

# Shreveport Historic Preservation Commission

## MINUTES Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Council Chambers at Government Plaza  
505 Travis Street  
Shreveport, Louisiana

### Commissioners

Commissioner Lane Callaway, Secretary  
Commissioner Kenna Franklin  
Associate Commissioner Mischa Farrell

### Visitors

Clarence Babineaux (COA 24-08-HPC) and  
(COA 24-09-HPC)

### Shreveport-Caddo Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC)

Mr. Adam Bailey, Community Planner / Design Manager, MPC and HPC Ex-Officio  
Ms. Peiyao Li, Community Planner, MPC

### City Attorney's Office

Mr. Tanner R. Yeldell, Assistant City Attorney

1. Meeting was called to order by the Acting Chair at 4:07pm, with a quorum present.  
*Administrative Note:* Due to absence of regular Commissioners for the March 19 session of HPC, Associate Commissioner Farrell took the place of Commissioner Jernigan.
2. Opening Remarks: The Acting Chair read the memorandum titled, *Identifying Procedures for Review of Applications* to all present.
3. Approval of HPC Meeting Minutes: The Acting Chair asked for questions, comments, and discussion on the HPC Minutes for February 23, 2023. Having none, the Chair asked for a motion, second, and vote. Commissioner Farrell made the motion to approve with a second made by Commissioner Franklin. The motion passed with three affirmative votes, none against.
4. New Business:
  - a. Certificate of Appropriateness – COA 24-08-HPC: 908 Rutherford Street, within Fairfield Historic District, New Construction – of eight total columbaria in two sections of four, within the existing Family Garden courtyard of St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral.  
MPC Staff Case Report: Mr. Bailey presented the COA consisting of a zoning map, aerial photograph pinpointing the historic building, five photographs of St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral with emphasis on the specific area pertaining to the COA, site plan diagram, and three graphic renderings of the planned action. Although the Cathedral and its acreage is not individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the property is within the Fairfield Historic District. The proposed columbaria contain 384 niches. Recommendation of the MPC Staff is Approval.

Public Comments: The Acting Chair thanked Mr. Bailey and recognized Mr. Clarence Babineaux, the applicant and design architect for the new construction. Mr. Babineaux explained the proposed columbaria is due to the long existing columbaria reaching its physical fulfillment. Using the COA's renderings as visual examples, he explained the physical arrangement of the proposed columbaria and its placement within the existing Family Garden. Mr. Babineaux further clarified the physical aspects of the columbaria consisting of eight identical but separate wall panels with each panel containing 48 niches.

HPC Discussion and Vote on Recommendation: The Acting Chair thanked Mr. Babineaux and asked for any questions or comments from the Commissioners and recognized Associate Commissioner Farrell who asked for clarification of placing the name and life dates of the individual on an individual niche. Mr. Babineaux noted an engraved plate would be attached to the exterior door of the individual niche.

Commissioner Callaway noted it seems that the eight separate panels would not be seen from the primary street view due to Fairfield Avenue being just below the height of the Cathedral's property and with the Family Garden some distance away. And he clarified with Mr. Babineaux the eight proposed eight columbaria panels would not touch the historic Cathedral's wall like the original set built in the 2002-2002 timeframe. Mr. Babineaux noted the proposed columbaria are standalone and would not physically touch any building.

The Acting Chair thanked all and asked for any further comments or questions. Having none, the Acting Chair called for a motion, second, and vote. Associate Commissioner Farrell made the motion to approve the COA, second by Commissioner Franklin with the resulting vote of three affirmative and none against.

b. Certificate of Appropriateness – COA 24-09-HPC: 908 Rutherford Street, within Fairfield Historic District, New Construction – of a colonnade between the north wall of St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, across the Family Garden courtyard, and with connection to an existing colonnade at the Cathedral's school building.

MPC Staff Case Report: Ms. Li presented the COA consisting of a zoning map, aerial photograph pinpointing the historic building, six photographs of St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral with emphasis on the specific area pertaining to the COA, historic concept drawing of the Cathedral showing a colonnade (but unbuilt), historic architectural plan diagram showing the original location of the proposed colonnade, historic architectural plan showing the existing colonnade on the school side of the property, proposed site plan for the new colonnade, and proposed floor plan and elevations for the new colonnade. It was noted the existing brick sidewalk along the pathway of the proposed colonnade is to be removed to allow foundation installation but to these bricks are to be reinstalled as the sidewalk. Recommendation of the MPC Staff is Approval

Public Comments: The Acting Chair thanked Ms. Li and recognized Mr. Clarence Babineaux, the applicant and design architect for the new construction. Mr. Babineaux emphasized that although this is new construction, the colonnade was originally intended to be constructed in the 1950s with the historic site plan dated 1977. He re-emphasized the colonnade would enclose the open space called the Family Garden by connecting the Cathedral to the school. The current colonnade of the school building would not be demolished or altered with two of its existing support pillars touched by two corresponding support pillars of the new colonnade. It is intended for the materials and design of the new colonnade to match the current school colonnade. And there is awareness to only have a light touch between the new colonnade with the school and Cathedral.

HPC Discussion and Vote on Recommendation: The Acting Chair thanked Mr. Babineaux and asked for any questions or comments from the Commissioners and recognized Associate Commissioner Farrell who asked about the spacing of the support pillars for the new colonnade. Mr. Babineaux called attention to the proposed site plan within the COA that showed the pathway of an underground pipe trench that the new colonnade would cross over. Therefore, spacing of the eight supporting pillars of the new colonnade was influenced by this underground pathway. Associate Farrell asked about water collecting on or flooding the colonnade due to a heavy rain. Mr. Babineaux noted there would be internal to the support pillars, copper gutters allowing any water on the roof of the colonnade to run off.

Commissioner Callaway noted that the proposed colonnade would touch the exterior wall of the historic Cathedral and asked if the current side door and the exterior light fixture above the door would be modified. Mr. Babineaux noted the side door would remain however, the exterior light fixture would be taken off and the small window space above the door would be modified to allow the new colonnade to be flushed with the exterior wall. Intent is to lightly touch the existing buildings as only necessary. Commissioner Callaway noted that the side door in question and the touching of the new colonnade with the Cathedral would be masked by the existing bell tower of the Cathedral as well as from the primary view of the front elevation.

The Acting Chair thanked all and asked for any further comments or questions. Having none, the Acting Chair called for a motion second, and vote. Associate Commissioner Farrell made the motion to approve the COA, second by Commissioner Franklin with the resulting vote of three affirmative and none against.

5. Updates, Advising, Awareness, and HPC Business Items: The Acting Chair requested all to review the few items listed and asked for any questions or comments. There were none.

6. Public Comments: The Acting Chair asked for any public comments, there was none.

7. Adjournment: The Acting Chair asked for a motion to adjourn, second, and a vote. Commissioner Franklin made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Farrell resulting in three affirmative votes, none against. The Acting Chair adjourned the HPC Meeting at 4:36pm.