

RIVER DISTRICT DESIGN COMMISSION

MEETING OF

July 21, 2016

Members Present

Justin Ferrell
George Davis
Sheri Chaney
John Ranson
R.J. Lackey
Peyton Keesee
Courtney Nicholas

Members Absent

Staff

Ken Gillie
Anna Levi
Tracie Lancaster
Clarke Whitfield

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ITEMS FOR PUBLIC HEARING

- 1. A request has been filed for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 125 N Union St. to install an awning. The color of the new awning will be Balance Tidepool from Sunbrella. The new awning is to replace an existing awning that sustained damage in a storm.*

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Ms. Levi stated I'm not sure Corrie Teague was supposed to speak on behalf of this. But if you have any questions I can do my best to answer them.

Mr. Ranson stated so this was damaged during a storm?

Ms. Levi stated yeah a couple of weeks ago during one of the storms the existing awning was ripped. The support structure for it is still there.

Mr. Keesee stated so why is this coming before us?

Mr. Ranson stated yeah isn't this just a repair?

Ms. Levi stated they are changing the color slightly I believe. It is a minimal change.

Mr. Whitfield stated it is enough of a change to come before you. It is a slight change but it is enough.

Mr. Ranson stated so what color is that really?

Ms. Levi stated it's up on top so it's kind of like a tan with greenish small stripes up in the top.

Mrs. Chaney stated it's just smaller stripes than what was there before. So I'm assuming the fabric that was there before is discontinued and no longer available. So this is the closest thing they could find.

Ms. Levi stated maybe I'm not sure.

Mr. Ranson stated are they replacing all three or just one?

Ms. Levi stated just that one as far as I know.

Mrs. Nicholas stated there are two pictures.

Ms. Levi stated yeah the other ones are still there. The ones on both sides are still there.

Mr. Ranson stated the one in the middle is still there?

Ms. Levi stated the one in the middle is the one to be replaced. It is not there.

Mr. Ranson stated so the two on the sides are still there it's the one in the middle they are replacing.

Mr. Davis stated that will look kind of interesting.

Mrs. Nicholas stated will the stripes be running horizontal now instead of vertically?

Ms. Levi stated I believe they will still be vertical.

Mrs. Nicholas stated okay, I would only have an issue if they were running horizontal.

Mr. Davis stated to me and I'm no home decorator but it seems like to me that a solid awning in between two stripes would look ten times better.

Mr. Lackey stated I believe that is a good point.

Mr. Ranson stated a dark blue or something that matches the colors in the other awning.

Mr. Davis stated one that has a similar color to the other two. It looks like to me if you put a different color and a different stripe in between it's going to clash.

Mr. Ranson stated I was going to say they would be back next month wanting to change the other two.

Mrs. Chaney stated are each of those independently owned?

Ms. Levi stated those are owned by the IDA.

Mr. Whitfield stated those are all owner by the IDA. I was going to suggest that we table this and then we can bring it back next month to determine whether they want to replace all three or tell them that it is the Commission's preference that it be replaced with a solid awning that would match the colors of the other two rather than having a new striped one. I can communicate that message to them.

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Lackey made a motion to table this item to the next meeting. Mr. Keesee seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

2. *A request has been filed for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 641 Main St. to install seven (7) 3'4" x 4'8" anodized aluminum storefront windows and new black fabric awnings on the Main St and Ridge St elevations. Also requested is new metal wall signage that will replace existing blank signage. The proposed signage will be 2'2" x 6'0" and will consist of a white and orange logo on a black background.*

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Present on behalf of this request was Jeff Bond. Mr. Bond stated I am here on behalf of Skyfall Holdings LLC. Most of you are familiar with the property. It is located at the corner of Ridge and Main Street, the former Mark Holland's law office. Currently the building does not have any windows. What we are proposing to do is add seven windows to match the existing store front doors. There is an awning on the front of the building on Main Street we are proposing to change the fabric with a black canvas and adding matching ones on the side entrance on Main Street. This is the same thing you guys have in your packet.

Mrs. Chaney the wall signage where is that actually going to go on the building?

Mr. Bond stated there are two blank signs there now they are solid black they are going back in the same location; one on the right corner of Main and one on the left corner of Ridge.

Mrs. Chaney stated so basically the same size that is already there even a little bit smaller to be able to fit those windows in.

Mr. Bond stated that's right.

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Lackey made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Keesee seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

3. *A request has been filed for a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the grass strip fronting Craghead Street with brick pavers. The alteration will serve as an extension of the sidewalk for the Craghead Streetscape Project.*

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Mrs. Chaney stated don't we need to vote for it to be added to the agenda?

Mr. Davis stated it looks like it has already been added to the agenda.

Mr. Gillie stated we figured since we didn't have a meeting last week it was okay to go ahead and add it to the agenda.

Mr. Whitfield stated if you all say that it is on there than it is on there.

Present on behalf of this request was Brian Dunevant from the Public Works Engineering Division. Mr. Dunevant stated we are making the request along with Mr. Gentry to eliminate the grass strip and what this will do is because we don't have a lot of room for benches on Craghead Street. We do have a couple of benches proposed in the next couple of blocks. In this particular block we really didn't have anywhere for benches. We feel like extending the sidewalk out some it will give us a little bit more room there to put some amenities in and make it more attractive.

Mr. Davis stated so the City is paying for this not Mr. Gentry?

Mr. Dunevant stated well it is going to be a split cost as long as the brick installation itself. But the City would take an easement on it for maintenance and if we put some benches there we will maintain those as well. The easement would be for maintenance of the brick pavers and the benches.

Mr. Ferrell stated so you said if you put some benches in.

Mr. Dunevant stated well it is all preliminary. I'm sure we can get some benches in there. I will have to look at our budget of course. We didn't have that budgeted but we are looking at other things too. We should be able to get something in there. As I stand here today we haven't talked to the contractor about this and we haven't added it to the contract, but I don't foresee there being any issue until it's done I don't say it's done.

Mr. Ferrell stated why are we making a request for something that we don't know about yet.

Mrs. Nicholas stated they are not they are requesting the brick pavers.

Mr. Dunevant stated yeah we are just requesting the brick pavers right now.

Mr. Ferrell stated I'm trying to figure out the only reason that you stated was for the benches.

Mr. Dunevant stated yeah right to create some space on that area of the block and by creating that space we will have room to add some benches in. I can always come back with a more detail drawing than this; this was put together very quickly. Actually, we thought we were coming to the meeting last week and it got moved to this week. But we didn't go back in and try to update anything. We would be placing the benches. We would make sure they are in the right place and everything we just haven't had a chance to look at all of that. But we can certainly come back if you want to with the placing of the benches. That's not a problem.

Mrs. Chaney stated if I am correct the block to the left you are doing brick sidewalks in front?

Mr. Dunevant stated yes.

Mrs. Chaney stated if you go the right on Main Street is that brick around on that side as well? From Main Street around in front of the Antique shop?

Mr. Dunevant stated there is on the antique side but not on the other side and that's beyond the scope of our project.

Mr. Ferrell stated I would like to see something more concrete.

Mrs. Chaney stated more specific drawings?

Mr. Keese stated they showed us a picture of the brick pavers and what they will look like correct?

Mr. Dunevant stated correct.

Mr. Keese stated it's exactly what is front of the old Link Watson Building?

Mr. Dunevant stated correct exactly what they are doing down there. The benches would be the benches that we are using at the plaza. The ones on Main Street are different because of the slope of the street. They were just easier as far as installation on a slope. We would use the same ones like the ones at the plaza.

Mrs. Nicholas stated are there trees that are going to be put in as well?

Mr. Dunevant stated there are not any plans for planting right now but that is something else we are going to look at. By doing this it allows us to look at other amenities in that block. Honestly, it is a little bit bare in that block right now so we feel like by doing this not only could we add the amenities of the benches but we may also be able to put in a

small planter or something like that. So we are definitely going to look at that as well. But we didn't want to spend a whole lot of time and get to far into this if it was to be denied. We have staff that has plenty of other things to be doing.

Mr. Ferrell stated I guess part of my question is that I did see that picture and I do like what is going on Main Street. But it seems like that sidewalk would be a little bare with just that brick being laid and without trees. I can't visually see it.

Mr. Dunevant stated you can't visually see it?

Mr. Ferrell stated I can see the bricks there. I don't see how you can put the bricks there and come back and put trees.

Mrs. Nicholas stated brick is easy to take up.

Mrs. Chaney stated yeah brick is easy to take up.

Mr. Dunevant stated we would do this in conjunction with what is happening now. This wouldn't be an after the fact thing. This would be done while we are doing it. We are moving into this area now and by no means are they ready to put anything back together yet. We are still running utilities and things like that. So once we get the underground stuff done then they will come in and start pouring concrete and things like that. We are probably at least a week or two out at the earliest so we have some time to adjust some of these things.

Mr. Davis stated Justin it looks like to me that it will add a certain continuity to the area because they are basically going to both ends of Craghead.

Mr. Ferrell stated I agree I just remember how we voted about those wooden stairs and how that was and I just want to see something more specific.

Mr. Dunevant stated how about we just leave it as is and don't talk about benches. So we are just making a request to widening out the sidewalk and let's leave the benches out of it and if we want them we can come back at the next meeting.

Mrs. Chaney stated a bench can be added at any time.

Mr. Dunevant stated the benches would actually be the last thing going in on the whole project. So to drop the benches out of the discussion now is no issue for me.

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing.

Mrs. Chaney made a motion to approve as presented. Mr. Ferrell seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0-1 vote (Mr. Lackey abstained from the vote).

Mr. Lackey made a motion to remove item 1 from the table and reconsider. Mrs. Chaney seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous vote.

Mr. Whitfield stated the item was tabled because they thought that an awning that is a different pattern and stripe with the other two would look different. So they were suggesting one of two things; one that it is a solid color that it matches the other two awnings and not be a striped one or to replace all three.

Mr. Keesee stated so what do you think Corrie?

Mr. Davis I have to open the public hearing back up.

Mr. Whitfield stated yeah I think we have other people that want to speak as well.

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Bond stated I just had one questions is it one parcel or three parcels?

Ms. Teague stated it is two parcels. It is two store fronts in each parcel.

Mr. Keesee stated I thought it was just one canopy that you wanted to replace?

Ms. Teague stated are we talking about building parcels?

Mr. Bond stated yeah group of buildings.

Ms. Teague stated it is a group of buildings with two parcels with two units in each. I think all of them had different awnings stripes or there were two and two. So they never really matched to begin with. If you were suggesting either a solid color or going back replacing all three. I think we would come back to you because this building there is a plan for eventually demolition. So I think its minimal expenses.

Mrs. Nicholas stated so are you replacing it in front of the Hats and Boutique and the Barbershop?

Ms. Teague stated just the Hats and Boutique. There was a pretty significant wind storm a month or two ago and it damaged the awning it didn't damage the frame. So they asking that we replace it because the sun is beaming in on her hats that she has on display.

Mr. Davis stated but you said there are different patterns on each? They look similar.

Ms. Teague stated they look similar that's why the one selected kind of falls in. That's the closest one that we could find available. They have been there for a number of years. We tried to get something that was at least similar to what had to come down.

But if you look at in person with the three that were there and the two that are remaining they are not the same pattern.

Mrs. Chaney stated how wide is the stripe on the new?

Ms. Teague stated it is this big total.

Mrs. Chaney stated where the others are about three or four inches.

Ms. Teague stated it's just a small change we tried to use colors that tied into the original palate.

Mrs. Chaney stated the base color is basically the same it's just the stripe that has changed.

Mr. Davis stated it still looks like to me that a solid would be better.

Mrs. Nicholas stated is it possible to just go with a solid color instead?

Ms. Teague stated we can go back and reorder it in a solid color. We can go back and change it it's no problem.

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing.

Mrs. Chaney made a motion to approve with only a solid color to match existing awnings (Basically a tan or beige solid color). Mr. Keesee seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The June 9, 2016 minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Gillie stated we have the design for the charging station the plaque they sent us a mock up. I just wanted to let you see what it would look like. I'm sorry we forgot to grab it to bring up here. What your motion was and the size and everything else with what they proposed complies we think it looks nice. We just wanted to show you how the design was going to go before it was installed. I will just try to email it out to everybody so that you know what the final version looks like.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Approved By: