drug Store, something about Mineral Springs, First Baptist and St. Matthews churches, the Masonic lodge that once stood where Hardee's now sits, photos of the homes that were there before City Hall and the Piggly Wiggly were constructed, K&W Market, horse stable and carriages, The Liberty, Darlington Theater, the amphitheater at St. John's Elementary, and the old Darlington tree that once marked the center of the County and birthed the town. The Commission also suggested moving the information on the Park Terrace Hotel closer the Veterans Memorial since the hotel stood at that corner of Orange and North Main.

Signage for Historic Homes: Ms. Rock presented a possible decal for sidewalk placement as opposed to vertical signs at the City's 180+ historic properties. Ms. Rock said the City had hired a Coker history graduate as an intern who is working in her office, Ms. Shafer. She is compiling the QR codes with the addresses, house names, and Web addresses in an Excel spreadsheet. The Commission liked the design and suggested making certain one did not have to bend to snap a photo as many historic tourists are older. The Commission discussed what name to use for the houses that are not listed on the National Register by anything other than the address. Ms. Pruitt suggested using the first owners of the houses, but that would take some research. Ms. Howle suggested looking through Darlingtoniana for some of the names.

New Business: Ms. Rock said the Carnegie Library building would not be used by the County and would again be available for development.

Ms. Rock noted a couple historic grant applications opening this spring and asked for project suggestions. The Commission brought up several ideas: the cemetery at D avenue, the Mill Hill houses close to Pearl Street, Grove Hill Cemetery, graves beside the old jail, cleaning or marking graves at old cemeteries, surveying the remaining older neighborhoods on the other side of the railroad tracks to establish the age of the homes and save good examples of mill housing and shotgun housing, survey for identifying significant businesses in the African American community that the structures may still exist or even the sites to save that history, and identifying the hotel in Darlington that was part of the Green Book (?) that served as a guide for African Americans traveling through the South. **Ms. Brasington made a motion for the City to write the grant to survey historic properties on the South side of Darlington for historical significance. Ms. Howle made the second. The motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Rock also distributed a flyer for a Rural Development Grant through USDA for housing rehab that could be used by homeowners that need assistance fixing their primary residences. The funds available are grants and loans. She asked members to distribute to anyone who may need the help. Ms. Pruitt volunteered to help fill out any grant applications if someone wants to apply.

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.