

Architectural Review Board  
February 3, 2005

Fred Schneider, vice-chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 in Council Chambers; other members present were Lillian Copeland, Ruth Klippstein, and John Koski. Barry Clark and Betsy Buet attended, and observers Steven Meeks, and Penny and Michael Phelan.

Summary of Actions: We recessed the meeting to re-convene February 7 at 4 p.m. at the lace factory, 561 Valley Street, to finish business.

Guest speaker: Betsy Buet, who is opening a furniture business to be called 1804 House, in the Dansey building recently vacated by Architrade, spoke to us about her plans. The Danseys are willing to paint the windows. The front exterior will eventually be painted, and vines taken off the rear of the building. Parking spaces are to be provided in the rear. Fred told Betsy ARB is glad to consult with her as she develops her plans.

As there was no old business, we next considered John and Sheila Koski's application for window replacement at 324 Main Street. John exhibited the type of vinyl window with wood frame he proposes to use and explained his needs. Fred reviewed our history on vinyl windows and explained that it would be "ideal" and "strongly suggested" to use all wood, rather than vinyl. We understand John's interest in a maintenance-free fitting and discussed the neighborhood and age of the house as mitigating factors, and the fact that no original windows remain in the house. This weighs against our wish for authentic materials for restoration and for consistency in our actions, but we agree to wait to make a decision until we can include Jeffrey Plank in the discussion.

Maintenance and Repair: Barry reported that both the building and the business at 330 Valley Street, formerly Bocce, have been sold. Stephan Hawranke owns the structure and Tim Johnson will run the two new restaurants. They have indicated a general interest in replacing the decorative cornice, and we will have more consultation with them. They will probably request two projecting signs.

Barry updated us on the 720 and 724 Valley Street Stinson properties. Jay Schlothauer, Albemarle County building officer, has described the two buildings as "posing no hazards or danger to the public," and will take further action on 732, which is untenanted. We review our possible procedures, including the fact that ARB must sign a COA for demolition of any building in the historic district. Fred reported that Jeffrey hopes for a more complete discussion at our March or April meeting.

Inventory project: Lillian reports that an additional \$2,500 has been suggested for this publication in the up-coming Scottsville budget. We hope that strong support from the town would allow for more successful fundraising. No goal has been formulated yet; it has been proposed that the cost of buyers to the booklet would be \$5.

Other business: Fred has told the Charlottesville organizers of Architecture Week, April 1-9, that we are interested in sponsoring or being involved in an event. We hope, at any rate, to learn this year about the range of possibilities we might pursue in 2006.

January minutes were unanimously accepted as submitted.

We discussed the mayor's interest in plaques describing the history of various buildings in the historic district. Such installations around the Court Square in Charlottesville offer precedence. If this is part of the Streetscape plan, we again request that ARB have an opportunity to review the total plan before parts of it are implemented.

As the meeting ended, Fred invited Penny Phelan to address us. She spoke about possible wall paintings as part of the Streetscape, and the saving of the old Stinson building at the north end of town.

Rather than adjourning, we moved, seconded and unanimously agreed to recess the meeting until 4 p.m., Monday, February 7, at 561 Valley Street, with Betsy Buet. When we reconvened, the meeting consisted of Fred, Lillian, Ruth, Barry, and Betsy. Barry reported that John Koski is withdrawing his application for vinyl windows and will plan to install all wooden ones. Fred will consult with him.

Betsy discussed her plans and we considered some of the many changes made in the past to this historic building. Betsy now wants to paint the windows in a cream color, and most likely use the same paint the front of the building, over the concrete surfacing. She has also considered a dark green or red. Fred asked her to try a color analysis to see what might have been there originally. We verbally agree to painting the window framing cream, allowing Barry to approve Betsy's COA administratively; if Betsy finds evidence of a darker color once used, we will reconsider the dark green or red.

With no further business, we adjourned at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Klippstein, Secretary