



Division of Development Administration and Review
 City of Pittsburgh, Department of City Planning
 200 Ross Street, Third Floor
 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219
HISTORIC REVIEW COMMISSION OF PITTSBURGH

Minutes of the Meeting of February 4, 2009
 Beginning at 12:00 PM
 200 Ross Street
 First Floor Hearing Room
 Pittsburgh, PA 15219

In Attendance:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Others</u>
Michael Stern, Chair	Katherine Molnar	Kenneth Minton
		Shane McCollum
Ruth Drescher		
Jill Joyce		
Sergei Matveiev		
Noor Ismail		

Old Business

Nominations Report: There is one building in the nomination process. Ms. Molnar reported that the Workingmen’s Savings Bank building is scheduled for City Council public hearing on 2-17-09.

New Business

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Molnar described the updates from January regarding the preservation community and the scheduling of a meeting regarding demolitions. She said the HRC members would be invited, if possible. Molnar asked for approval for the January 2009 minutes. Ms. Ismail motioned to approve the minutes; Ms. Drescher seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Certificates of Appropriateness: Molnar directed the commissioners to the Certificates of Appropriateness. In regards to the January 2009 Certificates of Appropriateness, Ms. Joyce moved to approve, Ms. Ismail seconded the motion, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Applications for Economic Hardship: None.

Hearing Items: Discussion on hearing items follows on the attached pages.

Adjourn: Ms. Drescher motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Joyce seconded the motion, all voted in favor.

ATTACHMENTS

526 Avery Street

Mexican War Streets Historic District

OWNER:	WARD:.....23 rd	APPLICATION RECEIVED:	
Kareem Gahed	LOT & BLOCK:.....0023-S-00081	SITE VISITS:	00/00/00
62 WATER ST APT 2A 1311	INSPECTOR:.....R. Freyermuth	CERTIFICATES OF APP.:	00/00/00
BROOKLYN, NY 11201	COUNCIL DISTRICT:.....6 th		
APPLICANT:	ZONING CLASSIFICATION:.....		00-000
N/A	ARCH. RATING:.....		
REGISTER:	LISTED..... <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	ELIGIBLE.....	<input type="checkbox"/>

Unapproved Changes:

Installation of glass block windows at basement level

DISCUSSION:

- Ms. Molnar introduced the agenda item by saying that the HRC had seen this building in the past. She gave the background history of the violation. At the Court of Common Appeals, the judge told the applicant to come back to the HRC so that the HRC could approve something other than glass block windows. Molnar said that she had discussed with the applicant the options of 1) reinstalling original pane glass windows, 2) installing bars over the windows, or 3) the possibility of installing some type of screening device, such as a planter in front of the windows.
- Mr. Stern invited the applicant to the table. Patrick Tomassay introduced himself to the HRC as the homeowner’s representative. The client lives in Brooklyn. Tomassay asked for an advisory opinion. He said that the client talked to a carpenter who could construct a planter out of wood, or concrete. They would plant evergreens that could stay green all year around. He said the other possibility would be to build another frame over the existing glass block windows. Tomassay said he didn’t want to spend the money to have to come back to the HRC with another scheme that the HRC would not approve. His deadline is May, when the case comes back before the judge.
- Stern asked what the judge ordered? Tomassay said that the judge continued the case until may, and if the client did not comply, the judge would issue a fine. Stern said that the HRC’s role is not to tell the applicant what to do, but rather to “approve” or “not approve” applications. He said he did not think the planter would be a good option because 1) a permanent encroachment permit would be necessary from the City (and might not be available), and 2) it would be a continuing maintenance issue, and the HRC has no guarantee that the owner would maintain it. To reframe with glass over the front is questionable because you would see the glass block through the glass, right?
- Ms. Joyce said she thought it was strange that the applicant was spending a lot of money to “not spend a lot of money.” Joyce said she didn’t think it would be that big of a project to have an approved window installed.
- Tomassay said that the owner did the glass block because it was a safety issue. Molnar showed several examples of windows with bars. Drescher asked about the possibility of covering the grout. Stern said that the simplest solution would be to install bars over glass windows.
- Molnar indicated that when she talked to the owner via phone, he told Molnar that he still had the frames of the removed windows in the basement, and that reinstalling them wouldn’t be that difficult. Tomassay said that he

would probably just tell his client to reinstall the original windows, and that he would call Katie. Stern said that could be an administrative approval. Molnar asked if there would be a safety glass product available to install as glazing, so that the building could still have some level of security.

- 7. Joyce said there was a 3M product, a safety film that could be applied to the window.
- 8. Tomassay said he would look into that option, and he promised to fix the windows.
- 9. Matveiev said the film would not stop people from breaking the window, but would only stop it from shattering. He said there are various thicknesses of polycarbonate that could be a good security application.

MOTION: Ms. Ismail.....moved that the HRC not approve the glass block windows, covering the glass block windows, and not approve the planter.

SECOND: Mr. Matveiev....seconded the motion.

IN FAVOR: *All.....PASSED*

OPPOSED: *None*