

**HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 14, 2016**

**Present:** Sam McGinley, Pat Long, Alan Uhler, Walt Schneider, Mack Mahan

**Excused:** Megan Tooker, Robert Lingenfelter,

**Staff Present:** Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager

**Guests:**

---

**Call to Order:**

- S. McGinley called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

**Additions/Corrections to the Agenda:**

- None.

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest:**

- None.

**Declaration of Ex Parte Communication:**

- None.

**Approval of Minutes:** W. Schneider made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 24, 2016. A. Uhler seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

**Project Review and Public Comments:**

**Project Review #1**

**118 East Curtin Street**

**Represented by:** Antoinette Hesser

**Description of Proposed Work:** Place a railing on the steps on side porch; the top is slate; barely visible from right-of-way.

**HARB Discussion:** The Code Officer went through and they are requiring a railing. She thought about a black wrought iron railing that would look nice with the property and blend in, but she is open to suggestions. There is an aluminum that would look like wrought iron and she felt it would last longer. Mr. Schneider said the aluminum would flex more as people hold on to it. It was suggested that she consider changing where she anchors the railing because it would be better to anchor behind rather than on top.

**HARB Recommendation:** W. Schneider made a motion to approve a black wrought iron rail to be installed. A. Uhler seconded the motion. HARB members approved the motion for recommendation to Borough Council at their meeting of June 20, 2016.

**Project Review #2**

### **145 South Thomas Street**

**Represented by:** Albert Drobka

**Description of Proposed Work:** Add a fire escape on the right hand side from the third floor. There currently is one on the left hand side of the building. The material will be the same as on the left hand side. This is to bring the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor into compliance.

**HARB Discussion:** This is a double house with a dividing wall that separates the house down the middle. There are two rental apartments on the third floor and code requires there to be two means of egress. The two apartments on the third floor are accessed by a common stair. The fire escape is required to be a minimum of 22" wide. There is a 7' side yard setback. They are permitted to encroach in that setback three feet. The materials will be wood and there will need to be changes to some of the windows to make them fire resistant. It will be stained to look like the existing stair. The apartment is rented by a family member. When Russell was the inspector in 2006 he said the apartment couldn't be rented by the public so it was rented to family. Mr. Schneider said the fact that his daughter is living in the other unit is treated as a close relative and is exempt. The existing windows are double hung made out of wood. The proposed window will be made out of metal with the wire glass and will have fire rated construction painted to match the existing window.

**HARB Recommendation:** W. Schneider made a motion to approve the project as presented. P. Long seconded the motion. W. Schneider made a request that they keep the old window so it could be put back in place at a later date if it would cease to be an apartment. W. Schneider amended his motion to include the maintaining of the old window. P. Long seconded the amendment. HARB members approved the motion for recommendation to Borough Council at their meeting of June 20, 2016.

### **Project Review #3**

#### **106 North Allegheny Street**

**Represented by:** Al Drobka

**Description of Proposed Work:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor steel balcony storefront

**HARB Discussion:** This building is in the commercial block in front of the insurance office. The Code Office did their inspection and it was recommended that the existing front railing have spindles added to it so the spacing between the railings is less than 4", which would bring it into compliance with the building code. They would like to fabricate a screened panel that would be powder coated and clipped to the railing in a secure fashion. They will leave the current railings there, strip them and keep them black. The panels will be a mesh that will be powder coated.

**HARB Recommendation:** W. Schneider made a motion to approve. A. Uhler seconded the motion. HARB members approved the motion for recommendation to Borough Council at their meeting of June 20, 2016.

#### **Administrative Approval:**

- None.

#### **Information/Discussion Items:**

- None.

#### **Old Business:**

- When Pat Long was at the Children's Fair she was walking down Armor Street and almost broke her ankle because there is a railroad tie along the sidewalk that was completely rotted and is down in. She was talking with a friend and roamed over. She would like somebody to look at it. Mr. Stewart said it would be a property maintenance issue.

- W. Schneider reported at the Council meeting on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, one of the two art benches will be coming back to HARB for discussion. They approved the one for the library. The Talleyrand Park Committee is not interested in having the bench in Talleyrand Park. He suggested members come to the meeting with some suggestions on where to put the bench.

**New Business:**

- It was requested to put the HARB vacancy on the agenda. Mr. Stewart will put it on the Council agenda for June 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment:**

- With no further business to come before HARB W. Schneider made a motion to adjourn the June 14, 2016 meeting. P. Long seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.