

Athens City Historic and Architecture Preservation Commission
MINUTES
Athens City Hall, First Floor Conference Room
May 13 5:30 PM

1. Call to Order—Chairman Keith Chapman called the meeting to order at 5:30PM. Members present included Chapman, Pam Callahan, Mary Anne Reeves, Guy Philips, and Cyrus Moore. Members absent included John Valentour and Richard Vedder. Quorum was established. Guests included John Wharton, Mark Snider, Joe Krause, Gary Full, and Alan McMillian. Paul Logue recorded minutes.

2. Disposition of Minutes—Chapman moved to dispense with minutes until the June meeting. Guy Philips seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

3. Next Meeting—June 10, 2019

4. Old Business

A. Local districts—Keith gave some background on the commission and extended an offer to help uptown property owners with advice and information. Commission has a goal of creating an historic district in Uptown Athens where guidelines for historic preservation are applied. Philips discussed the positive experience with rebuilding after the Union Street fire and the tax credit options available. Members discussed economic advantages of historic preservation including rents and demand for business space. Mr. Wharton remarked that he frequently hears from tenants that they attended OU because of the beauty of campus and city. Wharton is working on SID with a goal of beautifying Uptown and retaining commercial businesses. Mr. McMillian expressed concerns about additional regulations on property. He would like to see a community vision of what we want Uptown Athens to look like and offer carrots to property owners. Uptown property owners have experienced frustration with development process in the past. Preservation commission could help to move projects forward and advocate on behalf of property and business owners. McMillian would like to see more space uptown for entrepreneurs. Mr. Snider is supportive of comments from Wharton and McMillian and discussed commission member requirements and how that can be either a benefit or impediment.

5. New Business

There was no new business.

6. Announcements and Updates

There were no announcements or updates.

7. Adjournment—Philips motioned, Moore seconded. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:40PM.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Logue