Fifeville puts brakes on designation

Community wants more input

BY SETH ROSEN
srosen@dailypress.com | 979-7245

City Council has deferred pursuing a national and state historic district designation for the Fifeville neighborhood, heeding the concerns of residents that the process was moving too rapidly and without community support.

In response to the council's decision, the state historical review board now will not yet the nomination during its June 6 meeting, as city officials plan to spend the summer revising the application in concert with Fifeville residents.

Councilors acknowledged that the proposal has lacked sufficient public input and that city officials need to do a better job explaining the particulars of a historic district in Fifeville, just south of West Main Street and the University of Virginia.

“We are deferring until we have a chance to improve the application into something the neighborhood feels more comfortable with,” said Councilor Dave Norris.

Critics of the nomination said they were pleased that the city would take a second look at the proposal and hoped the delay would lead to a more inclusive process.

“Now we have a chance to do it the right way over time that is responsive to our neighborhood's concerns,” said Carla Manno, who has lived in Fifeville for 18 years.

Five Charlottesville neighborhoods are designated as national and state historic districts. The title is mainly honorary, and places no regulations on prop-

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