

RIVER DISTRICT DESIGN COMMISSION

MEETING OF

April 9, 2015

Members Present

Peyton Keesee  
George Davis  
Sheri Chaney  
John Ranson

Members Absent

Courtney Nicholas  
R.J. Lackey  
Justin Ferrell

Staff

Ken Gillie  
Renee Burton  
Scott Holtry  
Clarke Whitfield

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**ITEMS FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

1. *A request has been filed for a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace wood around exterior windows and cornice and paint area black to match the existing awning at 410 Main Street.*

Chairman Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Linwood Wright from the City's Economic Development Department was present to speak on behalf of the request.

Mr. Davis asked Mr. Wright, any words of wisdom?

Mr. Wright stated that's the old Francis Kahn building and it does need some repair work.

Mr. Davis stated I can tell by these pictures that it does.

Mr. Keesee asked basically what you're going to do is replace that with wood there?

Mr. Gillie stated correct. The wood replacement doesn't require a Certificate of Appropriateness because that's material for material like in kind, but the painting does require it because they're changing the color supposedly. I'm not really good with colors folks, but that's what I've been told. It's blue now but they're going black, or it's black and going blue.

Mr. Wright stated it's blue-green now and going black but it was so dark originally that it looked almost black.

Mr. Gillie stated colorblind staff is not good with that stuff. If someone tells me they're changing it, I'm bringing it to you guys.

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing.

**Mr. Ranson made a motion to approve the request as submitted. Mrs. Keesee seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.**

2. *A request has been filed for a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the chain length fence with black talon style aluminum fencing of 7' in height at the City substation at 305 Bridge Street.*

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Linwood Wright from the City's Economic Development Department was present on behalf of the request.

Mr. Wright stated I'm Linwood Wright serving as the consultant for the Office of Economic Development. I think you will notice that that material will provide a less institutional look or industrial look and a more finished look for what we hope will be a very attractive project in the old Dan River research building. I think incidentally it might be appropriate to say at this time that that project is beginning to proceed.

Mr. Keesee stated just don't try to climb over it.

Mr. Wright stated it might hurt.

Present on behalf of the request was Mr. Ken Larking, the Deputy City Manager.

Mr. Larking stated the City Manager also pointed out that this fence will be surrounding the substation that will be uplit from underneath with a project that we've got to make it more visually attractive if you could do that first.

Mr. Gillie stated you'll notice the guidelines say it should be wood or masonry. Because of it being substation there's concerns with the use of wood and also the masonry materials that's why they chose the aluminum the way they did. So while the guidelines say one thing, staff's recommending otherwise because of concerns with it being a high voltage station.

Mr. Keesee asked is it going to be black?

Mr. Gillie stated yes.

Mr. Keesee stated good.

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing.

**Mrs. Chaney made a motion to approve the request as submitted. Mrs. Keesee seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.**

3. *A request has been filed for a Certificate of Appropriateness to paint the metal wrap, concrete wall, and awning at 231 Main Street.*

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Linwood Wright from the City's Economic Development Department was present on behalf of the request.

Mr. Wright stated I think if you have looked at that building lately, you will see that it desperately needs a paint job. It's not a beautiful structure; repainting it won't make it beautiful, but it will look clean and certainly more appropriate for how we want the River District to look. Probably the biggest, most important change of all will be to paint the side wall and that end. Hopefully you've got the same pictures as I do. The photo shot a relatively lighter brown or heavy, darker band in brown tone on the metal rack. I think it'll certainly look better and we did hire a decorator to pick the colors.

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing.

**Mr. Keesee made a motion to approve the request as submitted. Mrs. Chaney seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.**

4. *A request has been filed for a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a new ground identification sign at the intersection of Riverside Drive and the MLK Bridge to serve as the north gateway entrance to the River District.*

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Present on behalf of the request was Mr. Ken Larking, the Deputy City Manager.

Mr. Larking stated I'm Ken Larking, the Deputy City Manager and the application was submitted by me. This is one of the signs that are part of our River District way finding and branding effort. We wanted to get this sign in first so it could be up and ready for May 1<sup>st</sup> to kick off for our branding which you're all invited to attend. It will be at Community Market in the evening on May 1<sup>st</sup> which is a Friday. There will be lots of stuff going on including evening fireworks. This sign is one of many that will be displayed throughout the River District. This won't be the gateway sign, it will be four or five more at different parts of the City. I think you've got the report on that.

Mr. Davis stated we looked at it I think last month.

Mr. Keesee asked you just putting on sign up for now?

Mr. Larking stated just the one sign for now. Yep.

Mr. Ranson asked the green is aluminum?

Mr. Larking stated yes.

Mr. Ranson stated and the beige color is stone?

Mrs. Chaney stated it's not going to be real stone, it's just like a tile.

Mr. Larking stated kind of like a tile. It's the exact same stuff that they put on the fountain.

Mr. Davis asked will it be lit?

Mr. Larking stated yes.

Mr. Ranson asked is this the same stuff?

Mr. Larking stated it is the same. We want to carry that rock element throughout the River District that is on the benches on Main Street.

Mr. Davis stated thank you very much.

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing.

**Mr. Keesee made a motion to approve the request as submitted. Mr. Ranson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**The March 12, 2015 minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Three agenda items were added to the Other Business.

5. *A request has been filed for a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove existing nonfunctioning sprinkler pump house to facilitate the installation of a new electrical transformer.*

Mrs. Chaney asked so they're going to remove the valves as well I'm assuming? I see spikes coming out of the side of it.

Mr. Davis stated this water down in the pit, we used to climb down in it to check the valves and now it's full of water up to ground level.

Mrs. Chaney asked they're going to put a transformer over that?

Mr. Davis stated no I really think they're going to put the transformer closer to the building. They're not going to put it directly over the pit.

Mrs. Chaney asked so they're just clearing it out and making way for the transformer to come in?

Mr. Gillie stated yes.

**Mr. Keesee made a motion to hear the request. Mr. Ranson seconded the motion. The request was approved to be heard by unanimous vote.**

**Mrs. Chaney made a motion to approve the request as submitted. Mr. Keesee seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.**

6. *A Request has been filed for a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct a 20' x 25' extension of existing patio/deck for Golden Leaf Bistro with an additional exit stair from the deck.*

**Mr. Ranson made a motion to hear the request. Mrs. Chaney seconded the motion. The request was approved to be heard by unanimous vote.**

Present on behalf of the request was Tammy Harris with the Danville Tobacco District.

Mrs. Harris stated I'm Tammy Harris with the Danville Tobacco District and we filed the Certificate of Appropriateness I think yesterday morning. It is for the extension of the twenty by twenty-five decking at the Golden Leaf Bistro. It'll pretty much mirror what's there now and it'll have a staircase for access to that as well.

Mr. Ranson asked do you have any drawings?

Mrs. Harris stated I do not have any drawings.

Mr. Keesee asked how far is it going to come out there?

Mrs. Harris stated I guess it'll just come out where the dumpster is I think.

Mr. Keesee asked where the old dumpster is?

Mrs. Harris stated yes.

Mr. Ranson asked so if you're looking at the restaurant, it'll be extended to the left?

Mrs. Harris stated yes on your left. It'll just go out. If you're sitting on the patio looking out towards the street, it'll just go out that way.

Mrs. Chaney asked it's going to pretty much take what parking was back there and cover up completely and the stairs will be encompassed in that same amount of space?

Mrs. Harris stated yes.

Mr. Wright stated for what it's worth, from my understanding it will be a view. Part of the deck now serves the kitchen.

Mrs. Harris stated I think there's a patio area at the bar. I think it's either eight by thirty or ten by thirty right there and then the wood part goes out. I think it will actually hold about seven or eight tables.

Mr. Ranson stated the air conditioning unit is sitting right there.

Mrs. Harris stated I guess they're going to go around that.

Mr. Gillie stated I that's where the U part is where they're working around the air system. Basically they're just kind of filling in the spot where the dumpsters were because you approved for the dumpsters to be moved across the street last time. So they're going to take where the dumpsters are and deck over that, but leave the system out.

**Mr. Keesee made a motion to approve the request as submitted. Mrs. Chaney seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.**

7. *A request has been filed for a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove existing bus stop and replace it with an iron bench and rock wall.*

Mr. Gillie stated if you're familiar with the picture before and how the bus shelter down at the bottom of Craghead Street used to look- the bus shelter was dismantled; it is in storage so if the Commission denies this we can put it back. They put a trashcan and bench and stonewall which is the same stuff that they did on the other side by the fountain so everything was matched. The Transportation Department with the City did this- not Public Works or us- so that's where the miscommunication came in and they thought we had taken care of them getting approval. I didn't know that they were doing it so it kind of fell between the cracks of City Government. All I can do is apologize on that. Everything matches the guidelines and it matches the other stuff that we approved for both streetscapes, we just didn't get approval before we did it. So I'm here to apologize and ask for permission to remove the bus shelter and keep the stuff that we already put in place.

Mr. Keesee stated we want that crooked trashcan put back in.

Mr. Gillie stated we have saved the trashcan so we can bring it back if you wish.

**Mr. Ranson made a motion to hear the request. Mrs. Chaney seconded the motion. The request was approved to be heard by unanimous vote.**

Mr. Ranson stated I have a question. Those poor people are going to get wet. I thought this was shelter for the people waiting on the bus.

Mr. Gillie stated it is. We have the bench, we have the trees, and the shelter has not necessarily been used for the most inviting things so the bench just seemed to be a better use.

Mr. Ranson stated I don't disagree that the shelter is not attractive, but it's functional so if you're waiting for a bus you can stay dry.

Mr. Davis asked could we ask them to put a shelter over it?

Mr. Keesee stated I don't think we need to.

Mr. Gillie stated you could. They've installed shelters on Memorial Drive, they installed a shelter up on Nor Dan Drive, and there's one on Westover Drive. Based on the study, this shelter wasn't really needed anymore. The bench is for that and the amount of time that the buses come around is quick enough. We didn't think it was necessary.

Mrs. Chaney stated I was going to say how much use does this one get compared to some of the other stations.

Mr. Gillie stated the other places get used a lot because of the bus hub being right across just a couple blocks away. A bus comes through here so often that the shelter wasn't used a whole lot. Not for the purpose it was designed for.

Mrs. Chaney stated sleeping purposes probably.

Mr. Gillie stated skateboarding and sleeping.

**Mrs. Chaney made a motion to approve the request as submitted. Mr. Ranson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.**

8. *A request has been filed for a Certificate of Appropriateness to put a sign on the old water tower at 618 Craghead Street.*

**Mr. Ranson made a motion to hear the request. Mrs. Chaney seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 3-0-1 vote. Mr. Davis read a statement abstaining from voting on adding the request to the agenda due to a conflict of interest.**

Present on behalf of the request was Mr. Ken Larking, Deputy City Manager for the City of Danville.

Mr. Larking stated my name is Ken Larking, Deputy City Manager and I'm submitting this request on behalf of the City. This was a recommendation of our branding and way

finding effort to take the logo that was there through a lengthy process for River District and have that sign permitted to go onto the water tank that is located on Craghead. What you see before you is the tank with the logo on it. Right now since we have not released a logo from consumption, I ask that you keep those to yourself. It's not a guarded secret, but again we have not really released it publicly. We do understand that we need to get approval from this group to install signage on this tank. Do you have any questions? I think I've covered everything I need to.

Mr. Ranson stated you told us last time what it was made out of.

Mr. Larking stated the material will be metal. It will be welded to the tank and there will be lights projecting from the tank.

Mr. Ranson stated it says that it would be illuminated from behind.

Mr. Larking stated that was their recommendation from the proposal. We have the option of lighting it from behind. That will be basically where the circuitry is on there; you can have that so it will pop out a little bit.

Mrs. Chaney asked so the sign is going to be flush mount to the tank?

Mr. Larking stated if you look at the other picture that's from above, you can kind of see there will be space between the tank and the sign. The sign will curve around. It will only be on one side. We're not going to do two; we're just going to do one. It's expensive so we're only doing one.

Mr. Keesee asked but this sign is the one you're going to use?

Mr. Larking stated yes.

Mr. Ranson stated so I imagine if I'm standing in the parking lot behind the Community Market, that's the side it will be on?

Mr. Larking stated yes. It'll be facing the Craghead/Community Market area.

Mr. Larking stated I will say that the Danville Regional Foundation is paying for it.

Mr. Ranson asked and it's going to be temporary right?

Mr. Larking stated it's not temporary. It's going to be permanently welded to the tank. We were given the option of doing a plastic sign. We thought this was more in line with keeping an industrial type of look.

**Mrs. Chaney made a motion to approve the request as submitted. Mr. Ranson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 3-0-1. Mr. Davis read a statement abstaining from voting on the request due to a conflict of interest.**

The Commission discussed whether or not they are comfortable receiving last minute additions to the agenda. It was determined that this would continue in the future as long as it is not a request that needs to be seen before voting.

Mr. Gillie informed the Commission that the After Hours Rotary Club wants to put flags on the lampposts on the MLK Bridge.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

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Approved By: