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a CHARACTER COUNTS! City

**CITY OF GAITHERSBURG
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2007
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING**

A meeting of the Historic District Commission was called to order at 8:53 p.m., Chair Katz presiding. Commissioners present: Alster, Edens, Marraffa, Schlichting, and Sesma. Staff present: City Manager Humpton, Planner Marsh, and Executive Assistant Stokes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Edens, seconded by Commissioner Marraffa, that the minutes of a Historic District Commission meeting held October 1, 2007, be approved.

Vote: 4-0-2 (Abstained: Schlichting and Sesma)

CHAIR KATZ RECUSED HIMSELF FROM THE MEETING AT 8:54 P.M. DUE TO A CONFLICT WITH THE NEXT AGENDA ITEM. VICE-CHAIR ALSTER PRESIDED OVER THE MEETING.

POLICY DISCUSSION

• **Applicant: Archstone-Smith, 320, 402 and 408 East Diamond Avenue, Demolition Permit**

Planner Marsh stated that on September 18, 2007, the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee (HPAC) Members, staff, and Jim Clifford representing the applicant visited the sites. Following the visit, HPAC made a recommendation noting that the outbuilding located at 320 East Diamond Avenue, the Ernest and Daisy Fraley home located at 402 East Diamond Avenue, the Olde Towne Youth Center, and the house located at 408 East Diamond Avenue did not meet the criteria for historic designation finding a lack of significance in architecture, history, or presence in the community. In the case of the houses located at 320 and 402A East Diamond Avenue, HPAC recommend the houses be considered for historic designation based on findings outline in Section 24-226(b)(1) and (2) of the City Code.

Several Commissioners concurred that the Archstone-Smith project be able to move forward, but expressed an interest in preserving and relocating the historic structures. It was stated that the project is important for the efforts to revitalization Olde Towne. Staff stated that there were technical issues to resolved before moving the homes. Several Commissioners concurred and agreed with staff that demolition permits be conditioned to require the applicant to complete a photographic inventory, if the structures are not preserved and relocated.

Upon further discussion, staff was directed that the permits be conditioned that the applicant is to work with staff on the attempt to relocate the structures. If that attempt should not prove possible, then the applicant is to make the artifacts and materials available for adaptive reuse for organizations involved in historic preservation, and the applicant is to do a full photographic record.

CHAIR KATZ RETURNED TO PRESIDE OVER THE MEETING AT 9:05 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Historic District Commission, the meeting was duly adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doris R. Stokes

Executive Assistant