

Lauer, Martha

From: ashley henkel <ahenkelmorris@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2014 10:47 AM
To: Lauer, Martha; Tully, Tania
Subject: Society for the Preservation of Historic Oakwood's Input for the Revisions to the Design Guidelines for Raleigh Historic Districts

September 17, 2013

Dear Martha Lauer & Tania Tully,

Thank you for your fine work in helping to preserve our historic districts.

We are writing regarding the upcoming revisions to the *Design Guidelines for Raleigh Historic Districts*. Thank you for your willingness to consider the input of citizens, most specifically the citizens of the historic districts.

Oakwood is the largest of the City of Raleigh historic districts, in terms of number of residents and number of properties. It generates the largest number of applications for Certificates of Appropriateness. And it is among Raleigh's major tourist attractions. Every week we host tour groups as well as individual tourists. We host many road races throughout the year. Our annual Candlelight Tour brings several thousands to Oakwood. Our annual Garden Tea and Tour was recently written up in *Southern Living* magazine. And we welcome thousands of children every Halloween.

Oakwood's value to its residents, to the city, to tourists, and to posterity, depends on the preservation of its historic character. The Society for the Preservation of Historic Oakwood (SPHO) has worked to preserve this historic character since 1972, when it led the fight to stop the expressway that would have leveled Oakwood. The board of directors of the SPHO is elected each year by the residents of Oakwood.

The board of directors of the SPHO has recently heard concerns of residents that the historic character of the neighborhood is likely to be compromised by the intrusion of new houses and additions that do not reflect Oakwood's historic character. Recent decisions of the Raleigh Historic Development Commission indicate that the current language of the *Design Guidelines* is not sufficient to protect our historic character. Therefore, the board of directors of the SPHO, at its meeting on November 14, 2013, voted to request that the following changes be made to the revised *Design Guidelines*. These changes are all written in the language of the *Guidelines*, and do not conflict with any existing provisions. The board, at its meeting on September 16, 2014, voted to re-submit this request. The vote was 8 in favor, 5 opposed, with two abstentions.

We request that the following three subsections be added to *Guidelines* Section 4.3 New Construction:

.12 Design new construction so that it preserves and maintains the historic character of the district.

.13 Design new construction to reflect a single architectural style within the period of significance of the district.

.14 It is not appropriate to construct a new building that is notably or conspicuously different from nearby buildings that contribute to the special character of the historic district, in terms of architectural style, materials, form, size, massing, proportion, roof shape, or overall appearance.

We request that the following subsection be added to *Guidelines* Section 4.2 Additions to Historic Buildings:

.10 It is not appropriate to construct an addition that is notably or conspicuously different from the original building in terms of architectural style, materials, form, proportion, or roof shape.

We further request that wherever the word "**compatible**" appears in *Guidelines* Sections 4.2 and 4.3, it be replaced with "**compatible and consistent.**"

Thank you for helping us to preserve Oakwood's historic character.

Ashley Morris
President, Society for the Preservation of Historic Oakwood

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