

# VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



## MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: May 4, 2023

**To:** Appearance Commission

**From:** Valerie Berstene, Village Planner

**Through:** Angela Mesaros, Director of Economic and Community Development

**Topic:** Case 23-16 Sign Variance for 2035 183<sup>rd</sup> Street (Dorband-Howe House Museum)

### APPLICATION INFORMATION

APPLICANT	Rose Olsar, President, Homewood Historical Society
ACTION REQUESTED	Sign Variance
ADDRESS	2035 183 <sup>rd</sup> Street
PIN	32-06-105-047-0000



### DOCUMENTS FOR REVIEW

Title	Pages	Prepared by	Date
Sign Mock-Up	1	Homewood Historical Society	-
Staff Exhibits		Valerie Berstene, Village Planner	05/04/2023

### BACKGROUND

The Homewood Historical Society operates the Dorband-Howe House Museum at 2035 183<sup>rd</sup> Street.

### DISCUSSION

Section 30-4.b.1 of the Municipal Code expressly prohibits “signs on fences or on walls which are not a part of a building or structure.” The Homewood Historical Society, in efforts to better advertise their presence at the house museum, would like to add a sign mounted on the white picket fence enclosing their property.

The museum has an existing sign, approximately 2 sf, hanging from a single arm sign post in the front yard. Due to the speed of vehicles traveling on 183<sup>rd</sup> street and the relatively small size of the existing sign, the Historical Society requests a sign variance to allow the proposed sign to be mounted on the fence, thereby bringing greater recognition of the location as a museum, open to the public.

### SIGN AREA

The proposed sign would be in addition to the existing sign. The proposed sign measures approximately 25 " x 8.5." The Historical Society has provided a mock-up and photograph of the mock-up installed. Together, the area of these signs would not exceed the maximum allowed for signs on the premises of charitable [not-for-profit] organizations.

### MATERIALS

The Historical Society is still determining the final materials from which to make the sign. The baseline for discussion has been a white-painted wooden panel with black-painted wooden lettering affixed, as shown in the mock-up. However, members of the Historical Society have some concerns about the weight of the solid wood. They are also exploring using a white-painted wooden panel with black acrylic letter affixed. Another alternative discussed was an aluminum sign, in the same black-and-white scheme, made from the same reflective coating used for street signs in order to increase visibility.

### **STAFF COMMENTS**

Staff recommend that the Commission and Historical Society consider the compatibility of the material with the historic charm of the property. While a wood-on-wood, or acrylic-on-wood combination would be suitable to the appearance, the reflectivity of a street sign may not be "harmonious to the design" of the historic house museum, as called for by the Appearance Plan.

Staff recommends that, if the Historic Society is concerned with the weight of a wooden sign, it should- if approved- by mounted on a static panel of the fence, rather than on the swinging gate as shown in the mock-up. The added weight on the gate would make it harder to operate and likely cause the hinges to fail sooner than their anticipated lifetime.

### **RECOMMENDED APPEARANCE COMMISSION ACTION**

The Appearance Commission may wish to consider the following motion:

Approve Case 23-16 Sign Variance for 2035 183<sup>rd</sup> Street (Dorband-Howe House Museum) for a sign to be mounted on the picket fence, as proposed in the photograph provided by the Homewood Historical Society.