

BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

Work Session

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

Mr. Graham called the meeting to order at about 7:40 p.m.

Attendance: Mr. Charles Graham, Mr. Jaime Garrett, Dr. Richard Hoback, Mr. Frank Holloway, Ms. Amy Korenyi-Both, Ms. Sharma Stone and Mr. Brad Thorp. Also present: Mr. Steve Feverston, City Planner and Mrs. Julie Weaver, Clerk.

PRESERVATION AWARDS

Mr. Feverston explained the purpose of the work session as follow up to the direction of the Board to go forward with consideration of preservation awards for the historic district and landmarks in Centerville. He noted that the packets distributed for the work session had included sections on sample awards, estimates of costs for some of the possible awards, sample criteria from other entities and information on State and National Preservation Awards. Three types of awards are under consideration:

Preservation awards for restoration to period materials and colors or for rehabilitation projects, including adaptive re-use.

Preservation awards for stewardship with consistent care and maintenance that enhance the historic property by attention to details that retain its character for the future.

Preservation awards for new construction that retains the historic character of the neighborhood with structures compatible in height, mass, scale and materials with surrounding historic buildings. Both additions and new structures qualify.

Dr. Hoback asked if the group wished to specify all three as annual awards. He felt that the awards would be more meaningful if they were given more for excellence than necessitated by timing. Discussion followed about doing annual maintenance/stewardship awards, but keeping the other two for truly special efforts, above and beyond normal expectations. The term "Mayor's Award" was used.

When Mr. Graham asked Mr. Feverston when and where the awards would be presented, he suggested presenting the awards at a televised Council meeting. There would be good community exposure because the meetings are replayed according to the MVCC schedule.

Mr. Thorp stated his agreement with the stewardship award being every year. He pointed out that there might not be qualifying new construction every year. He noted that businesses work to prepare for the Americana Festival at the Fourth of July. Ms. Stone agreed with giving out the awards sparingly. She pointed out that awards need to reward quality, not minimal effort or mediocrity. Maintaining two of the awards as optional presentations would give the flexibility to do that.

Dr. Hoback brought up the book “A Sense of Place.” Mr. Feverston noted that it is published by the Centerville Historical Society and is currently being updated. The book documents the downtown area, architecturally and historically. Mr. Thorp shared that the book will be reprinted in 2012 and that the Historical Society is trying to decide how many copies to print. The members of the Board of Architectural Review were in agreement to check on the possibility of giving a copy of “A Sense of Place” as part of each award.

As part of the consideration of what to award, Mr. Feverston showed samples of various kinds of awards. These included a limestone rock that could have a metal plate attached, framed certificates the City had received, art pieces, and framed pen and ink drawings of several City owned properties. The Board felt that a pen and ink drawing of the winning property would be a coveted prize. The members particularly liked the possibility of doing a pen and ink drawing about 8” x 10” and a certificate in the same frame.

Timing of the award was again discussed. The group wanted to give enough time for business owners to complete repairs and painting in the spring. The June Council meeting was suggested as a possible time for the first presentations. The criteria could set the timeframe for eligibility in a certain year.

Ms. Stone requested that the accompanying certificate note the Board of Architectural Review’s involvement.

Mr. Feverston said he would speak with the City Manager to discuss funding for the awards and to request that a couple of members of the BAR come to a Council Meeting in February or March to announce and explain the awards. Owners need sufficient time to plan and implement improvements once the criteria and rules are announced.

Mr. Graham stated that the handout concerning the criteria used by the City of Savannah was helpful as a starting point. Since the BAR would be doing the judging, Mr. Garrett asked for a worksheet with specific items and a checklist with a point scale. Mr. Feverston suggested adding a space for comments or questions for each of the main items being judged. When Mrs. Korenyi-Both stated that she did not want to usurp or rival the City Beautiful Business Awards with a “maintenance” award, she was reassured that landscaping would be only one item on the checklist—not the main emphasis. Ms. Stone felt that landscaping needed to be one item, because unsightly weeds and overgrowth would not be considered good stewardship. Mr. Feverston pointed out that such weeds would be a maintenance violation and that staff should look for outstanding violations as part of the nomination/judging process. Mr. Garrett and Mr. Holloway requested that the Board of Architectural Review have input into the choice of contenders and the group was in agreement. Mr. Feverston stated that staff will nominate properties to the BAR, at least for a few years until the process is more defined.

Mr. Feverston noted the progress made in the district over the past few years with the eating places downtown and people present there. He summarized the work for the next meeting as follows:

- Determine an announcement date.
- Fine tune the language describing the awards.

Define the evaluation criteria.

Contact Kathy Gross, the pen and ink artist, concerning pricing, availability and an estimate of the lead time she would require.

Ms. Stone stated the need for the criteria to be complete as soon as possible and published as the announcement is made. The group agreed.

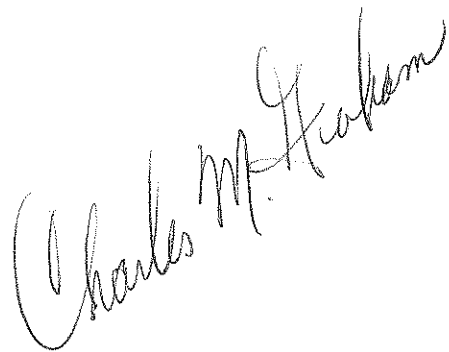
Advertisement of the awards would include the announcement at a Council Meeting, an article in the *Town Crier* and postings on the website, FaceBook and Twitter. Staff will check the possibility of publication in the *Historical Society Newsletter* and *Business First*. Ms. Stone stated that people need to understand the importance of preserving our historic structures. Part of the Board's role is education; publication of information about the awards would help to educate the public.

Mr. Garrett and Mr. Feverston discussed an evaluation form with up to 20 items with checkboxes for a points scale from 1 to 5. The major 5 items would be at the top. Mr. Feverston suggested a comment space with each item for questions and notations for later conversation among the BAR members where numbers would be finalized and compiled to find a winner.

The group was in agreement to hold another work session to consider criteria and evaluation forms.

A discussion on forwarding the winners for State Preservation Awards nominations ended with a consensus to at least evaluate the possibility.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles M. Graham". The signature is written in dark ink and is slanted upwards from left to right.