

1028 SW 6th Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601
May 24, 2007

P. 185

Ms. D. Henrichs, Historic Planner
Mr. Jay Reeves, Chair, and
Members of the Historic Preservation Board

Meeting/Hearing April 3, 2007
Re: Board approval, Petition 36COA-07HPB

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at the above captioned Historic Preservation Board meeting.

Attached is the letter I brought to the meeting, modified slightly in an attempt to more closely reflect what I actually said.

I also wanted to express my appreciation for the Board's sensitivity to the issue of the massiveness of the project in contrast with the historic buildings, as several property owners pointed out as well.

Mr. Cavallino made references to the builders' "right" to build a 4-story apartment complex. I appreciate the Board addressing the question as to whether the guidelines established such a right or entitlement, and whether the Board would therefore be required to approve such a project. as I understand it, the Board's response was that it was not so required, indicating that there was no such entitlement. In fact, I notice on p. 185 of the Guidelines, under "Not Recommended," it lists, "Designing new buildings whose massing and scale is inappropriate and whose materials and texture are not compatible with the character of the district."

flexible context
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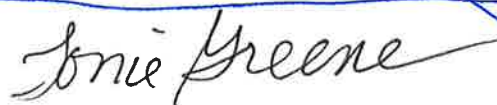
Mr. Fogler, while not in attendance at this meeting, has asserted previously that his rights to do whatever he wants with his property are being infringed on by the existence of a historic district with its attendant rules, requirements, etc. This prompted me to ask: Do I or other owners have any rights or reasonable expectations of living in a historic district, or do just the big builders have rights, as they assert? Do residents of Gainesville at large have any rights or reasonable expectations for their historic districts to protect valuable historic assets as part of the overall quality of life in Gainesville?

I also appreciate a Board member's suggestion that one way to decrease the size was to decrease the number of apartments, and also the Chair's comment that a parking garage was problematical, and none exists in the historic district.

I also appreciated the words of a Board member to Mr. Cavallino, to the effect that they should start over with new plans and heed the comments of the neighbors that it is much too big, that they need to make major (what was the exact adjective?) changes, not only cosmetic ones.

In addition, I am attaching a list of "bullet points" (with or without bullets) indicating what I would like to see happen. Of course, I also went into that in the letter.

Thank you,



Antonia Greene

Fl'Pres Rel + Desig Guidelines