

Shreveport Historic Preservation Commission

MINUTES

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Council Chambers at Government Plaza
505 Travis Street
Shreveport, Louisiana

Commissioners

Commissioner Gary Joiner, Chair
Commissioner Lane Callaway, Secretary
Associate Commissioner Verni Howard
Associate Commissioner Mischa Farrell

Visitors

Madison Poche (COA 24-19-HPC)
Temple Williams (COA 24-20-HPC)
Robert Tomasek (COA 24-20-HPC)
Donald Pittard (Discussion)

Shreveport-Caddo Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC)

Mr. Adam Bailey, Community Planner / Design Manager, MPC and HPC Ex-Officio
Mr. Walter Johnson, Community Planner, MPC

City Attorney's Office

Mr. Tanner R. Yeldell, Assistant City Attorney

1. Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 4:02pm, with a quorum present.

Administrative Note: Due to absence of regular Commissioners for the June 18 session of HPC, Associate Commissioner Howard took the place of Commissioner White with Associate Commissioner Farrell taking the place of Commissioner Franklin.

2. Opening Remarks: The Chair read the memorandum titled, *Identifying Procedures for Review of Applications* to all present.

3. Approval of HPC Meeting Minutes: The Chair asked for questions, comments, and discussion on the HPC Minutes for May 21, 2024. Having none, the Chair asked for a motion, second, and vote. Associate Commissioner Farrell made the motion to approve, with second made by Associate Commissioner Howard. The motion passed with four affirmative votes, none against.

4. New Business:

a. Certificate of Appropriateness – COA 24-19-HPC: 520 Olive Street, Highland Historic District. Alteration; installation of roof solar panels.

MPC Staff Case Report: Mr. Johnson presented the application for the installation of solar panels on the eastern side of Building C's roof of the Highland Center. The COA consisted of broad photograph of the Highland Center from the primary street view, a zoning map, aerial photograph pinpointing the Center's campus, three photographs of the front façade of the Center from the primary street view, close-up photograph of the Center's front façade annotated with

the location of the proposed solar panels with on Building C, and site plan showing the Center's complex graphically. (Mr. Johnson provided an enlarged graphic of the site plan with Building C highlighted; handout is attached.)

The Center serves as a neighborhood emergency response location in situations when power or water goes out in the local area. The goal is to have backup electricity and water especially during natural disaster situations allowing neighborhood residents to have a safe place that allows assistance like charging medical devices.

Initial consideration was to treat this application as a Determination of No Material Effect but due to precedence set by the HPC in two previous applications for solar panels within the historic district, a full COA was submitted since the Highland Center complex is on a corner lot and the proposed solar panels could be seen from the primary street view / right of way.

The MPC Staff recommendation is Approval.

Public Comments: The Chair thanked Mr. Johnson and recognized Ms. Poche who noted she was attending to answer question but had no comments.

HPC Discussion and Vote on Recommendation: The Chair thanked Ms. Poche and asked for any comments or questions from the Commission and recognized Associate Commissioner Farrell who noted the complex had buildings with pitch roofs as well as flat so asked Ms. Poche if the solar panels would be on a pitch roof. Ms. Poche noted yes but the gym building when compared with the larger sanctuary building has a smaller pitch roof angle. The Chair inquired why not place the panels on the flat roof buildings. Ms. Poche indicated the solar panels on Building C, the gym, since it is used to shelter evacuated persons. Associate Commissioner Howard noted this complex is the primary emergency hub for the neighborhood and a second source of power is critical. Commissioner Callaway noted, notwithstanding the Highland Center's front façade occupies two corners, the proposed solar panels would face toward the interior of the property and be installed on a low pitch angled roof when compared with the nearby larger building with a high pitch roof.

Having no other comments or questions, the Chair asked for a motion, second and vote. Associate Commissioner Farrell made the motion to approve with the second by Associate Commissioner Howard; with the resulting four affirmative votes, none against.

b. Certificate of Appropriateness – COA 24-20-HPC: New construction of Jersey Style Barrier fencing along northern edge of G-UNIT Studios complex; vicinity corner of Douglas and Fannin Streets within St Paul's Bottoms Historic District.

MPC Staff Case Report: Mr. Johnson presented the application consisting of photographs of the front of G-UNIT Studios and the rear of the studio that runs along Fannin Street showing the new apartment complex on the other side of Fannin Street. The application also contained several maps; one showing the studio site within the historic district and a zoning map with the studio complex identified. A Construction Fencing Site Plan depicts the connection point of the existing fence with the proposed location as well as the length of the temporary fencing. Also, this Site Plan map highlights Fannin Street showing how this street is halved by the proposed fencing. The type of chain link steel fencing for the project is depicted and matches the current fencing already in use. It was emphasized that the proposed fencing would be positioned inside the right-of-way on Fannin Street.

This new fencing is temporary for 12 months and is to be removed once the proposed construction and remodeling are completed on the studio and its property.

The MPC Staff recommendation is Approval with three conditions. First, the receipt by MPC of a hard-copy HPC application signed by the property's owner. Secondly, the duration of the temporary fencing shall not exceed 12 months. Third, a Right-of-Way Encroachment Permit is submitted through the Department of Public Works / Engineering and approved by the City Council.

Public Comments: The Chair thanked Mr. Johnson and recognized Mr. Temple who noted this temporary fencing in the right-of-way is needed to allow better control of traffic on Fannin Street to facilitate the physical upgrading of the existing studio complex as well as new construction on the property. The temporary fence allows access control with a security system monitoring. Long term planning with the City Engineers is for a permanent barrier behind the studio to allow a service road but also envisioned allowing two-way traffic on Fannin.

HPC Discussion and Vote on Recommendation: The Chair thanked Mr. Temple and asked for any comments or questions from the Commission and recognized Associate Commissioner Farrell, who asked if a wire fencing would be better than a true Jersey barrier. Mr. Temple noted the heavy-duty fencing made of steel would be a formable barrier not easily breached. The Chair indicated that Fannin Street had been closed and essentially abandoned. Mr. Robert Tomasek, Traffic Engineering noted that the City owned the property but now with buildings on both sides of Fannin Street in this area, reopened Fannin Street. The Chair noted if digging is to be done for the studio expansion, to be sensitive since historical artifacts have been found underground in this area. Commissioner Callaway ask could Fannin Street be closed to traffic for exclusive used by the studio. Mr. Tomasek stated due to the newly completed apartments that run along Fannin and across the street from the studio, there must be road access for emergency vehicles.

Having no other comments or questions, the Chair asked for a motion, second and vote. Associate Commissioner Howard made the motion to approve with the three conditions. The motion was seconded by the Chair, with resulting vote of four affirmative votes, none against.

c. Discussion: Placement of camera poles within right-of-way at South Highlands Elementary School (South Highlands Historic District). The HPC per City Code acts as an advisory design review for City public works projects with historic preservation implications. Mr. Bailey provided the HPC a copy of an email (attached) from the project manager of the Blue Line Solutions that describes the project and contained three photographs camera poles. Mr. Donald Pittard, the Sale Representative of Blue Line was present to answer any questions.

The primary discussion was to address the color of the camera poles in the South Highland Historic District. Per the email provided, the contractor is attempting to address a complaint by a South Highlands resident on the proposed original camera pole being a Spun Alum silver-colored steel pole. These camera poles are being placed along the Fairfield Avenue in the vicinity of South Highlands Elementary School.

The Chair recognize Associate Commissioner Farrell who asked if the subject camera poles were to be in all school zones or specifically South Highlands Elementary School zone.

Mr. Pittard noted applies to the current school zone. Farrell noted that these camera poles could add to the traffic problems around this school for blocks so didn't understand why this zone. Mr. Pittard noted the contractor is attempting to work with the City, MPC and HPC on the installation. Commissioner Callaway asked Mr. Bailey to project the South Highlands Elementary School via Google Maps on the large conference room. Seeing the projected area, Callaway noted his experience of heavy traffic along the Line Avenue side of the school yard especially when students were being picked up by their families. He then asked to see the view along Fairfield Avenue where a newly installed silver-colored foot foundation for a camera pole was found near the curb. Mr. Pittard noted that photographs of license plates of vehicles exceeding the speed limit would be taken. The Chair asked if the pictures are traditional photographs or digitally sent to a processing center. Mostly digital. There was discussion on pole materials – steel or wood as well as how powered – electric wire or solar. From the email provided, it appears the contractor probably be using AC electricity with connections to the nearby electrical power poles.

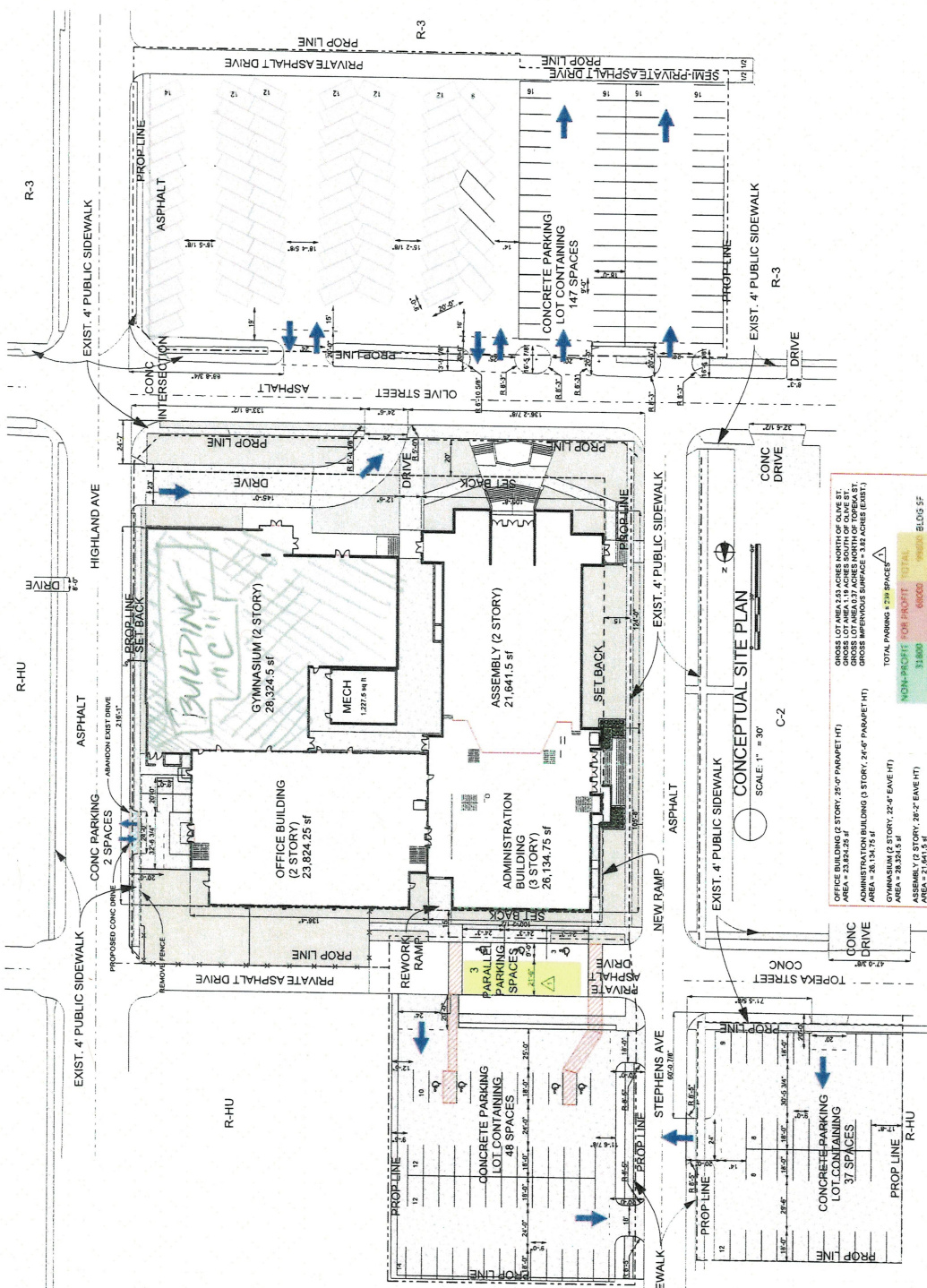
After listening to the questions, comments, and discussion – the Chair brought the discussion to an end summarizing the consensus and opinion of HPC. The camera poles need to be least intrusive, not interfere with the view shed, and dark colored poles.

5. Updates, Advising, Awareness, and HPC Business Items: The Chair asked Commissioner Callaway to summarize the two items on the agenda.

- Update: Designation of The Strand Theatre as a National Landmark – Commissioner Callaway noted receiving comments from the State Historical Preservation Office on the draft Letter of Inquiry that is to be submitted to the Southeast Regional Office to start the formal nomination process.
- Awareness: On June 14, Commissioner Callaway conducted a windshield tour for staff members from the Division of Historic Preservation in Baton Rouge. This focused tour visited Old Galilee Church, Antioch Church, Barret School, State Office Building, Fairfield Historic District, Texas Avenue commercial area, and St Paul's Bottoms / Leadbetter Heights Historic District.

6. Public Comments: The Chair asked for any public comments and there were none.

7. Adjournment: The Chair requested a motion to adjourn and asked for a second and vote. Associate Commissioner Farrell made the motion that was seconded by Associate Commissioner Howard with the motion passed by four affirmative votes, none against. The Chair adjourned the HPC Meeting at 5:17pm.



OFFICE BUILDING (2 STORY, 25'0" PARAPET HT)
AREA = 23,824.25 SF

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (3 STORY, 24'6" PARAPET HT)
AREA = 26,134.75 SF

GYMNASIUM (2 STORY, 25'4" EAVE HT)
AREA = 28,324.5 SF

ASSEMBLY (2 STORY, 26'2" EAVE HT)
AREA = 21,041.5 SF

TOTAL AREA = 99,325 SF

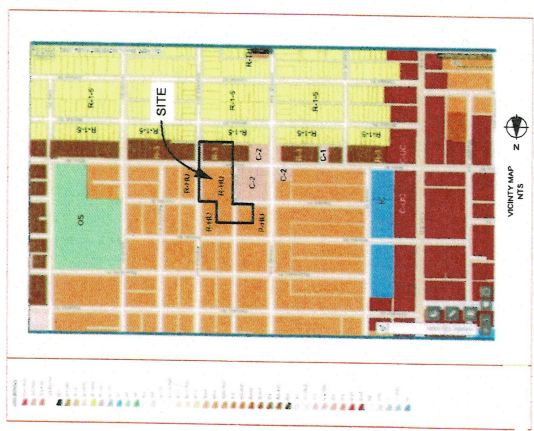
CONCRETE PARKING LOT CONTAINING 147 SPACES

CONCRETE PARKING LOT CONTAINING 31 SPACES

CONCRETE PARKING LOT CONTAINING 48 SPACES

NON-PROFIT	FOR PROFIT	TOTAL
31,000	60,000	91,000
300	500	800
105	134	239
TOTAL PARKING = 239 SPACES		

NOTE: INFORMATION IS BASED ON BEST DATA AVAILABLE AND WILL NEED TO BE VERIFIED WITH SURVEY.



CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN
SCALE: 1" = 30'

DATE: 12/18/2020

PROJECT #
SHEET #

REMODEL - HIGHLAND CENTER
520 OLIVE ST SHREVEPORT, LA 71104
CADDO PARISH

OFFICE (50) 1278-1114
SUITE 310
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71104
WWW.NEWMANNINC.COM

ARCHITECTURE/
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
A VETERAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS

NEWMAN
MARCHIVE
INCORPORATED

Adam Bailey

Subject:

FW: South Highlands Elementary School

My name is Gil Darmofal, I am a project manager for Blue Line Solutions and I am working on the School zone Speed Cameras at South Highlands Elementary School school zone on Fairfield Ave. I have just taken over this project and I was told that we went to put up the camera poles and someone did not like the pole we were going to use which is a Spun Alum pole shown below in picture 2 (2A) in this Historical district, what I am proposing is using this black pole shown in picture 3 (3B). I have included a picture of the current light pole which is on Erie street in front of the school and the light pole on that street is shown in picture 1 (1B), But these poles I am working on are going on Fairfield ave School zone and on Fairfield they have the Standard wood pole Street light shown in picture 1(1A). One of the spots we are putting the camera pole is shown in picture 1 (1C), and I am hoping for your approval to use this black pole (3B) for the cameras on Fairfield ave, I think they will look nice enough for everyone in the Historical area. Which brings up one more concern, we will need to address, and even with this nicer pole, I am assuming that everyone will not want to see some large solar panels on top of this pole, so again with your permission we would want to make these cameras A/C power, and with the power poles right there this shouldn't be an issue to get the power. But just to be clear we would need to get the agency agreement on this, because they will be responsible for the monthly power bill, which is a minimal cost that can be taken out of the funds collected by these cameras, many of our customers do this, it also makes the cameras more dependable than solar.

So in conclusion I just want to get your approval to move forward with these poles, I am not sure who has to approve these to be put up in this area, like I said all I know of is our contractor went to put up the Spun Alum and they were told not to put them up because they don't look good in this historical district streets.

Let me know your thoughts and Concerns

Thanks in Advance

Gil Darmofal
Project Manager
Blue Line Solutions
c-951-808-2718
o-423-541-9317

.....• Leading-edge traffic safety technology •.....

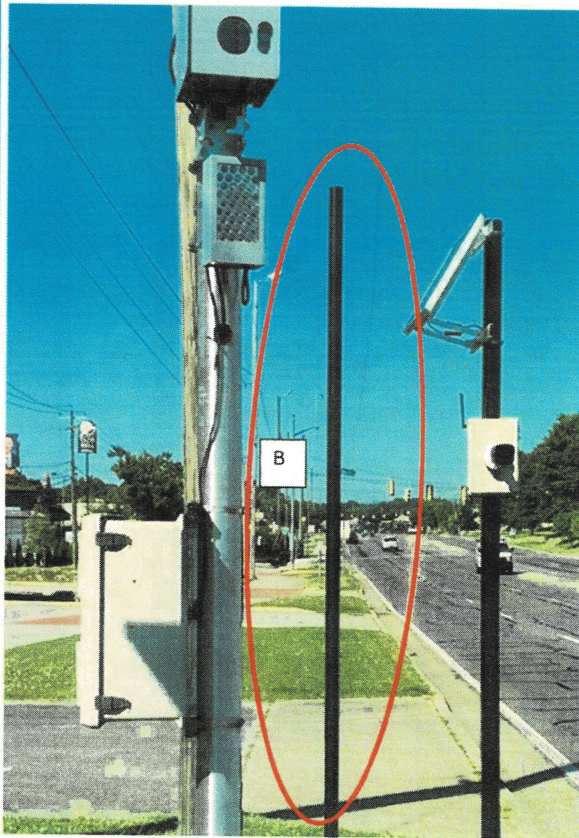
TRUEBLUE™
SPEED ENFORCEMENT | SYSTEMS



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3