

BOROUGH OF FAIR HAVEN
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
748 River Road, Fair Haven, NJ 07704

Regular Meeting Minutes -October 26, 2021 – 7:00 pm

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mr. Pavluk, Commission Chair, with the reading of the Open Public Meetings Act statement (below).

Roll Call

Present: Art Pavluk, Patricia Drummond, Jay Anderson, Carrie Nitka

Absent: Hillary Mullen, Michelle Mandia, Joseph Schluter, Steve Smith

Also in attendance: Councilman Chris Rodriguez

Mr. Pavluk introduced the agenda item of: Discussion and Recap of Bicentennial Hall Renovations.

Councilman Rodriguez reviewed the grant funding timeline for renovations of Bicentennial Hall. He stated there is no intent to change the look of the building. There is an ADA ramp that is part of the project that will be placed on the backside of the building. He suggested that the Facilities Committee is interested in using Bicentennial Hall versus the Municipal Hall for meetings.

Questions were asked by the Commission regarding active recreation. Councilman Rodriguez said that this type of use is not currently planned for the building.

Councilman Rodriguez also said that there is currently not a plan to touch the choir loft and altar.

Councilman Rodriguez spoke of increasing the efficiency of the building without harming its integrity.

Mr. Pavluk stated that at the July meeting he was able to review plans and concepts. He is concerned about the dais blocking the front doors. He asked how flexible the Borough is to making modifications to the interior.

Councilman Rodriguez explained that the plans have been submitted to the State. He wonders whether the plans can be massaged and resubmitted.

Mr. Anderson feels the front of the building should stay the front of the building. He hopes placement of the dais can be revisited.

Mrs. Drummond suggested that other mayors have had meetings at Bicentennial Hall and have used long tables as opposed to the dais at the front doors. She also gave a brief overview of when the building was used as a church.

Mr. Anderson liked the idea of bringing history alive at the building and mentioned plans of placing kiosks in the building.

Mrs. Drummond reminded the Commission of when the Emancipation Proclamation was read by school children in the church.

Mr. Anderson expressed concern in the detailing of the building. He mentioned engaging architects that can attain the desired functionality while maintaining the historic aspects of the building. He also expressed concern about the architect that is working on the project.

Mr. Pavluk thinks the project is on a fast track and there doesn't appear to be thought for the historic nature of the building. He stated that he'd like the Historic Preservation Commission to play a role in this project.

Councilman Rodriguez spoke of three options for placing the dais in the building:

- In front of the choir and altar
- Blocking the front entrance
- On the South side of the building

Councilman Rodriguez spoke of the requirements for circulation.

There was additional discussion of a movable dais.

Mr. Pavluk asked how the Commission can work with the Facilities Committee.

Councilman Rodriguez said that a writeup should go to Theresa Casagrande and Rich Gardella that states a preference for:

- Southern access for placement of the dais with wiring from the floor
- Movable monitors and tables
- Adhere to grants to maximize funds
- History first and efficiency second

Mrs. Drummond reiterated that history should be considered first.

Mr. Pavluk opened the meeting again to the public.

Stephanie Rapp from the Green Team spoke of her role with the Facilities Committee. She stated the importance of using what we have and re-energizing this piece of Fair Haven history with the intent to preserve it for the next generation. She'd like to see the building as a destination. She suggested the placement of indigenous plants on the exterior. She stressed the need to work together.

Councilman Rodriguez also mentioned doing an audit on the building by JCP&L to determine ways to better condition the building. He also said he would represent the ideas to the Facilities Meeting.

The Commission then discussed 2022 calendar and chose the following meeting dates for the Borough Calendar:

January 25, 2022

February 24, 2022

March 22, 2022

April 28, 2022

May 24, 2022

June 28, 2022

July 26, 2022
August 23, 2022
September 27, 2022
October 25, 2022
November 29, 2022
December 22, 2022

A MOTION was made Mr. Pavluk with second by Mr. Anderson to approve the dates for 2022 meetings of the Historic Preservation Commission.

In favor: Pavluk, Drummond, Anderson, Nitka

Opposed: None

A MOTION was made by Mr. Pavluk with a second by Mr. Anderson to approve the minutes from July 2021.

In favor: Pavluk, Drummond, Anderson, Nitka

Opposed: None

A MOTION was made by Mr. Pavluk with a second by Mr. Anderson to approve the minutes from September 2021.

In favor: Pavluk, Drummond, Anderson, Nitka

Opposed: None

Mr. Pavluk made a motion to adjourn that was carried by voice vote at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Papa
Historical Preservation Commission
Secretary

Public Announcement of Compliance

THIS IS THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE BOROUGH OF FAIR HAVEN. THIS MEETING WAS CALLED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT. NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS INCLUDED IN A SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS SENT TO THE ASBURY PARK PRESS, THE TWO RIVER TIMES, THE HUB AND THE STAR LEDGER ON JANUARY 28, 2021, POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND ON THE BOROUGH WEBSITE AND HAS REMAINED CONTINUOUSLY POSTED AS REQUIRED UNDER THE STATUTE. IN ADDITION, COPIES OF THE ABOVE NOTICES ARE AND HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERK.