

Submitted @
meeting
090007

6/4/2009

Henrichs, Darlene

From: Scott Gill [rs.gill@themeworks.com] *Bill Warriner*
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2009 1:39 PM
To: Hanrahan, Pegeen; Hawkins, Jr., Thomas; Mastrodicasa, Jeanna; Henry, Scherwin L.; Poe, Lauren B.; Donovan, John F. - Commissioner; Lowe, Craig
Cc: Henrichs, Darlene; 'Scott Gill'
Subject: Heritage District Overlay

Dear Madam Mayor and Gainesville City Commissioners:

During the meeting of the Gainesville Historic Preservation Board last night, the board was updated on the potential addition of a Heritage Overlay District by city staff. During the discussion, it was mentioned that the Historic Preservation Board may be considered as the oversight/review board for the new district.

As a member of the Historic Preservation Board, I strongly oppose adding the new district to our responsibilities. As I understand it, the district would be similar to many "neighborhood associations" in an attempt to provide some protection from either undesired development or change of the property. If such a district were to be created, I think that it should be managed by the property owners in the district, not by another board.

Additionally, the design standards that are being considered will, in my opinion, be a catalyst for many a contentious discussion. What one person may consider a fine landscape or house color may be considered tacky, offensive or just in plain poor taste by another.

Furthermore as "mid-century" properties become eligible for protection under our preservation laws, the board's work load will increase dramatically. Adding another responsibility might overload the board.

While I understand that of the existing citizen boards, the Historic Preservation Board may be best suited to the task, I feel strongly that it would be a poor choice over a new board comprised of members from the district.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Gill
Historic Preservation Board Member

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