



402 LEE STREET
DECATUR, ALABAMA 35601
August 8, 2024
MINUTES

Council Chambers

Architectural Review Board

4:00 PM

I CALL MEETING TO ORDER 4:01 PM

Roll Call:

Present: Ellis Chenault, Barbara Kelly, Patrick Rasco, Michael Rogers, Jacob Woods

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 11, 2024

Vote: Motion made by Elis Chenault to approve the CoA as submitted. Seconded by Michael Rogers. Unanimous approval, motion carried.

III EXPEDITED CoAs SINCE THE JUNE MEETING:

721 Ferry Street NE (Suggs) new roof (#47 for the CoA)
813 Ferry Street NE (Chancelor) siding replacement on garage (#9 for the CoA)
813 Ferry Street NE (Chancelor) new roof for garage (#47 for the CoA)
813 Ferry Street NE (Chancelor) replace porch ceiling (#9 for the CoA)
422 Sherman Street SE (Cross) new porch fans (#38 for the CoA)
412 Oak Street NE (Schaefer) new roof (#47 for the CoA)
637 Grant Street SE (Stone) new roof (#47 for the CoA)

IV NEW CoA REVIEWS:

CoA #1: 421 6th Avenue (Dupper)

Background: Property owner has been working through a series of projects with the property and has been in front of the commission multiple times. Applicant met with the ARB at their June meeting to discuss the driveway. The board indicated a willingness to allow one on the Sherman side of the property if it had appropriate

screening, materials, and met other standards typically used for new driveways. Applicant has refined his proposal to meet those requests.

Action Requested: New driveway.

Decatur's Design Review Standards: 19.0 Parking, Driveways and Sidewalks. 19.3 Design off-street parking to be unobtrusively located in the rear or side yard. On side wards the parking area should be recessed beyond the mid-point of the side of the house. 19.4 Minimize the width of the driveways to the extent possible. 19.7 Screen and minimize the visual impact of parking areas in the rear or side yards with hedges, shrubs, or fences. 19.8 New driveways and curb cuts should not be constructed where they did not exist historically. 19.10 New curb cuts, driveways, and parking lots are typically not appropriate if accessed from the street, particularly on streets that have ample street parking.

Staff Assessment: 6th Avenue prevents parking in front of the house. The current curb cut on 6th Avenue will be closed as part of the 6th Avenue renovation project.

Mr. Dupper had originally discussed parking on the north side of the property, accessed from the alley. He now feels that a driveway entered off Sherman would be more appropriate. A portion of the retaining wall would have to be removed to accomplish this, it would place the driveway very close to one located at 446 Sherman.

There is parking for two cars on Sherman currently. Currently there is no entry to the house from Sherman.

The proposed ribbon driveway, and exposed aggregate material meet the standards required for other driveways approved in the past. Allowing a driveway from Sherman due to the inability to park on 6th Avenue is in keeping with a driveway approved off of Gordon, due to the inability to park in front of their house, a year ago.

Discussion: Ellis Chennalt asks if the driveway is a ribbon driveway with exposed aggregate. Applicant confirms. Also asks if driveway will be set back a sufficient distance from the property line. Driveway is behind a fence.

Vote: Motion made by Ellis Chenault to approve the CoA as submitted. Seconded by Jacob Woods. Unanimous approval, motion carried.

Discussion of allowing staff to approve front yard fences via administrative review that clearly meet the standards of fences historically approved.

Vote: Motion made by Ellis Chenault to approve the CoA as submitted. Seconded by Barbara Kelly. Unanimous approval, motion carried.

Staff shares experience at the National Alliance of Preservation Commission's conference in Florida this past month, where a presentation on Decatur's Underrepresented Community Grants was given.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 4:23 by Patrick Rasco, seconded by Ellis Chenault. Unanimous approval, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.