

JAN 6, 2015 PH-3
DAVE PARKER

To: Mayor and City Commissioners
From: David L. Parker, PhD, Sailboat Bend Civic Association Treasurer and Board Member
Re: Rivermont Demolition

Good Evening Mayor and Commission Members:

I'm Dave Parker, a past President of the Sailboat Bend Civic Association, an active member of the Sailboat Bend Civic Association Board for many years and continuing as Treasurer for a second year. I learned that Rivermont was a neighborhood historic house by participating in planning of the past annual Sailboat Bend House & Garden Tours. [T-SHIRT]

Recently very valuable information, now available to the Commission, poses a problem for accepting the validity of Sailboat Civic Association General Meeting Vote and the results of subsequent hearings on the demolition of the Rosemont House:

a) General Meeting Vote – this vote was based upon information given to the assembled 13 voting members by the architect for the Grosmans; unfortunately, information from the architect is being disputed by David Baber, Historic Preservation Specialist (information now available to the Commission). The residents are not experts and trust professionals, but not all of the relevant structural information was available to the membership. The membership was led to believe that little of the original structure was intact, excepting the basement. Unfortunately this appears to not be the case. Should not this disputed structural information been considered before a valid vote was taken? Would the vote have been the different if this information was available?

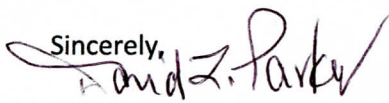
b) Ownership – it has been understood that the Grosmans are the owners and had filed sufficient appropriate deed papers for hearings before the Historic Preservation Board and this De Novo Hearing. Again, the new available information now before the Commission indicates that there is some question as to the ownership of the complete site. Can a decision on the fate of this house be based upon inadequate legal property rights?

c) It is well known that the Rivermont site has archaeological significance and efforts must be made to protect the mound upon which the house sits.

MOST IMPORTANTLY....those in our neighborhood that are interested in preserving historic houses have serious concern that the process of deciding the future of historic houses will be done in a transparent environment. There are not many historic homes left. It is imperative that a clear understandable case is made for deciding any action that would lead to demolition. Some of the confusion surrounding these decisions could be dispersed if there was a City historic ordinance.

Those Sailboat Bend residents interested in the preservation of historic houses are asking the Commission to consider the new information in deciding on the demolition of the Rosemont House.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David L. Parker, PhD