to: Historic Preservation Commission
from: Ed Zimmer
re: Agenda of June 18, 2009
date: June 12, 2009

The June 2009 meeting will be the first for new member Greg Munn, an architect with Bahr Vermeer Haecker. The Commission may wish to make a resolution of recognition for Jerry Berggren, who served on Historic Preservation Commission for 19 years.

Item 3: Grand Manse/Old Federal Building

A circular sign for "The Gallery at Grand Manse," measuring approximately 18" in diameter, has been installed for a few months adjacent to the east entrance to Grand Manse. The Commission asked that I bring a depiction of the sign (attached) so that its appropriateness could be reviewed.

The preservation guidelines for the building include among items requiring review:
The addition or replacement of signs…
The guidelines for this building are drawn directly from the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for historic rehabilitation. Signs are addressed only generally, with the "Recommended" column including the statement

> *Using new plant materials, fencing, walkways, street lights, signs and benches that are compatible with the character of the neighborhood in size, scale, material and color.*

and "Not Recommended" including

> *Introducing signs, street lighting, benches, new plant materials, fencing, walkways and paving materials that are out of scale or inappropriate to the neighborhood. [Emphasis added.]*

The circular sign is rather modest in size and understated in its black, white, and gold color scheme. However, placing individual signs at the entrances to this monumental building, identifying individual tenants and spaces within, is inconsistent with the historic and architectural character of the building and contradicts the rationale of installing the two large electronic message board signs, intended for announcing the various tenants and activities in the building.

Recommended finding:	"The Gallery at Grand Manse" sign is not compatible with the historic architectural character of the landmark.
Recommended action:	Denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Item 4: Facade improvement in Havelock Avenue Landmark District

The Commission was updated in April on the Havelock Avenue facade improvement project, funded by Urban Development Department and designed by Scott Sullivan. Numerous projects will be ready for the Commission's review on June 18. In addition to making another presentation at the meeting, Scott will provide discs showing the various projects. We will mail those to the Commission in advance of the meeting, hopefully on Monday June 15.

Item 5: Speedway Properties project on N. 8th Street, Q to R Streets (east side)

Craig Smith requested an opportunity to discuss Speedway's plans with the Commission. I have not received materials for distribution.

Item 6: Café Indigo sidewalk cafe/street furniture:

Café Indigo operates a bookstore and coffee house/café at 701 P Street (The Creamery). They have applied to the City for a sidewalk café permit on the sidewalk north of their building. The request is simply to place three tables with chairs on the sidewalk west of the front (north) steps, without an enclosure or railing. Under

the City's Outdoor Dining ordinance, furniture provided in this manner can be used by any visitor, while the café operator remains responsible for securing, cleaning, and otherwise maintaining the furniture and space. A sketch of the proposed positioning of the tables is attached.

Item #7
Engineering Design Consultants request a Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign at the landmark Foster House, 1021 D Street. The Special Permit for this property permitted a free-standing sign up to six feet in height, with two faces of up to 10 square feet each. The applicant is requesting instead a single-sided sign to be hung above the porch railing (attached).

The preservation guidelines for the landmark state:

> *Any exterior signs shall be compatible with the historic and architectural character of the building. Freestanding signs, detached from the building but not blocking vistas of the principal facade, are preferred. Any street address designation shall also be compatible with the historic and architectural character of the building.*

While the proposed sign is not "freestanding," it is modestly placed within the design of the porch and not directly installed against the facade and does not appear to block view of architectural features. Two alternatives are offered for the Commission's consideration. The size is not indicated but it appears to be less than 10 square feet in sign area. Dimensions and method of installation should be provided.

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