

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 EPSTEIN, 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.
JOANNA SNYDER, Planning and Development Dept.

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January 24, 2024
PROCEEDINGS

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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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.

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?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, those minutes 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; COA-23-28339, 3664 Richmond Street; and COA-23-29186, 2799 Selma Street.

And with that, we'll jump into Section C, our consent agenda.

Arimus, we're still moving --
MR. WELLS: Yes.
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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, Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300
we'll open the public hearing.
Is anybody here to speak on any of these COAs?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah, Mr. Smith.
THE CHAIRMAN: You can come on up.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah. Have a seat in the chair?

THE CHAIRMAN: No, sir.
MR. SMITH: I'm sorry, real quick --
THE CHAIRMAN: If you would just do me a favor and state your name and address for me.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah. (Inaudible).
What did y'all just say just now? Please
tell me, he -- he denied, correct?
THE CHAIRMAN: No, sir.
If you'll state your address for me real quick.

MR. SMITH: Yeah, my address is 1024
Jessie Street.
THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.
He was just saying that somebody sent him the plans before the meeting.

MR. SMITH: This is my second time in New York doing the same thing. Let me get to the point. I won't waste your time. All

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right? Because I know you're busy.
THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.
MR. SMITH: On this side, they against y'all, correct? Yes or no?

THE CHAIRMAN: No.
MR. SMITH: This side say yes or no, correct? They agree with what you said, correct, sir? Get to the point.

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

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

THE CHAIRMAN: I'm confused.
MR. SMITH: You tell me. You gave me a letter.

THE CHAIRMAN: I'm confused.
MR. WELLS: Sir --
THE CHAIRMAN: Do you know what's going on?

MR. WELLS: I believe you said you're -you live on Jessie Street?

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

MR. WELLS: Okay. What you have in your
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hand is a notice of public hearing, so --
MR. SMITH: Okay.
MR. WELLS: There is a property owner who lives within 350 feet of your property.

MR. SMITH: Yeah.
MR. WELLS: They're looking to landmark their property. So anyone who lives within 350 feet, or radius, of that property, you get notified via mail of their landmark designation.

MR. SMITH: And who put the landmark on it?

MR. WELLS: So they're requesting it. So this is --

MR. SMITH: Who's requesting it, sir?
MR. WELLS: So this is the property owners at 1009 Jessie Street. So they're in the audience, but -- they will have the opportunity to speak on their item later in the agenda. But, ultimately, that's the reason that you received the notice of public hearing.

MR. SMITH: Okay.
MR. WELLS: So just notifying you if you --

MR. SMITH: Let me get back to the point.
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THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Anybody else here to speak on any items on the consent agenda that I rambled off?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Seeing none, we'll close the public hearing, and I'll entertain a motion.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Motion to approve the consent agenda.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, the consent 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 here?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.
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Is the applicant for 538 Ellis Road South here?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
MR. WELLS: So LS-23-01 seeks to designate the property located at 538 South Ellis Road as a local landmark site. Essentially, this is a -- referred to as Camp Mooney Cemetery. And so based on our analysis, the Department found that the application meets zero of the seven criteria.

So, typically, with cemeteries we evaluate
it on the first criteria and the seventh criteria because those are the two criteria that the Commission -- cemeteries typically meet. So we just went into further analysis regarding those two.

So the first one pertains to its value as a significant reminder of the cultural, historical, architectural or archaeological heritage of the city, state or nation.

So it's been our standard practice from a departmental standpoint to find historic cemeteries to meet this criterion. However, the Camp Mooney Cemetery has long been

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recognized for possessing valuable genealogical information, particularly when state vital statistics records, including birth and death records, were not completed until after 1917.

However, in more recent years, cemeteries are being recognized and protected as significant historic resources that contribute to understanding our cultural past. However, in the case of the Camp Mooney Cemetery, there have been markers placed that represent individuals known to be buried in entirely different locations. A good case is that of Dr. Holmes Steele, who was born in 1820 and died in 1867, who, according to historic records, is buried elsewhere in the old 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 Mooney Cemetery, which identified 89 graves. He also stated in the title sheet that, "There are several unmarked graves and a collection of

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CSA markers that may be duplicated in other cemeteries." Additionally, in her 1955 inventory of Camp Mooney, Lucy Ames Edwards recorded only 16 , which is a difference of 73 identifiable markers.

Although the presence of the Camp Mooney Cemetery has been established by historic documents and -- as serving as an outpost and camping grounds for both Confederate and Federal troops during the Civil War, the actual physical location has never been completely determined. Whether there is a physical relationship between Camp Mooney and the cemetery is still unclear.

And the seventh criteria -- this is, again, something that we evaluate landmark sites, particularly cemeteries, on, and there's -- and it's based on evidence of significant exterior alterations that have negatively impacted historic resources, as well as represent alterations that are difficult, costly, or impossible to reverse.

Further, the degree and nature of any exterior deterioration, as well as evidence of long-term and potentially ongoing neglect are

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

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

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

Since taking ownership of the Camp Mooney Cemetery in 2021, the Sons of the Confederate Veterans have installed fencing, a flagpole, updated signage, as well as the cleaning of debris and removing -- or removal of dead trees. An ongoing maintenance plan has also 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, coupled with the tenuous link between Camp Mooney and the cemetery, poses the question of whether the cemetery can be restored to a state 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.

Given the limited availability of popularly archived information, staff recommends additional research and documentation be conducted in order to clarify the placement of markers and verify the 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
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staff?
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair 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?

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Epstein, that is correct. I mean, it is a possibility. We still have to, of course, evaluate the accuracy of it and -- and the contents to make sure that there is a proper linkage, but there is a possibility that it could go before the Commission again for landmarking.

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

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Through the Chair, question for staff.

In such a scenario, is there an opinion of staff of whether it's better to keep this -should it be considered to keep this 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.

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Montoya, we have not run into this issue before in quite sometime, I believe, but 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 could withdraw the application or they could defer, but that's also at the discretion of the Chair as well.

I'll defer to OGC on that.
MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair to the Commission, so, yeah, I mean, what Mr. Wells is saying is correct. And the Chair has the deference to defer, if he so chooses.

But one of the ramifications I want to highlight is that, when our City Council has denied an application for designation, no further applications shall be made for the same cemetery or landmark for a period of one year.
So that would be one potential ramification. However, there is a -- if it's in the best interest of the city, the City Council can

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waive that time period.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Any other
questions for staff at the moment?
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Sorry. Just one more.

Through the Chair, question for staff. Were there discussions with the applicant about other scenarios since no criteria are being met in this current application as a course of action?

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Montoya, no alternative course of actions were discussed in-depth besides just -I mean, because ongoing maintenance plans already exist, they could -- they certainly have the right to continue updating it without the landmark designation.

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We'll open the public hearing.

If the applicant can come on up.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
AUDIENCE MEMBER: No one has contacted me
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about giving -- providing more information. I gave a folder to Joel --

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you state your name and address for me?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Calvin Hart, 4884 Victoria Chase Court, Jacksonville, Florida 322---

THE CHAIRMAN: Calvin, she's going to swear you in real quick.

THE REPORTER: If you would raise your right hand for me, please.

MR. HART: (Complies.)
THE REPORTER: Do you affirm that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

MR. HART: Yes, the whole truth.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
MR. HART: I gave a pamphlet -- I mean, I gave documentation to Joel McEachin doing this research, identifying that cemetery.

That cemetery has been in the possession of the United Daughters of the Confederacy since the 1950s. That's why when you go out 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 articles that I provided.

Like I said, there was more stuff there that -- happening. There's a school there that's in the Civil War official records identifying where that is. It's part of George Mooney's property, who's actually buried in -right beside Old City Cemetery in the Catholic section.

Those stones you were talking about there, they're not there. There was some hit piece put out by some website where some guy got in there and took pictures of bronze markers that were on the ground that were found by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. They didn't have any place to put them. They laid them there. We pulled them out because they were not -- those people weren't buried there. We did the history. We put them beside the fence when we were cleaning up.

We bought it, started taking the trees out, cleaning it up. That hit piece was there. He wrote that article, took pictures of those 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 got stolen. That hit piece there was not factual.

George Mooney owned that property. It's documented. He owned that property, and it was used for a school. It was used by the North and the South during the war as an outpost. There -- the locals have documented -- told us and pointed to where Confederates were killed from the Skirmish at Cedar Creek and brought there because it was high ground and buried there.

There was also some girls that drowned -four girls drowned in a boat that was documented that I sent in, that there was a funeral of 2,000 people there.

That cemetery is kind of a shotgun-looking piece of property, but actually those commercial properties are on the cemetery, so -- the only piece left is the piece we own.

Can I ask you, did you go there, or did you go to the cemetery and look at it yourself? No? Is the answer no?

THE CHAIRMAN: Real quick, so you said you
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sent all this to Joel McEachin?

MR. HART: I sent a pamphlet that thick (indicating) to him. I also turned over another historic book to a lady who picked it up, who helped me get it this far, that worked for him.

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

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

MR. WELLS: No, we did not go inside the cemetery. We --

MR. HART: You looked at it from Ellis Road?

MR. WELLS: From --
MR. HART: Did you look at it from -where, the back, the front?

MR. WELLS: From Ellis Road.
MR. HART: And what did you see?
MR. WELLS: A cemetery.
MR. HART: Could you describe what you're saying? It was just an open, green field, right, with graves in the back?

THE CHAIRMAN: We don't need to go
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MR. HART: I mean, we're just trying to clean the cemetery up and --

THE CHAIRMAN: No, I understand.
MR. HART: -- restore the cemetery.
THE CHAIRMAN: I understand.
MR. HART: That's the --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
THE CHAIRMAN: You still have --
MR. HART: I mean, if there's an issue about who's doing it --

THE CHAIRMAN: No, there's -- there's no issue. We're just trying to figure out if it's worthy for a landmark status or not, and it sounds --

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 there, they've been moved around. That's not

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the case. If he went -- or someone had went to the back -- because he can't see it from Ellis Road.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah.
MR. HART: It's in the back, very back, where the majority of the graves that are there have been there for a while. That --

You know, we did put a flagpole up front with a marker. The original marker was incorrect. That was there before we got there.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gotcha.
MR. HART: And that's been redone to be historically accurate.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Well, I think --
MR. HART: I turned this information over to them, and they had plenty of time to ask me.

I made phone calls to you. I even asked, did I need any more before this meeting, and it was never returned to me, the phone call was never returned.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair, you keep mentioning Joel McEachin. I think he -- he's -- a long, long, long time ago was on --

MR. HART: He works part-time for him.
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COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: So I don't know if you want to defer it and wait until the information can be looked through a little bit more and provide a little bit more information --

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

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, we can try to --
MR. HART: It doesn't happen.
THE CHAIRMAN: We can try and --
MR. HART: In fact, I had to call City Council members to say, hey, take -- pick his phone up from this guy.

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

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

MR. WELLS: No. You don't have to pay a fee. The application is free.

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MR. HART: Well, I had to pay something.
I wrote a check to somebody.
THE CHAIRMAN: The initial application, yes, but not for -- not to come back.

MR. HART: Not to come back?
MR. WELLS: Correct.
MR. HART: Is there a time that I can schedule to work with somebody to take a walk out there with them to show --

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

MR. HART: Okay.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right.
MR. HART: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
I think -- let's go ahead and defer LS-23-01.

And, with that, we'll move forward to LM-23-08, 1009 Jessie Street.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Indicating.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: I wanted to comment on what you were just talking about. I didn't know when my time was.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, that's all right.
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We'll --
AUDIENCE MEMBER: I live in the neighborhood.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, come on up. That's fine. You can speak into the record real quick.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If you'll just state your name and address for me.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Chris Smart, and I live at 541 Cynthia Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32254.

I've lived in the neighborhood for about five years now. It wasn't till about three days ago that I even knew there was a cemetery back there. The nicest part of the cemetery is the gate that -- I'm sure that they provided for it. It is a derelict of a cemetery.

I don't know, financially, how it would impact our neighborhood pending -- if this was approved. This is all new to me, and I'm not sure what to do next.

THE CHAIRMAN: Right.
MR. SMART: But, to me, if it's something that he's asking for the -- tax dollars from

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the City, I disagree a hundred percent, a hundred percent.

What they've done -- I'm sure it looks really nice compared to what it is, but our money could be used somewhere else.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.
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 there. I didn't know it until I received this.

That's about all I got to say.
THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I appreciate the insight.

MR. SMART: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: (Inaudible.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead. Do you have a question?

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Through the Chair, question for staff, (inaudible) --
(Reporter clarification.)
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: The participation of Joel McEachin and -- and the first gentleman's time at the podium, was that a contribution to the report and (inaudible) --

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MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Montoya and the Commission, so
there is -- on the latter pages of the actual package itself, there's an application that the applicant provided, a couple of additional photos and whatnot. So what he presented was what we already had for the record.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: And so, through the
Chair, from what you said, I'm presuming
that -- I'm hearing that Joel McEachin did participate, as the gentleman said, and he gave you that information, and that was used to make the report to say that there were zero criteria met to designate it as a landmark?

MR. WELLS: That is correct.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Okay.
THE CHAIRMAN: Well, we'll give him the month to figure anything else out and go from there.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair, it might be good, when you have the meeting with the gentleman, that Joel is part of that so that if there are any -- if there's any inconsistencies that (inaudible), he doesn't feel like it's not -- you know.

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MR. WELLS: Yeah.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. With that, we'll move forward to LM-23-08, 1009 Jessie Street.

Can I have a staff report?
MR. ANDERSON: LM-23-08 seeks to designate the subject property located at 1009 Jessie Street for a local landmark designation. Based on our analysis, the Planning and Development Department has found the application to meet three of the seven criteria. The three criteria include the following:

Its value as a significant reminder of the cultural, historical, architectural or archaeological heritage of the city, state or nation.

The two-story concrete block structure on the property was constructed in 1958 to be a doctor's office with two apartments. The one-story, single-family, masonry, vernacular structure was constructed in 1955. Both structures are associated with Dr. Charles B.
McIntosh, known to be the first black pediatrician in Jacksonville.

The second criteria being it's identified
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with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the city, state or nation.

As stated before, the subject property is 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. Dr. Charles B. McIntosh is well known for his sickle cell research, and that was basically his contribution to the nation.

And the third criteria being its suitability for preservation or restoration.

Not having any evidence of significant exterior deterioration, the structure has been well-maintained over the years. According to archival records and permitting, the structure does not show any evidence of being significantly altered, thereby retaining its historical integrity and fabric.

Based on the findings of this report, the Planning and Development Department recommends approval of 1009 Jessie Street.

End of report.
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THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Any questions for staff?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We'll open the
public hearing.
Is the applicant here?
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.
THE CHAIRMAN: Come on up.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello.
THE CHAIRMAN: If you will state your name
and address for me.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Fatima Floyd, 1009
Jessie Street.
THE CHAIRMAN: Fatima, she's going to
swear you in real quick.
MS. FLOYD: Pardon? I couldn't hear you.
THE REPORTER: I'm going to swear you
in --
MS. FLOYD: Oh, I'm sorry.
THE REPORTER: That's fine. Thank you.
If you would raise your right hand for me,
please.
MS. FLOYD: (Complies.)
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 truth?

MS. FLOYD: Yes.
THE REPORTER: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Welcome.
MS. FLOYD: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: You can present or -anything to talk about?

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Great.
Any questions for our applicant at the moment?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: We'll call you back up if we need you.

MS. FLOYD: Thank you.
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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.

So this -- these two parcels are a part of what we refer to as the Norman Film Studios. They were originally Eagle Film City. And so based on our analysis, we found that it met four of the seven criteria. So the first one pertains to its value as a significant reminder of the cultural, historical, architectural or archaeological heritage of the city, state, or nation.

So starting with the Kalem Company in 1908, Jacksonville had attracted so many film companies by 1912, the city was billed as the "World's Winter Film Capital." So between 1908 to 1922, Jacksonville was home to over 30 silent motion picture studios, including Eagle Film City, established in Arlington.

Shortly after Eagle Film City opened in 1916, the movie industry began to decline in Jacksonville due to competition from

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California, local politics, lack of financial support, and material shortages caused by World War I.

The second criteria pertains to its location of a significant local, state or national event.

So this is -- this property is connected to Richard E. Norman, Sr., who began his filmmaking career by traveling extensively throughout the Midwest and the Northwest sections of the country where he would write scenarios and filming as he went.

So Norman was one of the first independent movie producers to recognize the commercial potential of making black cast movies specifically for the African-American community. Contrary to most movies made during the silent screen era, Norman's films were one of the first to show African-Americans in a positive light. And so between 1920 and 1928, Norman produced eight feature films featuring an all black cast.

Although the post-production work was done at the Arlington studios, in fact -- so these African-American films that were made by Norman

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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 since been enclosed and filled and is not presently visible.

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

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

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

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Gregory, that is correct. So
0 Arlington Road is the site of the former pool
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that was closed, of course.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: And that is currently an empty lot, my understanding from what it looks like here?

MR. WELLS: Correct.
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 the landmarking, or what -- what's the -- what happens with that?

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

Not necessarily does it bind them to restoring the pool, per se. It does -- because there's -- it does allow them to -- they can certainly construct around it, but I think, if anything, we probably would bind them to keeping that area preserved in a sense to just make some type of notice that this is what formerly existed there. I don't know if that -- hopefully that answered your question.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: To continue, so 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 construct the area or are we talking about marking it as a historical designation?

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

MR. WELLS: That's a good --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: -- especially if the City owns the land.

MR. WELLS: And that's a good point.
I mean, yeah -- presently as is, if you were to landmark the site, it would -- it would protect the historic nature of the pool, so that -- that would hinder development. So that's something to consider.

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

COMMISSIONER FRICK: So, through the Chair, could we then separate 6360 Commerce Street from 0 Arlington Road?

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair, I'm going to defer to General Counsel on that, but I

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believe it can be done.
MS. LOPERA: Well, through the Chair to Mr. Wells, those are two different parcels; is that correct?

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

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

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 arbiters, essentially, of whether or not it

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meets the criteria, and -- and what criteria that is, I don't know, because there's nothing there, so --

COMMISSIONER FRICK: There was something there.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: There was something there, yeah.

MR. WELLS: That is correct.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Okay.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair
to the -- so it would be -- like, if the City
came and they decided they wanted to build a library there, would your recommendation from staff take into account the footprint of the pool and historical -- any kind of historical photography and site plan you had? And you might alter the form of the building because of that?

MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commissioner Epstein, that -- all of those are certainly possibilities, but it would be -- I couldn't give you a definitive answer where we would land, but ultimately it would be -- in terms of that being -- if you were to designate that property as a landmark, we would certainly

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want any new construction to honor the history of the property. So whether that new library came in and they did something with an exhibit or markers or displayed something of that nature or kept that particular area just -just develop around it, that would be another alternative.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: I have one more.
Do we have a representative from the City that's not staff to comment on if they want that site landmarked or if they had any kind of use for (inaudible) in the future?

THE CHAIRMAN: Or the applicant.
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Or the -- yeah, the -- we're the applicant, so the City --

I mean, I have no problem landmarking a building, but a site that was something and is now just an empty parcel that the City owns, that they may want to do something with one day -- they can't stand here and tell us, you know, yeah, I'm fine with you doing that and we'll honor the pool in the future if we do anything or we're never going to do anything with it.

So those -- those are -- typically, we
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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 City -- the City isn't here to talk about how they feel about that.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: I guess -- are we in the discussion period?

THE CHAIRMAN: No, we're not. Let me go ahead and --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: (Inaudible.)
THE CHAIRMAN: I'll open the public hearing here.

Is anybody here to speak on this landmark?
AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Seeing none, I'll close the public hearing.

Now I'll entertain a motion.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: A motion in order to have the discussion, right?

THE CHAIRMAN: We have to, yes.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Motion to approve LM-23-09, 6360 Commerce Street and 0 Arlington Road.

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understanding it's been just infilled.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: So in some ways
this is an archaeological site we're talking about. We're landmarking it as a historic place, right?

MR. WELLS: Right.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: And I don't -- I'm not trying to be argumentative with my colleagues, but I think we have to see it for what it is and make that decision as well.

On the one hand, we certainly wouldn't want to stand in the way of something like a library or a civic structure. But as a City-owned property, those aren't the only programs that can be programmed for City property. It could be a water treatment plant, it could be a transformer station.

So I think we have to at least consider the archaeological significance of it as a site if we're going to -- if we designate it as an historic landmark.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, I -- I agree with where you're coming from, but at the same time, this isn't serving -- as it stands, to me, it's not serving any purpose at the moment as far as

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any kind of historical artifact because it can't be seen.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Does --
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: But -- no offense, you know, in some places, they have to bring in archeologists to the site (inaudible) to break ground because --

THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, that --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: -- of archaeological significance.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, that's fair.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: I'm not -- also not trying to extend our time here.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, I think it's
interesting -- it's an interesting point.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: (Inaudible) and you have to think about that.

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: One thing I want to consider is, if we are preserving Norman Studios, which is already landmarked, Commerce 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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Street?
I think -- you don't want a water treatment facility there, potentially next to there, versus you might want something that would look -- a library that would be similar in design as Norman Studios, for example.

Is that worth landmarking just for that purpose, I guess, is the question.

COMMISSIONER HOFF: Through the Chair to Commissioner Gregory, so we actually do have two utility parcels in our historic districts right now, but they do have to have (inaudible) in the design, so I just wanted to put that out there.

THE CHAIRMAN: So I'm -- I feel like -- I know where I stand personally, but we have a motion on the table currently. So we can either -- work with that motion and vote on that and go from there.

It's your motion, so --
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Yeah. I mean, me, personally, I'm not -- I am ready to recommend 6360 Commerce Street be landmarked, but not ready for 0 Arlington Road. I have to think that we could in the future, if need be, I

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think, but I'm not ready at this point.
THE CHAIRMAN: So you can --
COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair,
that is something that -- if the City does
propose something on that land that -- we could look again at landmarking just because it's part of this campus area and it has that history to it, or does this deny it --

COMMISSIONER GREGORY: It wouldn't come to us, I don't think, if it's -- if it's not landmarked, it's not going to come us.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: But it can be proposed to be landmarked again.

THE CHAIRMAN: Right.
MS. LOPERA: Through the Chair to Commissioner Epstein, yes, another application for landmarking could be made, you know, after a year passes if you choose not to recommend landmarking this.

But one other thing that I will highlight, yes, the City owns this now but may not always in the future. They could sell it, could donate it or something of that nature. So landmarking does travel with the parcel and not the owner.

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COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair, that's good to know because it -- even though it does put some rules on that site, keeping the -- if the City does sell that, keeping that as a holistic parcel of the entire Norman Studios I think is helpful.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Yeah. I mean, I -for me, I think it's a difficult decision to -when you think about it. And I like the -- I really respect the comments that are being made about future development for the property, but I think that the -- the property and its development as a whole is what's contributing to it being designated as a historic landmark.

And I'm not trying to restate staff's words -- or Arimus, your words -- but it sounds like, if the entire site, including the pool area, isn't designated as a historic landmark, it doesn't preclude something from being constructed there. It's just going to have to be reviewed and approved, and it will have to seek approval through the Planning -- through Historic Preservation, and we'll review it.

So if something were to be constructed there, then I'm certain there would have to be

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some reminder of the history of that place to speak about what was there before. There are ways to -- there are ways to do that and still recognize the history of it and develop the property.

That, for me, is -- that's the big question for me; is it one entity that we're considering as a historic landmark or is it a pick-and-choose situation? And the pick-and-choose situation -- I don't know how else to say this because I'm a comic book guy, but my Spidey sense is tingling on the back of my neck when we say "pick and choose," right? It was a place, it has historic significance, and I think that's what's being questioned about the landmark.

COMMISSIONER EPSTEIN: Through the Chair, thinking about it holistically has talked me out of what I was saying earlier because in -in looking at it as just a block, (inaudible), you know, you would want to consider what was happening on that site, you know, even though there's absolutely nothing there now. So I talked myself out of it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, you're making good
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points. It's part of a campus. I can get behind it.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: (Inaudible.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah.
Okay. Well, we have a motion on the table. So all those in favor?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, you have approved LM-23-09.

And, with that, we're going to jump to public comment. Is anybody else here to speak on anything by chance?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'd just like to add to that --

MS. LOPERA: If you could come up to the microphone.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
THE CHAIRMAN: (Inaudible.)
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah.
THE CHAIRMAN: Public comment, I don't 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 Department and I work with Arimus and Jermaine here.

I just want to add to what you said about -- I think landmarking a site that's not inhabited or that there's no structure is still appropriate because you can put up a landmark -- put up a sign -- signage that indicates the history of an area. There are plenty of -- I'm a little bit more familiar with the signage in St. Augustine, but there are plenty of areas where -- that have been demolished, but there's still signs that say, this was once this location.

So that -- that's a justification for landmarking the Arlington address in conjunction with the -- where the actual Eagle and Norman Film Studios stood.

That's all.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
MR. MUELLER: That's it.
THE CHAIRMAN: No, that was great.
Thank you.
MR. MUELLER: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Is anyone else here to
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speak on anything?
AUDIENCE MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We'll close the public comment and jump to New Business.

I believe we have some elections to get to?

MR. WELLS: Yes, so I'll go ahead and throw it over to Carla here.

I just -- (inaudible), but ultimately, as you are aware, there's a vacancy for vice chair. So I think, depending on how you-all vote, that may open another opportunity for secretary, but I'll defer to Carla.

MS. LOPERA: So through the Chair to the Commission, normally, our officer elections are held at the meeting in May and the officers start in June. Because Commissioner Lopera has departed the Commission, that leaves, like Arimus said, a vacancy for vice chair. So we can vote on that today. The person will serve the remainder of his term and then we'll have normal officer elections again in May.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Who wants to be vice chair?

COMMISSIONER GLOBER: Don't be shy.
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(Simultaneous speaking.)
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: It's till when, May?

MS. LOPERA: In May, we'll have elections, and then in June the new person will take --

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: I'll put my --
THE CHAIRMAN: Hat in the ring?
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: -- hat in the ring.
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: I can last till May.

THE CHAIRMAN: I will nominate Commissioner Montoya. Can I nominate --

MS. LOPERA: Yes.
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. I'll nominate Commissioner Montoya.

Anybody else have any interest?
COMMISSIONER FRICK: I'll second your nomination.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Well -- crickets.
So, with that, do we vote on a one-person race?

MS. LOPERA: Yes. You can open that up now if you would like, or if there are more nominations, you can --

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THE CHAIRMAN: Any more nominations?
COMMISSIONER FRICK: Can we hear the campaign speech? It's very compelling.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Well, all those in favor?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: All right.
Congratulations, Commissioner Montoya. It was a tight race.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: In my first act as vice chairman, I propose that we --

THE CHAIRMAN: We'll move on to the Historic Preservation window supplement. It should be printed out.

MR. WELLS: Yes.
Through the Chair to the Commission, so apologize, this was not included in the book, but you have a handout before you. And this is our revised -- or proposed revised window supplement.

So a few months ago, we implemented this new supplement to streamline the way that we communicate with customers and -- to create a

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helpful, intuitive guide for customers and contractors to use to understand what window repairs entail, what window trim, window installation, just the different, various windows types.

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 (inaudible).

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Questions for staff?

COMMISSIONER HOFF: Mr. Wells, on the second page, top of the page, the first two sentences that have been crossed out -- the first talks about the staff being available to 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?

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

So the first strike-through -- so that's lines 2 and 3 on the second page. And this -originally, it was written as, you know, staff should inspect -- or is available to inspect windows upon request before a COA is submitted in a site visit. We wanted to strike that because, ultimately, just from a capacity standpoint, we do not -- we're not able to do that. We are short-staffed as is.

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.

And in terms of the second strike-through, so submitting a specific window product brochure, that's also required within the application itself. So we just wanted to strike that part because we don't -- window product information changes from COA submittal 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 besides just the grid pattern and whether or not it can be recessed. So we just thought it would be more prudent to strike it.

COMMISSIONER HOFF: Okay.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: A question for staff. The time between COA approval, a window type is approved, and you get the COA, and then you move to construction, what I'm hearing is there is sometimes a change in the product that might be presented at the COA and the product that's submitted as part of the permitting process, right?

MR. WELLS: Yes, sir.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Is there -- what is the -- what's the -- how does that not sometimes -- how do we not let that fall through the cracks if something is submitted for permit that doesn't meet the requirement of the COA? Whose wheelhouse is that?

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MR. WELLS: So we do have a planner that's assigned to handle the permitting aspect, so for the COA to permitting, installation, so -to handle those -- those slips in the cracks. Ultimately, we just kept it -- the condition language in terms of the COAs pretty general. So it has to, of course, be recessed, and then it's up to the permitting staff to verify that from whatever window product information they've supplied.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Okay.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Any other questions for staff?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Can I --
THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, sure. Please go ahead. You're vice chairman now.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: There was a citizen who spoke about windows a few times prior and about the plane of the window in regards to the envelope and those kinds of things. Is that -was that also -- has there been any determination on that or what's the status of that?

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MR. WELLS: Through the Chair to Commission Gregory -- or not Gregory -Montoya, that is a good question. We are waiting on the appointment of our new director to -- because that's going to be our long-term discussion, especially when we're waiting on these cases that stem from new construction from 2016 and whether or not we should have the ability to enforce citations and violations from back then.

But in terms of just the active cases right now, the revisions that we made -- so the installing of a new window, that new
construction piece that hopefully should --
it's our intent that that would cut down on just the disconnect between historic versus new construction in terms of recess placement of windows.

So that's one of the ways that we're trying to do this. We're also in the process of updating our window survey form, so we're -we have a section on there that requires applicants to provide how much the window should be recessed -- or will be recessed.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Awesome.
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Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Anything else for staff?

COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: We are voting on this, correct?

MR. WELLS: Yes.
THE CHAIRMAN: I'll take a motion.
COMMISSIONER GREGORY: Motion to approve the Historic Preservation window supplement as provided.

COMMISSIONER HOFF: I second.
THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?
COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Seeing none, you have approved the Historic Preservation window supplement as provided.

We'll now go to Public Works improvement projects.

MR. WELLS: All right. Through the Chair to the Commission, this is a -- again, this is a customary thing, that all City agencies are to notify you all prior to planning and

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construction of improvement projects within the local historic districts or projects that affect a local landmark.

So there's a memo here. It's a three-pager that entails some sidewalk repairs and resurfacing of sidewalks that will be occurring throughout both districts.

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

End of report.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. And pending legislation.

MR. WELLS: This is also a continuous placeholder for pending legislative matters that pertain to historic preservation.

So the first one is just Ordinance 2023-0876. So this -- there's been some ongoing discussions pertaining to the Laura Street Trio project. So in terms of just a general synopsis, this is an appropriation of $\$ 22$ million from the City's General Fund to fund a participation loan for the project. And 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 somewhat.

And then the second piece is just an appeal. So this is something that the Commission, you-all denied several months ago. It did receive an ordinance number last night from City Council. So by the -- hopefully by the next Commission, we'll have public hearing dates, but that would be Ordinance 2024-0067.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Anything else?
MR. WELLS: No.
THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Well, with that, we are adjourned.
(The foregoing proceedings were adjourned at 4:03 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
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3 STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF DUVAL )
I, Diane M. Tropia, Florida Professional
Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did
stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and
that the transcript is a true and complete record of my
stenographic notes.

DATED this 2nd day of February 2024.

Diane M. Tropia
Florida Professional Reporter
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