

RIVER DISTRICT DESIGN COMMISSION

MEETING OF

January 12, 2017

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Jonathan Hackworth

Staff

Renee Burton
Tracie Lancaster
Ken Gillie
Clarke Whitfield

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Whitfield called for nominations for Chairman.

Mr. Lackey nominated Mr. Davis as Chairman. The nomination was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Mr. Whitfield called for nominations for Vice Chairman.

Mr. Davis nominated Mr. Keesee as Vice Chairman. The nomination was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Mr. Whitfield called for nominations for Secretary.

Mrs. Chaney nominated Mr. Hackworth for Secretary. The nomination was approved by a 6-0 vote.

ITEMS FOR PUBLIC HEARING

- 1. A request has been filed for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 417 Bridge Street to install a power generator on the roof and a natural gas pipe running along the east rear corner of the building facing Newton St.*

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Present on behalf of this request was Dave Zook the owner of the property. The purpose for the generator is to provide power backup. The company that is in that building Horizon tech requires this kind of uninterruptable power for the customers and with some of the power outages in the City we had some issues with some of our

customers. This is necessary actually critical for the company. Regarding installation we have worked with Jerry Rigney and the only realistic alternative that we looked to putting it on the roof of the building was to place it on a City owned land adjacent to the building. Because of clearance requirements to the sidewalk there was not enough space to place it there. So we examined putting it on the roof we got a structural engineer to examine it and his report is in your packet. He said that this is an acceptable place to that weight up there that you could probably put about 50,000 pounds. He specified its placement be over the interior columns and that column is right underneath the center of the building about 14 feet away from the Newton street side. From the visibility of the street stand point as you can from the photographs in your packet from the intersection of Newton and Bridge that you can't see anything at the top. Well, adjacent to either side of where the generator is going to be placed are 80 inch columns that were used for an old water support that are still in place and you can't see those 80 inch stacks and the height of this generator is 60 inches and it will be sit on a steeper pad. So we don't expect to rise to the extent to where you would see it from the intersection or the Streets. The second issue is there is a natural gas line that would be run on the corner of the building that would be for visibility purposes looking in your packet we made that picture yellow. The line would actually be galvanized steel that would be installed by Danville Plumbing. If the staff recommendation that we painted it we would be happy to have it painted a cream color to match the building. It will not actually go on the Bridge Street side it will position on the backside adjacent to a downspout.

Mr. Lackey stated can it go on the other side?

Mr. Zook stated if you put it on the other side you wouldn't be able to reach it to position it.

Mrs. Nicholas stated is it unusual for a natural gas pipe to run on the exterior of the building like this?

Mr. Zook stated I can't answer that question I don't know.

Mr. Ranson stated no they run them up the sides of buildings or on roofs.

Mr. Gillie stated if it inside of the building and it has a leak it's quite volatile so it's not usual.

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing.

Mrs. Nicholas made a motion to approve as requested with the condition of the natural gas pipe line be painted to blend in with the building. Mr. Lackey seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

2. *A request has been filed for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 121 N Union Street for a time extension for the historic "Home" sign so that it may remain in place for one additional year.*

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Present on behalf of this request was Corrie Bobe. Mrs. Bobe stated I am here on behalf of the IDA. This sign is on an IDA building I believe the initial permission was given for a 6 month period for it to be installed on the side of this building. We have surpassed that amount of time so we are coming back asking for that extension. As you may know, that building or that piece of property is slated for a potential of a future parking facility. So at the time if it should happen within the next year we do need to relocate the sign and we will certainly work with the various organizations to find the proper home for it.

Mr. Davis stated has there been a consideration of putting it somewhere where it can actually be seen? Does anybody notice that is there?

Mrs. Nicholas stated it has attracted a lot of people. You have people that have made art because of it and there have been multiple events in from of that sign. People have been doing wedding pictures there it has been a big attraction.

Mr. Lackey stated it is like the Love sign in Philadelphia except in Danville.

Mr. Davis stated my only thought was that when my wife and I use to go to Alexandria and you come back down 58 and you knew you were home when you saw Home of Dan River Fabrics. I thought that if you could put it somewhere up on top of a building, my building, anywhere where it could actually be seen from a good distance.

Mrs. Bobe stated well when that time comes that we do have to relocate it we will call you. We will certainly make sure it is in a visible location.

Mr. Davis stated I don't have anything against where it is I just drove by it the other day and wondering how many people actually even look at it.

Mr. Gillie stated do you remember we had to put a fence up because people where climbing up getting their pictures taken hanging off over it.

Mrs. Nicholas stated I am here on behalf the Danville Historical Society. We are the owners of the letters though we were not asking if we wanted it to remain up it was unanimously decided at our board meeting last night that we absolutely wanted it the remain and that it was a huge benefit to the city to have these letters displayed. We look forward to them evidently be displayed somewhere even more prominently then they currently are and are working with different organizations to make that an reality when

that piece of property is developed. So we give our thorough support for this staying in place.

Present to speak on behalf of this request was Mina Dixon the program coordinator for History United. History United is a program that works on community revitalization through the humanities and local history. I think this sign going up for another year is a great sign but it showcases how we can renew our identity with the past, with our history. That sentiment that you expressed Mr. Davis that you knew you were home when you seen the Home sign and we want a lot more people to feel that. We want the city and the folks in the City to take ownership of that sign and ownership of that feeling.

Mr. Davis stated do you have the rest of the sign?

Ms. Dixon stated the Danville Historical Society has the rest of the sign and you can actually see the D that was destroyed in the hurricane if you drive by some of the buildings on Lynn Street.

Mr. Whitfield stated and the F part is displayed at 616.

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Ranson made a motion to approve. Mr. Keesee seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0-1 vote (Mrs. Nicholas abstained due to a conflict of interest).

3. *A request has been filed for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 121 N Union Street to install a 6 sq. ft. flat, wall mounted informational sign describing the history of the historic "Home" sign.*

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Present on behalf of this request was Corrie T. Bobe. Mrs. Bobe stated it should be a 24 by 36 sign. I guess that is correct then. At last month's IDA meeting they did approve this item, History United Perseverance Historical Society did have permission from the IDA should this permission be granted to install the sign.

Mrs. Chaney made a motion to approve. Mr. Ranson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0-1 vote (Mrs. Nicholas abstained due to conflict of interest).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The December 8, 2016 minutes were approved by a unanimous vote with one change to the last page the time the meeting adjourned should be 5:27 not 4:27.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Burton stated the financial statements are due on the 17th if you guys could get them to Sue DeMasi if you haven't done so already. If not she is right next door and she would be happy to give you another copy if need be. We are also looking at some code amendment changes to the sign code and we hopefully we will have some ideas to come to you if your agenda is not to packed next month.

Mr. Whitfield stated just note there are stiff penalty for not turning the financial paperwork in by 5pm on the 17th.

Mr. Davis stated you say Sue is next door?

Mr. Whitfield stated it has to be reported to the Commonwealth Attorney's Office who is then is required at that point to fine you 250 dollars.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Approved By: