

BERRYVILLE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
Berryville-Clarke County Government Center
MINUTES OF ORGANIZATIONL MEETING
Wednesday, January 3, 2024

A meeting of the Berryville Architectural Review Board was held on Wednesday January 3, 2024 at 12:30 p.m. in the Berryville – Clarke County Government Center located at 101 Chalmers Court in Berryville, Virginia.

Attendance

The following members of the Board were present: Susan Godfrey, Jon Burge, Satkuna Mathur, Mary Serock

Member absent: Robin McFillen

Press present: Mickey Powell, Winchester Star

Staff present: Christy Dunkle, Community Development Director

Call to Order

Ms. Dunkle called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Election of Officers – chair and vice chair

Ms. Dunkle called for nominations for chair and vice chair. Ms. Mathur made the motion to retain Ms. Godfrey and Ms. McFillen as chair and vice chair, respectively. The motion was seconded by Mr. Burge and passed by voice vote.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Godfrey asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Mather made the motion, seconded by Ms. Serock, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed by voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Burge made the motion to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2023 meeting as presented, seconded by Ms. Mathur, the motion passed by voice vote.

Approval of meeting dates

Ms. Dunkle asked that members review the proposed meeting dates for 2024. Ms. Serock made the motion, seconded by Ms. Mathur to approve the meeting dates as presented. The motion passed by voice vote.

Architectural Review

Dorothy P. Davis and Helena Goldberg, Agents for Descendants of Clarke County Enslaved Committee, (Clarke Parish, Owner), is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness in order to install a statue at the property located at 110 North Buckmarsh Street, identified as Tax Map Parcel number 14A2-((A))-41, zoned R-3 Residential.

Chair Godfrey reviewed the request. There was a discussion about the address of the property. She recognized Helena Goldberg. Ms. Goldberg described the project and introduced Dorothy Davis. Ms. Davis explained the project saying that the statue will be in commemoration of the 4,735 slaves who labored in Clarke County. She discussed the Juneteenth event at the Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds at which boy scouts planted 4,735 flags to honor the enslaved individuals in Clarke County. Ms. Davis said this event was the start of the statue installation discussion.

Ms. Goldberg said they have conducted fundraising activities since the Juneteenth celebration and have raised approximately \$3,000 to date. She said the descendants committee was formed in mid-August. She said the committee has engaged area churches for input and a request to participate in the project. She said the committee selected the property on North Buckmarsh Street that is owned by St. Mary's Parish. Ms. Goldberg said that the concept and location has been approved by four church-related bodies including the trustees, congregation, and vestry of St. Mary's parish and the Episcopal Archdiocese of Virginia adding that the Berryville Architectural Review Board was the last approval needed before they can begin fundraising and eventual fabrication. She said they are now also able to apply for project grants.

Ms. Serock said this is a fabulous project and asked about the size of the proposed base and statue. There was a discussion about the size which was presented as six feet tall. Mr. Burge asked about the specific location of the statue, assuming that this was dictated by rock on the property. Ms. Goldberg confirmed that they are aware of this issue. Mr. Burge recommended that the statue be located behind the front of both the house on the parcel and the church in order to keep the streetscape consistent. He discussed the base material, referencing the adjacent brick building and steeples and the vernacular architectural in the Town's historic district. Mr. Burge recommended that the base be brick or brick veneer.

Mikisa Shaajhante, the artist of the conceptual design, introduced himself to ARB members. He presented the drawing and discussed the use of bricks on the base. He indicated that the base would be four feet tall and the statue three feet tall. There was a discussion about the size. Mr. Shaajhante said he would like a total of seven feet and that the committee had determined that this size would be fine. ARB members recommended that the height of the statue shall not exceed eight (8) feet.

Clyde Brown said the base material would be brick or granite. Mr. Burge referenced the Secretary of Interior Standards on which ARB approvals are generally based and recommended that brick would be appropriate due to the existing context of historic Berryville. There was a discussion about using brick veneer and the base cap being concrete.

Mr. Burge asked whether there would be an accessible path. Ms. Goldberg said there would be. Mr. Burge asked about the material intended for the sculpture itself. Ms. Goldberg said that bronze would be ideal and that granite is their second choice due to possible cost concerns. Ms. Mathur reiterated that bronze would likely hold up better over time. Mr. Burge asked why the statue included just arms and no head or torso. Ms. Goldberg said the original concept was a bird and then the committee decided on the design presented at the meeting. Ms. Davis said that she had seen a similar design in Fredericksburg on a site where slaves were sold.

There was a discussion about the proposed lighting. It was determined that fencing, signage, and lighting will be discussed at a future submission.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Burge made the following motion:
I move that the statue be approved with the following conditions:

- That the base and statue do not exceed eight (8) feet in height,
- that the base be brick or brick veneer
- that the statue be placed in line with or behind the front setback of the existing house and church on either side of the proposed location, and
- that the fencing, signage, and lighting be reviewed by the ARB when these items are determined by the applicant.

Ms. Serock seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Other

Ms. Serock said that criteria for judging the Christmas parking meters should be established by the ARB. Mr. Burge said he has done that in the past and feels that it is a good option and would make the decisions cleaner. He said he uses a point system that includes creativity, craftsmanship, Christmas spirit, and how the meter is incorporated into the design. He added that Berryville Main Street could add this to their marketing for the event this year. Ms. Serock said she would act as a liaison with Berryville Main Street to establish the criteria.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, Ms. Serock made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Burge, at 1:15 p.m.

Susan Godfrey, Chair

Christy Dunkle, Recording Secretary