

**City of Oregon City
Historic Review Board**

Minutes

June 25, 2019 7:00 p.m.
Commission Chambers-City Hall

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00.
- Board Members Present: Ken Baysinger, Claire Met, Grant Blythe
- Staff: Kelly Reid, City Planner

2. Public Comments

- Ken Baysinger asked if there were any public comments about items not on the agenda. There were none.

3. Public Hearings

- Ken opened a public hearing on GLUA 19-00018: Addition of a roof over a rear deck on a historic structure in the McLoughlin Conservation District at 1109 Monroe Street (L.D. Garmin House) Subfile: HR 19-02.
- Ken asked if any board members had any conflicts or biases to declare. All members said no.
- Ken spoke about being a real estate broker who works in the area, but this area is not for sale, so there will be no conflicts.
- Ken asked if the board members had visited the site. All members had.
- Kelly Reid presented the application. She showed the deck and roof design. Kelly said the deck design is recommended for approval by Staff, but there are outstanding questions about what materials will be used.
- Kelly said Staff feels the roof and deck designs would not alter the character of the historic structure.
- Mark Lietzke, property owner, answered Kelly's question about what materials will be used. The railing will be fir and the decking will be composite.

- **Claire Met moved to approve HR 19-02 as presented from the staff report.
Seconded by Grant Blythe: Motion passed, all in favor.**

Grant Blythe: Aye

Claire Met: Aye

Ken Baysinger: Aye

- Ken opened a public hearing on HR 18-10: Chain link hedge fence at 811 Jefferson Street, a locally designated structure in the McLoughlin Conservation District (James Manning House).
- Ken asked if the board members had visited the site. All members had.

- Ken asked if any of the board members had conflicts or biases to declare. All members said no.
- Kelly presented the application. She showed pictures of where the fence is visible from the street and explained what it is made of.
- Kelly said that Staff recommends putting wood boards on the chain link fence that is visible from the street. She explained that the Historic Review Board has a fence code that does not allow chain link fences in front or back yards.
- Wade Owens and Susan Egger, homeowners, made some corrections to the fence diagram. They clarified what parts of the fence belong to them.
- Wade explained that the reason they put in a chain link fence was because it was too challenging to keep repairing the wood fence. The fence keeps animals out, is low maintenance, sturdy, and provides privacy.
- Ken said the problem with the chain link fence is that it does not follow Oregon City code. Wade did not realize the chain link fence was against code.
- Susan said that she felt frustrated that her neighbors don't have to follow code with their fences. Kelly asked for pictures of the neighbors' fences for the record.
- Ken said he understands why they put in the chain link fence. He wants to find a solution that does not punish the homeowners.
- Grant is sympathetic to the financial burden, but he doesn't feel the fence can remain.
- Claire asked if any grant money could be used to put in a new fence. Kelly wasn't sure the grant could be used for funding a fence. The Board would have to approve that use.
- Kelly suggested the idea of using landscaping to obscure the fence. Possibly large shrubs.
- Ken asked if a code complaint was issued by a citizen about the fence. Kelly said there was. Ken said they need to show respect to the citizen who complained.
- Ken asked what sort of lenience in timeframe is allowed for compliance with the fence code. Kelly said it is up to the Board, and that Staff usually works with the homeowner to come up with a compliance plan.
- Ken inquired about what would happen if the homeowners are unable to fix the fence. Kelly said then the code enforcement department takes over, a court date is set, and the municipal court deals with it. Ken said he does not like the idea of this taking place.
- Ken asked again how long the homeowners can be given to fix the fence. Kelly gave an example of giving six months to fix a code violation. Kelly mentioned that this not a health or safety issue, so the Board has a lot of flexibility with the timeframe.
- Grant brought up a neighbor's public comments, which indicated that the neighbor is willing to pay for a half of a new fence.
- Ken reopened public testimony to find out if the homeowners knew about the neighbor's public comment.

- Wade said they found out about the comment earlier in the evening, and he had had conversations about the fence with the neighbor.
- Grant said he feels that the Staff comments give the homeowners the maximum amount of flexibility to find a solution for the fence.

- **Grant moved to approve PC 19-064 HR 18-10 application for chain link hedge fence at 811 Jefferson Street with the staff-recommended conditions of approval, along with the addition of a six-month time period to meet the conditions of approval. Seconded by Claire Met: Motion passed, all in favor.**

Grant Blythe: Aye

Claire Met: Aye

Ken Baysinger: Aye

- Ken recommended that the discussion on the Historic Review Board Policy Change be moved until the whole board is available. Kelly said the discussion could be moved to July. Electing a Chair was also continued to a different meeting.

4. Communication

- Kelly introduced Lydia Ness, Planning Department intern, who will be informing the community in a friendly and understandable way about Historic Review Board policies.

5. Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.