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CITY OF JACKSONVILLE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Proceedings held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, commencing at 3:00 p.m., at the Ed Ball Building, 214 North Hogan Street, Room 851, Jacksonville, Florida, before Diane M. Tropia, FPR, a Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at Large.

PRESENT:

JACK C. DEMETREE, III, Chairman. JULIA BPSTEIN, Secretary.
OLIVIA FRICK, Commission Member.
MAX GLOBER, Commission Member.
MICHAEL MONTOYA, Commission Member.
ETHAN GREGORY, Commission Member.
WILLIAM HOFF, Commission Member.

ALSO PRESENT:

ARIMUS WELLS, Planning and Development Dept. JERMAINE ANDERSON, Planning and Development. CARLA LOPERA, Office of General Counsel. JOANNA SNYDER, Planning and Development Dept.

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commissioner.

THE CHAIRMAN: We're going to take a break every two hours, if needed. Please silence your cell phones. Any private conversations, please be had in the hallway.

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With that, I'll entertain a motion for the December 13th minutes.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Motion to approve the December 13th minutes.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: All in favor? 12 COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye. THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed? 13 COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, those minutes 16

have been approved.

We're going to jump right in here. We've got a couple of deferred items today: COA-22-27451, 2768 Riverside Avenue;

20 COA-23-28339, 3664 Richmond Street; and 21

COA-23-29186, 2799 Selma Street. 22 And with that, we'll jump into Section C,

our consent agenda.

Arimus, we're still moving --

MR. WELLS: Yes.

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PROCEEDINGS

January 24, 2024

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3:00 p.m.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Welcome to the January 24th meeting of the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission.

If I could start with some introductions, please.

MR. ANDERSON: Jermaine Anderson, Historic Preservation.

MR. WELLS: Arimus Wells, Historic Preservation.

MS. LOPERA: Carla Lopera, Office of General Counsel.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Michael Montoya, commissioner.

THE CHAIRMAN: J.C. Demetree, chairman. COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Ethan Gregory, commissioner.

COMMISSIONER FRICK: Olivia Frick, commissioner.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Julia Epstein, commissioner.

COMMISSIONER HOFF: Bill Hoff, commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Max Glober,

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THE CHAIRMAN: So under Section G, Certificates of Appropriateness, we're going to go ahead and pull that to consent. That would be COA-23-29976, 1928 Morningside Street. That is being moved to consent.

So our consent agenda now reads: COA-23-29974, 1404 Avondale Avenue; COA-23-30036, 1430 Donald Street; COA-23-30102, 1324 Ionia Street; COA-23-30125, 2822 Riverside Avenue; and COA-23-29976, 1928 Morningside Street.

Do any commissioners have any ex parte on the consent?

COMMISSIONER HOFF: To the Chair, I do, on Item Number 30 [sic]. The applicant sent me the elevation for the (inaudible) in my prior role, and there was no conversation about it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Does anybody else have any ex parte?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.) THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Anybody have

any comments or concerns before we open the public hearing?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.) THE CHAIRMAN: All right. With that,

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we'll open the public hearing.

2 Is anybody here to speak on any of these 3 COAs?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah, Mr. Smith. 4

5 THE CHAIRMAN: You can come on up.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah. Have a seat in 7 the chair?

THE CHAIRMAN: No, sir. 8

9 MR. SMITH: I'm sorry, real quick --

THE CHAIRMAN: If you would just do me a 10 favor and state your name and address for me. 11

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah. (Inaudible). 12

What did y'all just say just now? Please 13

tell me, he -- he denied, correct? 14

THE CHAIRMAN: No, sir. 15

If you'll state your address for me real 16 quick. 17

MR. SMITH: Yeah, my address is 1024 18 Jessie Street. 19

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

21 He was just saying that somebody sent him

the plans before the meeting. 22

MR. SMITH: This is my second time in 23

New York doing the same thing. Let me get to 24

the point. I won't waste your time. All

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right? Because I know you're busy. 1

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MR. SMITH: On this side, they against 3

y'all, correct? Yes or no? 4

THE CHAIRMAN: No.

MR. SMITH: This side say yes or no, 6 correct? They agree with what you said, 7

8 correct, sir? Get to the point.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, they -- this is -- I 9 mean, our staff supports us for the most part, 10 and we support them, vice versa. 11

12 MR. SMITH: So -- so why I'm [sic] here for? 13

THE CHAIRMAN: I'm confused. 14

MR. SMITH: You tell me. You gave me a 15 letter. 16

THE CHAIRMAN: I'm confused. 17

MR. WELLS: Sir --

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you know what's going 19

20 on?

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21 MR. WELLS: I believe you said you're --

you live on Jessie Street? 22

MR. SMITH: I own a few houses on Jessie 23

24 Street.

MR. WELLS: Okay. What you have in your Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203

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hand is a notice of public hearing, so --

2 MR. SMITH: Okay.

3 MR. WELLS: There is a property owner who

lives within 350 feet of your property. 4

MR. SMITH: Yeah.

6 MR. WELLS: They're looking to landmark

their property. So anyone who lives within

8 350 feet, or radius, of that property, you get

notified via mail of their landmark 9

10 designation.

MR. SMITH: And who put the landmark on 11

it? 12

MR. WELLS: So they're requesting it. So 13

14 this is --

MR. SMITH: Who's requesting it, sir? 15

MR. WELLS: So this is the property owners 16

at 1009 Jessie Street. So they're in the 17

audience, but -- they will have the opportunity 18

to speak on their item later in the agenda. 19

20 But, ultimately, that's the reason that you 21 received the notice of public hearing.

22 MR. SMITH: Okay.

MR. WELLS: So just notifying you if 23

you --24

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MR. SMITH: Let me get back to the point.

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MR. WELLS: Okav. 1

MR. SMITH: If he say something, he's 2

denying. That means he's against the board or

he's with the board, yes or no? What I'm

saying is, sir, you're generally on the same 5

side, yes or no? 6

MR. WELLS: No. So we, on this side,

we're staff members from the Planning and

Development Department. 9

MR. SMITH: Okay.

11 MR. WELLS: This is an independent body.

The rest of the members are an independent 12

body, an agency called the Historic 13

Preservation Commission. We present our staff 14

findings to the Commission. It's up to them to 15

either adopt it or reject our opinions or issue 16

17 their own. So we are two separate entities.

MR. SMITH: Right. So, really, I have no 18 say so or what -- what you come up with, 19

correct? 20

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, this isn't coming up

22 yet. It will come up here in just a few

minutes on the landmarking, but we can chat 23

about it now, I suppose. 24

MR. SMITH: Okay. 25

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THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Anybody elsehere to speak on any items on the consent

3 agenda that I rambled off?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Seeing none, we'll closethe public hearing, and I'll entertain a

7 motion.

8 COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Motion to approve 9 the consent agenda.

10 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?

12 COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, the consent

16 agenda has been approved.

And that leads us right into Section F, Historic Designations. Number 1 on the docket is LS-23-01. It's at 538 Ellis Road South.

If we could get a -- staff, a report would be nice.

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair, before I begin, can we confirm that the applicant is

24 here?

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THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

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Is the applicant for 538 Ellis Road South

2 here?

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

5 MR. WELLS: So LS-23-01 seeks to designate

6 the property located at 538 South Ellis Road as7 a local landmark site. Essentially, this is

2 a referred to an Comer Manney Comerter

8 a -- referred to as Camp Mooney Cemetery. And

9 so based on our analysis, the Department found

10 that the application meets zero of the seven

11 criteria.

18

So, typically, with cemeteries we evaluate

13 it on the first criteria and the seventh

14 criteria because those are the two criteria

15 that the Commission -- cemeteries typically

16 meet. So we just went into further analysis

17 regarding those two.

So the first one pertains to its value as

19 a significant reminder of the cultural,

20 historical, architectural or archaeological

21 heritage of the city, state or nation.

So it's been our standard practice from a

23 departmental standpoint to find historic

4 cemeteries to meet this criterion. However,

25 the Camp Mooney Cemetery has long been

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1 recognized for possessing valuable genealogical

2 information, particularly when state vital

3 statistics records, including birth and death

4 records, were not completed until after 1917.

5 However, in more recent years, cemeteries

are being recognized and protected as

7 significant historic resources that contribute

8 to understanding our cultural past. However,

 ${f 9}$ in the case of the Camp Mooney Cemetery, there

10 have been markers placed that represent

11 individuals known to be buried in entirely

12 different locations. A good case is that of

13 Dr. Holmes Steele, who was born in 1820 and

14 died in 1867, who, according to historic

15 records, is buried elsewhere in the old

16 cemetery or -- Old City Cemetery.

So when placed and how many questionable markers have been placed has not been determined using the current site file for the Camp Mooney Cemetery.

We do find another example, this one being Jon R. Ferguson, in his 2011 inventory of Camp

23 Mooney Cemetery, which identified 89 graves.

24 He also stated in the title sheet that, "There

are several unmarked graves and a collection of

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1 CSA markers that may be duplicated in other

2 cemeteries." Additionally, in her 1955

3 inventory of Camp Mooney, Lucy Ames Edwards

4 recorded only 16, which is a difference of 73

5 identifiable markers.

Although the presence of the Camp Mooney

7 Cemetery has been established by historic

8 documents and -- as serving as an outpost and

9 camping grounds for both Confederate and

10 Federal troops during the Civil War, the actual

11 physical location has never been completely

12 determined. Whether there is a physical

13 relationship between Camp Mooney and the

14 cemetery is still unclear.

And the seventh criteria -- this is,

16 again, something that we evaluate landmark

17 sites, particularly cemeteries, on, and

18 there's -- and it's based on evidence of

19 significant exterior alterations that have

20 negatively impacted historic resources, as well

21 as represent alterations that are difficult,

22 costly, or impossible to reverse.

Further, the degree and nature of any exterior deterioration, as well as evidence of

25 long-term and potentially ongoing neglect are

13

also a factor in evaluating potential landmark 2 sites for the suitability for preservation or 3 restoration.

So we took the approach in this criteria, just evaluating it, one, on preservation, and the second one on restoration.

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7 So in terms of preservation, staff finds 8 the process of designating cemeteries as local landmark sites consistent with the 9 10 recommendations found in the Blue Ribbon Commission on Abandoned and Neglected 11 12 Cemeteries report of 2007, particularly in the 13 areas of identifying, mapping, and recording 14 increased public awareness, protection from 15 development, as well as determining and assigning responsibilities. 16

17 Since taking ownership of the Camp Mooney Cemetery in 2021, the Sons of the Confederate 18 19 Veterans have installed fencing, a flagpole, 20 updated signage, as well as the cleaning of 21 debris and removing -- or removal of dead trees. An ongoing maintenance plan has also 22 23 been established.

However, when we evaluate this from a restoration standpoint, Camp Mooney Cemetery,

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the -- a vast number of discrepancies in the

number of burials and the placement of markers,

3 coupled with the tenuous link between Camp

Mooney and the cemetery, poses the question of 4

5 whether the cemetery can be restored to a state

6 of historical accuracy.

> Furthermore, when preparing landmark applications and reports, it requires a significant amount of research that documents the history of the specific cemetery, but also the general historic context of the area.

12 Given the limited availability of popularly archived information, staff 13 14 recommends additional research and 15 documentation be conducted in order to clarify the placement of markers and verify the 16 17 historic context of the cemetery.

So based on our findings, again, we found that it does not meet those two particular criteria in depth, but overall it does not meet any of the seven criteria. So based on the findings in the report, staff forwards to you a recommendation for denial of the Camp Mooney Cemetery as a local landmark.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Questions for Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300

staff? 1

2 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair

3 to staff, when you go into this last part,

you're saying that the applicant, you know,

should prepare an application and report that

includes more information, is that something

that, if this was denied now, they could do

again later in the future and provide more

information? 9

10 MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Epstein, that is correct. I mean, 11

12 it is a possibility. We still have to, of

13 course, evaluate the accuracy of it and -- and

14 the contents to make sure that there is a

proper linkage, but there is a possibility that 15

16 it could go before the Commission again for 17 landmarking.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Any other 19 questions for staff at the moment?

20 COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Through the Chair, 21 question for staff.

In such a scenario, is there an opinion of 22

23 staff of whether it's better to keep this --

24 should it be considered to keep this

25 application open or, rather, decide this

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application if more evidence presents itself

and make a new application? I'm just wondering

what the ramifications of that are. 3

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to 4

Commissioner Montoya, we have not run into this

issue before in quite sometime, I believe, but 6

7 I guess that would be up to the discretion of

the applicant. So it's up to them on the --

and their time frame. Either-or. I mean, they 9

10 could withdraw the application or they could

11 defer, but that's also at the discretion of the

12 Chair as well.

13

I'll defer to OGC on that.

MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair to the 14

Commission, so, yeah, I mean, what Mr. Wells is 15

saying is correct. And the Chair has the 16

17 deference to defer, if he so chooses.

18 But one of the ramifications I want to 19 highlight is that, when our City Council has

denied an application for designation, no 20

21 further applications shall be made for the same

22 cemetery or landmark for a period of one year.

23 So that would be one potential ramification.

However, there is a -- if it's in the best 24

25 interest of the city, the City Council can

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waive that time period.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Any other questions for staff at the moment? 3

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Sorry. Just one 4 5 more.

Through the Chair, question for staff.

7 Were there discussions with the applicant about

8 other scenarios since no criteria are being met

in this current application as a course of 9

10 action?

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MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to 11

12 Commissioner Montoya, no alternative course of

13 actions were discussed in-depth besides just --

14 I mean, because ongoing maintenance plans

already exist, they could -- they certainly 15

have the right to continue updating it without 16 17

the landmark designation.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Any other 18

questions for staff at the moment? 19

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We'll open the

22 public hearing.

23 If the applicant can come on up.

(Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: No one has contacted me

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18

about giving -- providing more information. I

gave a folder to Joel --2

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Would you state your name

and address for me? 4

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Calvin Hart, 4884

Victoria Chase Court, Jacksonville, Florida 6

7 322- --

THE CHAIRMAN: Calvin, she's going to

9 swear you in real quick.

THE REPORTER: If you would raise your

right hand for me, please. 11

MR. HART: (Complies.)

THE REPORTER: Do you affirm that the 13

testimony you are about to give will be the 14

truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the 15

truth? 16

MR. HART: Yes, the whole truth.

THE REPORTER: Thank you. 18

19 MR. HART: I gave a pamphlet -- I mean, I

gave documentation to Joel McEachin doing this 20

21 research, identifying that cemetery.

That cemetery has been in the possession 22

23 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy

since the 1950s. That's why when you go out

25 10, 10 hooks around, because that -- there was

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actually going to be -- 10 on top of this

cemetery. That's documented in the news

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articles that I provided.

Like I said, there was more stuff there 4

5 that -- happening. There's a school there

that's in the Civil War official records 6

identifying where that is. It's part of George 7

Mooney's property, who's actually buried in --8

right beside Old City Cemetery in the Catholic 9

10 section.

Those stones you were talking about there, 11

12 they're not there. There was some hit piece

put out by some website where some guy got in 13

14 there and took pictures of bronze markers that

were on the ground that were found by the 15

United Daughters of the Confederacy. They 16

didn't have any place to put them. They laid 17

them there. We pulled them out because they 18

were not -- those people weren't buried there. 19

20 We did the history. We put them beside the

21 fence when we were cleaning up.

We bought it, started taking the trees 22

23 out, cleaning it up. That hit piece was there.

He wrote that article, took pictures of those 24 25

brass -- I guess scrap metal guys came and

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stole them, stole all that stuff, so those

markers are no longer in existence because they

3 got stolen. That hit piece there was not

factual. 4

5 George Mooney owned that property. It's

documented. He owned that property, and it was 6

7 used for a school. It was used by the North

8 and the South during the war as an outpost.

There -- the locals have documented -- told us 9

and pointed to where Confederates were killed 10

11 from the Skirmish at Cedar Creek and brought

12 there because it was high ground and buried 13

there. 14

There was also some girls that drowned --

four girls drowned in a boat that was 15

documented that I sent in, that there was a 16

17 funeral of 2,000 people there.

18 That cemetery is kind of a shotgun-looking

19 piece of property, but actually those

commercial properties are on the cemetery, 20

21 so -- the only piece left is the piece we own.

22 Can I ask you, did you go there, or did

23 you go to the cemetery and look at it yourself?

No? Is the answer no? 24

> THE CHAIRMAN: Real quick, so you said you Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203

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sent all this to Joel McEachin?

2 MR. HART: I sent a pamphlet that thick

3 (indicating) to him. I also turned over

another historic book to a lady who picked it 4

up, who helped me get it this far, that worked 5 6 for him.

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But I'm asking, did anybody from your 7 8 group go look at it?

MR. WELLS: Yes.

MR. HART: And where did you look at it 10 from, what street? You went inside it? 11

MR. WELLS: No, we did not go inside the 12

cemetery. We --13 14

MR. HART: You looked at it from Ellis

15 Road?

MR. WELLS: From --

MR. HART: Did you look at it from --17

where, the back, the front? 18

MR. WELLS: From Ellis Road.

20 MR. HART: And what did you see?

21 MR. WELLS: A cemetery.

MR. HART: Could you describe what you're 22

23 saying? It was just an open, green field,

right, with graves in the back? 24

THE CHAIRMAN: We don't need to go

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through -- we don't need to go through arguing

back and forth here. 2

3 I think best-case scenario is probably a deferral to get some more information gathered 4 5 and -- and probably try and meet in the middle

6 here. If I had to guess --

MR. HART: I mean, we're just trying to 7

8 clean the cemetery up and --

9 THE CHAIRMAN: No, I understand.

MR. HART: -- restore the cemetery.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: I understand.

MR. HART: That's the --12

(Simultaneous speaking.) 13

THE CHAIRMAN: You still have --14

MR. HART: I mean, if there's an issue 15

about who's doing it --16

17 THE CHAIRMAN: No, there's -- there's no issue. We're just trying to figure out if it's 18

worthy for a landmark status or not, and it 19

sounds --20

21 MR. HART: It's an historic, significant

place. I mean, the headstones there -- they

gave an invocation -- he said pretty much that there's -- the headstones there don't belong

25

there, they've been moved around. That's not Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300

the case. If he went -- or someone had went to

2 the back -- because he can't see it from Ellis 3

Road. THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

MR. HART: It's in the back, very back, 5

where the majority of the graves that are there 6

have been there for a while. That --7

8 You know, we did put a flagpole up front

with a marker. The original marker was

10 incorrect. That was there before we got there.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gotcha.

MR. HART: And that's been redone to be 12

historically accurate. 13

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Well, I think --

MR. HART: I turned this information over 15

to them, and they had plenty of time to ask me. 16

17 I made phone calls to you. I even asked, did I need any more before this meeting, and it 18

19 was never returned to me, the phone call was

20 never returned.

21 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair,

you keep mentioning Joel McEachin. I think 22

he -- he's -- a long, long, long time ago was 23

24 on --

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MR. HART: He works part-time for him.

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1 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: So -- okay. I

3 didn't know that.

MR. WELLS: Yeah. Through the Chair to 4

the Commission, Joel McEachin still works in

our office part-time. So he did collect 6

information. And, as a staff, we determined 7

what was accurate and what was inaccurate, so

we have that. For the record, it should be 9

10 cleared up.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: All right.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair, 12

if there's things that they're not seeing 13

because they don't want to enter your cemetery, 14

I mean, could you get with them and kind of --15

MR. HART: Sure. I would be more than 16

17 happy to --

18

20

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I just want to --

(Simultaneous speaking.) 19

MR. HART: -- (inaudible) anybody and take

21 a tour --

22 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: -- make sure that, 23 you know, we're giving everything the proper

look and everything. 24

THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah. 25

6

21

quick.

City of Jacksonville January 24, 2024 Historic Preservation Commission Uncertified Condensed Copy 27 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: So I don't know if We'll --1 1 2 2 you want to defer it and wait until the AUDIENCE MEMBER: I live in the 3 information can be looked through a little bit 3 neighborhood. more and provide a little bit more 4 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, come on up. That's 4 5 fine. You can speak into the record real information --5

6 THE CHAIRMAN: I think that would probably 7 be the best step forward.

8 MR. HART: But I'm telling you that the cooperation of -- that back and forth you're 9 10 talking about is not happening.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, we can try to --

12 MR. HART: It doesn't happen.

THE CHAIRMAN: We can try and --13 14

MR. HART: In fact, I had to call City

Council members to say, hey, take -- pick his 15

phone up from this guy. 16

11

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THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Well, we will --17 we'll work on it, but I think the best course 18 of action would probably be to defer it and 19 come back in a month and hopefully we can get 20 21 everything on the books.

MR. HART: So does that entail paying 22 23 another fee or -- and all that?

MR. WELLS: No. You don't have to pay a

25 fee. The application is free.

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7 (Audience member approaches the podium.) 8 THE CHAIRMAN: If you'll just state your name and address for me. 9 10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Chris Smart, and I live at 541 Cynthia Street, Jacksonville, 11 12 Florida 32254. 13 I've lived in the neighborhood for about 14 five years now. It wasn't till about three days ago that I even knew there was a cemetery 15

back there. The nicest part of the cemetery is 16 17 the gate that -- I'm sure that they provided for it. It is a derelict of a cemetery. 18 19 I don't know, financially, how it would 20

impact our neighborhood pending -- if this was approved. This is all new to me, and I'm not sure what to do next. 22

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Right.

24 MR. SMART: But, to me, if it's something

25 that he's asking for the -- tax dollars from

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26

MR. HART: Well, I had to pay something. 1

I wrote a check to somebody. 2

3 THE CHAIRMAN: The initial application,

yes, but not for -- not to come back. 4

5 MR. HART: Not to come back?

6 MR. WELLS: Correct.

7 MR. HART: Is there a time that I can

8 schedule to work with somebody to take a walk

out there with them to show --9

10 MR. WELLS: I will contact you for an 11 actual inspection of the cemetery.

12 MR. HART: Okay.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. 13

14 MR. HART: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. 15

I think -- let's go ahead and defer 16

17 LS-23-01.

18

And, with that, we'll move forward to

LM-23-08, 1009 Jessie Street. 19

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Indicating.) 20

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: I wanted to comment on 22

23 what you were just talking about. I didn't

know when my time was. 24

25 THE CHAIRMAN: No, that's all right.

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the City, I disagree a hundred percent, a

hundred percent.

What they've done -- I'm sure it looks 3 really nice compared to what it is, but our

money could be used somewhere else. 5

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

7 MR. SMART: It is a negative impact to our

neighborhood. It's at a dead-end road. You

wouldn't know it if you lived there. I live 9

10 there. I didn't know it until I received this.

11 That's about all I got to say.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I appreciate the

13 insight.

15

14 MR. SMART: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: (Inaudible.) 16

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead. Do you have a

auestion? 18

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Through the Chair, 19

question for staff, (inaudible) --20

21 (Reporter clarification.)

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: The participation 22

23 of Joel McEachin and -- and the first

gentleman's time at the podium, was that a 24

contribution to the report and (inaudible) --25

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1 MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to 2 Commissioner Montoya and the Commission, so 3 there is -- on the latter pages of the actual

package itself, there's an application that the

4 5 applicant provided, a couple of additional

6 photos and whatnot. So what he presented was

7 what we already had for the record.

8 COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: And so, through the

Chair, from what you said, I'm presuming 9

10 that -- I'm hearing that Joel McEachin did

participate, as the gentleman said, and he gave 11

12 you that information, and that was used to make

the report to say that there were zero criteria 13

14 met to designate it as a landmark?

MR. WELLS: That is correct. 15

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Okay.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, we'll give him the 17 month to figure anything else out and go from 18

19 there.

16

20 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair,

21 it might be good, when you have the meeting

with the gentleman, that Joel is part of that 22

23 so that if there are any -- if there's any

inconsistencies that (inaudible), he doesn't 24

feel like it's not -- you know.

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1 MR. WELLS: Yeah.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. With that,

3 we'll move forward to LM-23-08, 1009 Jessie

Street. 4

2

5 Can I have a staff report?

6 MR. ANDERSON: LM-23-08 seeks to designate

7 the subject property located at 1009 Jessie

8 Street for a local landmark designation. Based

on our analysis, the Planning and Development 9

10 Department has found the application to meet

11 three of the seven criteria. The three

12 criteria include the following:

Its value as a significant reminder of the 13

14 cultural, historical, architectural or

archaeological heritage of the city, state or 15

16 nation.

17 The two-story concrete block structure on the property was constructed in 1958 to be a 18

19 doctor's office with two apartments. The

20 one-story, single-family, masonry, vernacular

21 structure was constructed in 1955. Both

structures are associated with Dr. Charles B. 22

23 McIntosh, known to be the first black

24 pediatrician in Jacksonville.

25 The second criteria being it's identified

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with a person or persons who significantly

2 contributed to the development of the city,

3 state or nation.

4 As stated before, the subject property is 5

associated with Dr. Charles B. McIntosh, a well-known medical legend who conducted a

portion of his medical studies at the two-story

structure and he lived in the one-story

single-family residence located on the site.

10 Dr. Charles B. McIntosh is well known for his

sickle cell research, and that was basically 11

12 his contribution to the nation.

13 And the third criteria being its 14

suitability for preservation or restoration.

15 Not having any evidence of significant

16 exterior deterioration, the structure has been

well-maintained over the years. According to 17

18 archival records and permitting, the structure

19 does not show any evidence of being

20 significantly altered, thereby retaining its

21 historical integrity and fabric.

Based on the findings of this report, the

23 Planning and Development Department recommends

24 approval of 1009 Jessie Street.

End of report.

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THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. 1

Any questions for staff?

3 COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We'll open the 4

5 public hearing.

6 Is the applicant here?

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Come on up.

9 (Audience member approaches the podium.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: If you will state your name

12 and address for me.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Fatima Floyd, 1009

14 Jessie Street.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Fatima, she's going to

16 swear you in real quick.

17 MS. FLOYD: Pardon? I couldn't hear you.

THE REPORTER: I'm going to swear you

19 in --

MS. FLOYD: Oh, I'm sorry. 20

21 THE REPORTER: That's fine. Thank you.

22 If you would raise your right hand for me,

23 please.

24 MS. FLOYD: (Complies.)

25 THE REPORTER: Do you affirm that the

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testimony you are about to give will be the

truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the 2

3 truth?

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4 MS. FLOYD: Yes.

5 THE REPORTER: Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Welcome.

7 MS. FLOYD: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: You can present or --

anything to talk about? 9

MS. FLOYD: Well, it's my second cousin, which is Dr. McIntosh, and he was the first black pediatrician here in Jacksonville, and we 12 would just like to honor his legacy. And we 14 would like to just keep the building and fix it up better and -- to make it even healthier for 15 the neighborhood. We're planning to have a

16 spot just for, you know, health and wellness, 17

just to keep his legacy. 18

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Great.

Any questions for our applicant at the 20

21 moment?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)

23 THE CHAIRMAN: We'll call you back up if

we need you. 24

MS. FLOYD: Thank you.

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34

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Is anybody else here to speak on this

3 landmarking?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.) 4

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Well, with that,

we'll close the public hearing, and I'll 6

entertain a motion. 7

8 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Motion to approve

the landmarking of LM-23-08, 1009 Jessie 9

10 Street.

11 COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye. 13

THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed? 14

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you have 16

approved the landmark request. 17

And we're going to move on to LM-23-09,

6360 Commerce Street. 19

MR. WELLS: So this is LM-23-09 for the 20

21 property located at 6360 Commerce Street as

22 well as 0 Arlington Road.

So just to -- for a reminder, last month

the Commission, you-all initiated a local

25 landmark designation for this particular

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property, based on the building renaming for

the abutting parcel next door. It was during

that discovery that we found this particular

parcel was -- and this property was never

actually landmarked, so that's why you-all took

the initiative in initiating that process.

7 So this -- these two parcels are a part of 8 what we refer to as the Norman Film Studios.

They were originally Eagle Film City. And so 9

10 based on our analysis, we found that it met

four of the seven criteria. So the first one 11

pertains to its value as a significant reminder 12 of the cultural, historical, architectural or 13

14 archaeological heritage of the city, state, or

nation. 15

So starting with the Kalem Company in 1908, Jacksonville had attracted so many film

companies by 1912, the city was billed as the 18

19 "World's Winter Film Capital." So between 1908

20 to 1922, Jacksonville was home to over 30

21 silent motion picture studios, including Eagle

Film City, established in Arlington. 22

23 Shortly after Eagle Film City opened in 24 1916, the movie industry began to decline in

25

Jacksonville due to competition from

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California, local politics, lack of financial

support, and material shortages caused by World

War I. 3

7

The second criteria pertains to its 4

location of a significant local, state or

national event. 6

So this is -- this property is connected

to Richard E. Norman, Sr., who began his

filmmaking career by traveling extensively 9

10 throughout the Midwest and the Northwest

11 sections of the country where he would write

12 scenarios and filming as he went.

13 So Norman was one of the first independent

movie producers to recognize the commercial 14

potential of making black cast movies 15

specifically for the African-American 16

community. Contrary to most movies made during 17

18 the silent screen era, Norman's films were one

of the first to show African-Americans in a 19

positive light. And so between 1920 and 1928, 20

21 Norman produced eight feature films featuring

22 an all black cast.

Although the post-production work was done

at the Arlington studios, in fact -- so these 24

African-American films that were made by Norman 25 Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203

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have acclaimed national significance in

2 documenting the important little-known

3 contributions of the African-American film

industry. Unfortunately, only one Norman film 4

5 is known to exist. 6 7

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presently visible.

The third criteria relates to it being identified with a person who has significantly contributed to the development of the city, state or nation.

So, once again, Eagle Film City is associated with filmmaker Richard E. Norman, Sr., who was born in 1891. Mr. Norman was a native of Middleburg in Clay County. He acquired an interest in chemistry and motion pictures while attending college in Tampa.

In terms of the fourth criteria -- relates to its suitability for preservation or restoration. So Eagle Film City or Norman Film Studios is particularly significant since it is a complex of buildings utilized in early film production. The entire complex includes five separate buildings and the site of an outdoor pool.

The referenced building for landmark designation is the two-story building with a

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composition hip roof, wooden clapboard siding, and open rafter ends. Meanwhile, the outdoor pool, which was built for water scenes, has 3 since been enclosed and filled and is not 4

According to City permits and archival records, the following restoration and repairs to the referenced building have occurred over the years, such as structural repairs and enhancements, reroofing, lead abatement, repair

11 and replacement of windows and doors, as well 12 as exterior painting.

So based on our analysis -- again, this 13 application meets four of the seven criteria. 14 As such, the Department forwards you a 15 recommendation for approval of the local -- of 16 17 the referenced property.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Questions for staff? COMMISSIONER GREGORY: So just to be 19 clear, through the Chair, 6360 Commerce Street 20 21 is a two-story structure? And 0 Arlington Road 22 we are including with this?

23 MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Gregory, that is correct. So 25 O Arlington Road is the site of the former pool

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that was closed, of course.

2 COMMISSIONER GREGORY: And that is currently an empty lot, my understanding from

what it looks like here?

MR. WELLS: Correct.

6 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair

to staff, so if this gets landmarked -- that site gets landmarked, if anybody ever uses it,

do they have to put the pool back because of 9

10 the landmarking, or what -- what's the -- what 11

happens with that?

12 MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Epstein, that's a good question. 13

14 Not necessarily does it bind them to restoring the pool, per se. It does -- because 15 there's -- it does allow them to -- they can 16

17 certainly construct around it, but I think, if anything, we probably would bind them to 18

19 keeping that area preserved in a sense to just

make some type of notice that this is what 20

21 formerly existed there. I don't know if

that -- hopefully that answered your question. 22

23 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: To continue, so 24 would you recommend -- and I know that this is kind of -- kind of (inaudible) here.

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Would you recommend, then, that they leave

where the pool was open on site and not 3 construct the area or are we talking about

marking it as a historical designation? 4

I just want to make sure we're not -we're not putting a requirement on an empty

piece of land that would halt development 7

8 because I'm sure somebody is not going to bring 9 that pool back --

MR. WELLS: That's a good --

11 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: -- especially if 12 the City owns the land.

MR. WELLS: And that's a good point.

I mean, yeah -- presently as is, if you 14 were to landmark the site, it would -- it would 15

protect the historic nature of the pool, so 16

17 that -- that would hinder development. So

18 that's something to consider.

THE CHAIRMAN: That's a good point. How 19 20 do we go about --

21 COMMISSIONER FRICK: So, through the 22 Chair, could we then separate 6360 Commerce

23 Street from 0 Arlington Road? 24 MR. WELLS: Through the Chair, I'm going

25 to defer to General Counsel on that, but I

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1 believe it can be done.

2 MS. LOPERA: Well, through the Chair to Mr. Wells, those are two different parcels; is 3

that correct? 4

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MR. WELLS: Correct.

6 MS. LOPERA: Then my advice, through the 7 Chair to the Commission, would be, yes, someone 8 can move to landmark one and not the other 9 based on (inaudible).

10 I would like to state that landmarking the property does not put any requirements on --12 that there be any signage erected or any 13 additional (inaudible) of that nature. It just 14 would require a COA to do anything. At that 15 time, if a COA, Certificate of Appropriateness, 16 application was submitted, then you would see if you allow that type of development or -- or alteration. 18

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I guess, thinking in the future about it all, let's say we did landmark 0 Arlington Road and the City wanted to build something there, that would come before this commission to approve whatever it

is they're going to build and we would be the 24

arbiters, essentially, of whether or not it

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meets the criteria, and -- and what criteria 1

that is, I don't know, because there's nothing

3 there, so --

4 COMMISSIONER FRICK: There was something 5 there.

6 COMMISSIONER GREGORY: There was something 7 there, yeah.

8 MR. WELLS: That is correct.

9 COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Okay.

10 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair

to the -- so it would be -- like, if the City 11

12 came and they decided they wanted to build a

13 library there, would your recommendation from

14 staff take into account the footprint of the

pool and historical -- any kind of historical 15

16 photography and site plan you had? And you

17 might alter the form of the building because of

18 that?

20

19 MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to

Commissioner Epstein, that -- all of those are

21 certainly possibilities, but it would be -- I

couldn't give you a definitive answer where we 22

23 would land, but ultimately it would be -- in

terms of that being -- if you were to designate

25 that property as a landmark, we would certainly

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want any new construction to honor the history

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2 of the property. So whether that new library

came in and they did something with an exhibit

4 or markers or displayed something of that

nature or kept that particular area just --

just develop around it, that would be another

7 alternative.

8 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I have one more.

9 Do we have a representative from the City

10 that's not staff to comment on if they want

that site landmarked or if they had any kind of 11

12 use for (inaudible) in the future?

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Or the applicant.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Or the -- yeah,

the -- we're the applicant, so the City --15

16 I mean, I have no problem landmarking a

17 building, but a site that was something and is

18 now just an empty parcel that the City owns,

19 that they may want to do something with one

20 day -- they can't stand here and tell us, you

21 know, yeah, I'm fine with you doing that and

22 we'll honor the pool in the future if we do

23 anything or we're never going to do anything

24 with it.

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So those -- those are -- typically, we Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300

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have someone who comes to us and gives their

stance on whether they want this to be

landmarked or not, and I -- I'm just a little

hesitant to landmark an empty site that the

5 City -- the City isn't here to talk about how

6 they feel about that.

7 COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: I guess -- are we

8 in the discussion period?

9 THE CHAIRMAN: No, we're not. Let me go

ahead and --10

11 (Simultaneous speaking.)

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: (Inaudible.)

13 THE CHAIRMAN: I'll open the public

14 hearing here.

15 Is anybody here to speak on this landmark?

16 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Seeing none, I'll close the 18

public hearing.

Now I'll entertain a motion.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: A motion in order

21 to have the discussion, right?

22 THE CHAIRMAN: We have to, yes.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Motion to approve

LM-23-09, 6360 Commerce Street and 0 Arlington 24

25 Road.

City of Jacksonville January 24, 2024 Historic Preservation Commission Uncertified Condensed Copy 45 47 COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Now we can --1 any kind of historical artifact because it 2 2 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm in -can't be seen. 3 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Second. 3 COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Does --4 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm in complete agreeance 4 COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: But -- no offense, 5 on not landmarking a piece of dirt. It makes 5 you know, in some places, they have to bring in 6 no sense to me. archeologists to the site (inaudible) to break 7 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair, 7 ground because --8 I believe when we brought this up as a 8 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, that -possibility and wanted to sponsor this process, 9 9 (Simultaneous speaking.) 10 we weren't sure if there was a pool there, we 10 COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: -- of weren't sure what was there. So now what I'm archaeological significance. 11 11 12 finding out, it's just a piece of land. I 12 THE CHAIRMAN: No, that's fair. 13 COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: I'm not -- also not

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13 would be in favor of not landmarking 0

14 Arlington Road but landmarking 6360 Commerce

15 Street. I just don't feel like -- that that's

a good use of our power here. 16

17 THE CHAIRMAN: I agree.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Question for staff. 18

19 Is the -- is the pool removed or was the

20 pool filled in and still there?

21 MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to

22 Commissioner Montoya, our understanding is it's

23 been filled in. If you see those little posts

right there, that's our belief of where the 24

pool existed. So, again, from our

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trying to extend our time here.

have to think about that.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, I think it's

consider is, if we are preserving Norman

Street, 6360, is it important for us to also

designate 0 Arlington Road just for the sheer

fact of, we don't want just anything going up

there next to Norman Studios and Commerce

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Studios, which is already landmarked, Commerce

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: (Inaudible) and you

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: One thing I want to

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interesting -- it's an interesting point.

understanding it's been just infilled. 1

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: So in some ways 2

3 this is an archaeological site we're talking

about. We're landmarking it as a historic 4

5 place, right?

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6 MR. WELLS: Right.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: And I don't -- I'm

8 not trying to be argumentative with my

colleagues, but I think we have to see it for 9

10 what it is and make that decision as well.

11 On the one hand, we certainly wouldn't

12 want to stand in the way of something like a

library or a civic structure. But as a 13

14 City-owned property, those aren't the only

15 programs that can be programmed for City

property. It could be a water treatment plant, 16

17 it could be a transformer station.

So I think we have to at least consider

19 the archaeological significance of it as a site

if we're going to -- if we designate it as an 20

21 historic landmark.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, I -- I agree with

23 where you're coming from, but at the same time,

this isn't serving -- as it stands, to me, it's

25 not serving any purpose at the moment as far as

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1 Street?

I think -- you don't want a water

treatment facility there, potentially next to

there, versus you might want something that 4

5 would look -- a library that would be similar

in design as Norman Studios, for example. 6

Is that worth landmarking just for that

8 purpose, I guess, is the question.

COMMISSIONER HOFF: Through the Chair to 9

10 Commissioner Gregory, so we actually do have

11 two utility parcels in our historic districts

12 right now, but they do have to have (inaudible)

in the design, so I just wanted to put that out 13

there. 14

THE CHAIRMAN: So I'm -- I feel like -- I

16 know where I stand personally, but we have a

17 motion on the table currently. So we can

18 either -- work with that motion and vote on

19 that and go from there.

It's your motion, so --

21 COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Yeah. I mean, me,

22 personally, I'm not -- I am ready to recommend

23 6360 Commerce Street be landmarked, but not

24 ready for 0 Arlington Road. I have to think

25 that we could in the future, if need be, I

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think, but I'm not ready at this point.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: So you can --

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair,

4 that is something that -- if the City does

5 propose something on that land that -- we could

6 look again at landmarking just because it's

7 part of this campus area and it has that

8 history to it, or does this deny it --

9 COMMISSIONER GREGORY: It wouldn't come to

10 us, I don't think, if it's -- if it's not

11 landmarked, it's not going to come us.

12 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: But it can be

13 proposed to be landmarked again.

THE CHAIRMAN: Right.

MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair to

Commissioner Epstein, yes, another application

17 for landmarking could be made, you know, after

18 a year passes if you choose not to recommend

19 landmarking this.

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But one other thing that I will highlight,

21 yes, the City owns this now but may not always

22 in the future. They could sell it, could

23 donate it or something of that nature. So

24 landmarking does travel with the parcel and not

25 the owner.

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the Chair

1 COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair,

2 that's good to know because it -- even though

3 it does put some rules on that site, keeping

4 the -- if the City does sell that, keeping that

5 as a holistic parcel of the entire Norman

6 Studios I think is helpful.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Yeah. I mean, I --

8 for me, I think it's a difficult decision to --

9 when you think about it. And I like the -- I

10 really respect the comments that are being made

11 about future development for the property, but

12 I think that the -- the property and its

13 development as a whole is what's contributing

14 to it being designated as a historic landmark.

And I'm not trying to restate staff's

16 words -- or Arimus, your words -- but it sounds

17 like, if the entire site, including the pool

18 area, isn't designated as a historic landmark,

19 it doesn't preclude something from being

20 constructed there. It's just going to have to

21 be reviewed and approved, and it will have to

22 seek approval through the Planning -- through

23 Historic Preservation, and we'll review it.

So if something were to be constructed

25 there, then I'm certain there would have to be

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1 some reminder of the history of that place to

2 speak about what was there before. There are

3 ways to -- there are ways to do that and still

for recognize the history of it and develop the

5 property.

6 That, for me, is -- that's the big

question for me; is it one entity that we're

8 considering as a historic landmark or is it a

9 pick-and-choose situation? And the

10 pick-and-choose situation -- I don't know how

11 else to say this because I'm a comic book guy,

12 but my Spidey sense is tingling on the back of

13 my neck when we say "pick and choose," right?

14 It was a place, it has historic significance,

15 and I think that's what's being questioned

16 about the landmark.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair,

18 thinking about it holistically has talked me

19 out of what I was saying earlier because in --

20 in looking at it as just a block, (inaudible),

21 you know, you would want to consider what was

happening on that site, you know, even though

23 there's absolutely nothing there now. So I

24 talked myself out of it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, you're making good

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ir, 1 points. It's part of a campus. I can get

2 behind it.

3 (Simultaneous speaking.)

4 COMMISSIONER GREGORY: (Inaudible.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

6 Okay. Well, we have a motion on the

7 table. So all those in favor?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?

10 COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you have

12 approved LM-23-09.

And, with that, we're going to jump to

14 public comment. Is anybody else here to speak

15 on anything by chance?

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'd just like to add to

17 that --

MS. LOPERA: If you could come up to the

19 microphone.

20 (Simultaneous speaking.)

THE CHAIRMAN: (Inaudible.)

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah.

THE CHAIRMAN: Public comment, I don't

24 need to swear you in, so --

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. My name is Andy

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Mueller. I'm a volunteer in the Planning 2 Department and I work with Arimus and Jermaine

3 here.

4 I just want to add to what you said about -- I think landmarking a site that's not 5 6 inhabited or that there's no structure is still

7 appropriate because you can put up a

8 landmark -- put up a sign -- signage that

indicates the history of an area. There are 9

10 plenty of -- I'm a little bit more familiar

with the signage in St. Augustine, but there 11

are plenty of areas where -- that have been 12

demolished, but there's still signs that say, 13

this was once this location. 14

So that -- that's a justification for 15 landmarking the Arlington address in 16 17

conjunction with the -- where the actual Eagle

and Norman Film Studios stood. 18

19 That's all.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

21 MR. MUELLER: That's it.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, that was great.

23 Thank you.

22

2

24 MR. MUELLER: Thank you.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Is anyone else here to

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speak on anything? 1

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)

3 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We'll close the public comment and jump to New Business. 4

5 I believe we have some elections to get

6 to?

MR. WELLS: Yes, so I'll go ahead and 7

8 throw it over to Carla here.

I just -- (inaudible), but ultimately, as 9

10 you are aware, there's a vacancy for vice

chair. So I think, depending on how you-all 11

vote, that may open another opportunity for 12

secretary, but I'll defer to Carla. 13

MS. LOPERA: So through the Chair to the 14

Commission, normally, our officer elections are 15

held at the meeting in May and the officers 16

start in June. Because Commissioner Lopera has 17

departed the Commission, that leaves, like 18

Arimus said, a vacancy for vice chair. So we 19

can vote on that today. The person will serve 20

the remainder of his term and then we'll have 21

normal officer elections again in May. 22

23 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Who wants to be

24 vice chair?

25 COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Don't be shy.

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(Simultaneous speaking.)

2 COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: It's till when,

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14 of 26 sheets

3 May?

4 MS. LOPERA: In May, we'll have elections,

5 and then in June the new person will take --

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: I'll put my --

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Hat in the ring?

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: -- hat in the ring. 8

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: I can last till 10

May. 11

THE CHAIRMAN: I will nominate 12

Commissioner Montova. Can I nominate --13

MS. LOPERA: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. I'll nominate 15

Commissioner Montoya. 16

Anybody else have any interest?

COMMISSIONER FRICK: I'll second your 18

19 nomination.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Well -- crickets. 20

So, with that, do we vote on a one-person 21

race? 22

23 MS. LOPERA: Yes. You can open that up

24 now if you would like, or if there are more

25 nominations, you can --

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1 THE CHAIRMAN: Any more nominations?

COMMISSIONER FRICK: Can we hear the 2

3 campaign speech? It's very compelling.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Well, all those 4

5 in favor?

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6 COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?

8 COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. 9

10 Congratulations, Commissioner Montoya. It was

11 a tight race.

12 COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: In my first act as

vice chairman, I propose that we --13

14 THE CHAIRMAN: We'll move on to the

Historic Preservation window supplement. It 15

16 should be printed out.

MR. WELLS: Yes.

Through the Chair to the Commission, so

apologize, this was not included in the book, 19

but you have a handout before you. And this is 20

21 our revised -- or proposed revised window

22 supplement.

23 So a few months ago, we implemented this

24 new supplement to streamline the way that we

25 communicate with customers and -- to create a

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helpful, intuitive guide for customers and 2

contractors to use to understand what window

3 repairs entail, what window trim, window

installation, just the different, various 4

5 windows types.

(inaudible).

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So, one, we wanted to make some additional changes to encompass just the new construction because that has been a longstanding tradition that we -- or, not tradition, but longstanding condition that we binded [sic] new construction to in terms of recessed windows. So we just wanted to add some language in there to just clarify that because the way that the current supplement reads, it only applies to historic windows. So I just wanted to clarify that again for this new revision. So other than that, those are the main changes we

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Questions for staff?

21 COMMISSIONER HOFF: Mr. Wells, on the 22 second page, top of the page, the first two 23 sentences that have been crossed out -- the first talks about the staff being available to 24 inspect, upon request; and the second talks

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about submitting products, a brochure in advance. Can you share why those were removed?

So the first strike-through -- so that's

3 MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Hoff, those are two good 4

5 questions.

that. We are short-staffed as is.

7 lines 2 and 3 on the second page. And this --8 originally, it was written as, you know, staff should inspect -- or is available to inspect 9 10 windows upon request before a COA is submitted 11 in a site visit. We wanted to strike that 12 because, ultimately, just from a capacity standpoint, we do not -- we're not able to do 13

And then, secondly, any time we do have window applications come in through a COA, we do a site visit regardless. So that's standard operating procedure.

19 And in terms of the second strike-through, 20 so submitting a specific window product 21 brochure, that's also required within the application itself. So we just wanted to 22 23 strike that part because we don't -- window product information changes from COA submittal 25 to actual permitting, so we didn't want to go

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on the record just stating that that should be

submitted prior, because it -- again, just due

to the timing of when they submit versus -- and

also with the timing of when they order, the

actual window product just varies, so we don't

necessarily look at window product information 6

7 besides just the grid pattern and whether or

8 not it can be recessed. So we just thought it 9

would be more prudent to strike it.

COMMISSIONER HOFF: Okav.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: A question for 11 12 staff. The time between COA approval, a window

13 type is approved, and you get the COA, and then

14 you move to construction, what I'm hearing is

15 there is sometimes a change in the product that

might be presented at the COA and the product 16

17 that's submitted as part of the permitting

18 process, right?

MR. WELLS: Yes, sir.

20 COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Is there -- what is

21 the -- what's the -- how does that not

sometimes -- how do we not let that fall 22

23 through the cracks if something is submitted

24 for permit that doesn't meet the requirement of

25 the COA? Whose wheelhouse is that?

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MR. WELLS: So we do have a planner that's 1 assigned to handle the permitting aspect, so

3 for the COA to permitting, installation, so --

to handle those -- those slips in the cracks. 4

Ultimately, we just kept it -- the

condition language in terms of the COAs pretty 6

7 general. So it has to, of course, be recessed,

8 and then it's up to the permitting staff to

9 verify that from whatever window product

10 information they've supplied.

11 COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Okay.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Any other

13 questions for staff?

14 COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Okav.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Can I --16

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, sure. Please go

ahead. You're vice chairman now. 18

19 COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: There was a citizen

who spoke about windows a few times prior and 20

21 about the plane of the window in regards to the

22 envelope and those kinds of things. Is that --

23 was that also -- has there been any

24 determination on that or what's the status of

25 that?

11

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to 1

2 Commission Gregory -- or not Gregory --

3 Montoya, that is a good question. We are

- waiting on the appointment of our new director 4
- to -- because that's going to be our long-term 5
- 6 discussion, especially when we're waiting on
- 7 these cases that stem from new construction
- 8 from 2016 and whether or not we should have the
- ability to enforce citations and violations 9
- 10 from back then.

But in terms of just the active cases 11

right now, the revisions that we made -- so the 12

installing of a new window, that new 13

14 construction piece that hopefully should --

it's our intent that that would cut down on 15

just the disconnect between historic versus new 16

17 construction in terms of recess placement of

18 windows.

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So that's one of the ways that we're

trying to do this. We're also in the process 20

of updating our window survey form, so we're --

we have a section on there that requires 22

23 applicants to provide how much the window

24 should be recessed -- or will be recessed.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Awesome.

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2 somewhat.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Anything else 2 3 for staff?

Thank you.

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.) 4

THE CHAIRMAN: We are voting on this,

6 correct?

MR. WELLS: Yes. 7

8 THE CHAIRMAN: I'll take a motion.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Motion to approve 9 10 the Historic Preservation window supplement as

11 provided.

COMMISSIONER HOFF: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor? 13

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye. 14

THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed? 15

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.) 16

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Seeing none, you have

approved the Historic Preservation window 18

19 supplement as provided.

We'll now go to Public Works improvement

21 projects.

22 MR. WELLS: All right. Through the Chair

23 to the Commission, this is a -- again, this is

a customary thing, that all City agencies are

25 to notify you all prior to planning and

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2 local historic districts or projects that

construction of improvement projects within the

3 affect a local landmark.

4 So there's a memo here. It's a

5 three-pager that entails some sidewalk repairs

and resurfacing of sidewalks that will be 7 occurring throughout both districts.

8 So, again, this is just a notification, 9 and it also has the start dates and the 10 completion dates.

End of report.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. And pending 12

13 legislation.

14 MR. WELLS: This is also a continuous

placeholder for pending legislative matters 15

that pertain to historic preservation. 16

17 So the first one is just Ordinance 2023-0876. So this -- there's been some 18

19 ongoing discussions pertaining to the Laura

20 Street Trio project. So in terms of just a

21 general synopsis, this is an appropriation of

\$22 million from the City's General Fund to 22

23 fund a participation loan for the project. And

24 so it goes into detail on the next page in

terms of a bill summary, but ultimately that is

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making its way through the legislative process

3 And then the second piece is just an

appeal. So this is something that the 4 Commission, you-all denied several months ago.

It did receive an ordinance number last night 6

from City Council. So by the -- hopefully by 7

the next Commission, we'll have public hearing

dates, but that would be Ordinance 2024-0067. 9

10 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Anything else?

11 MR. WELLS: No.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Well, with

that, we are adjourned. 13

(The foregoing proceedings were adjourned 14

at 4:03 p.m.) 15

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65 1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 2 STATE OF FLORIDA) COUNTY OF DUVAL) 5 6 7 I, Diane M. Tropia, Florida Professional Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did 8 stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and 9 that the transcript is a true and complete record of my 10 stenographic notes. 11 12 13 14 DATED this 2nd day of February 2024. 15 16 17 Diane M. Tropia 18 Florida Professional Reporter 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300

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