Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission

May 11, 2010

Patrick T. Mumford
Neighborhood and Business Services
600 East Trade St.
Suite 200
Charlotte, N.C. 28202

Dear Pat:

The Historic Landmarks Commission voted at its meeting on May 10, 2010, to initiate discussions by which the City would transfer ownership of the former Johnston Mill and the former Mecklenburg Mill in NODA to the Historic Landmarks Commission at a nominal cost. These mills are designated historic landmarks and are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Their preservation, therefore, would contribute to the historic significance of the former North Charlotte mill district, which is the most intact aggregate of buildings once associated with Charlotte's textile heritage.

If the Commission becomes the owner, it will place legal restrictions on the buildings to assure their preservation in perpetuity after they are sold. The Commission recognizes that the North Charlotte Neighborhood Association is keenly interested in saving and renovating the former mill buildings for use by artists. The Commission will certainly keep this goal in mind. The ultimate uses of the former Mecklenburg Mill and the former Johnston Mill, however, will have to be viable in terms of market considerations and will have to advance the historic preservation responsibilities of the Historic Landmarks Commission.. Preservation of the entire aggregate of structures on the property might not be feasible, however.

When the property is sold, the Commission, after deducting all expenses associated with the ownership of the former Johnston Mill and the former Mecklenburg Mill, would divide the profit with the City on a 50-50 basis. While the Commission understands that the City would spend no money on the property once it is conveyed to the Commission, it anticipates that the City would be helpful in expediting whatever regulatory or other municipal instruments the City might have that affect the property.

The Commission looks forward to meeting with appropriate City officials to discuss this proposal.

Sincerely,

Dan L. Morrill

Dr. Dan L. Morrill
Historic Landmarks Commission

Cc: William Hobbs, HLC Chairman

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