

RIVER DISTRICT DESIGN COMMISSION

MEETING OF

DECEMBER 13, 2018

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Staff

Ken Gillie
Bryce Johnson
Holley Preston
Lisa Jones
Clark Whitfield

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

ITEMS FOR PUBLIC HEARING

1. *Request a Certificate of Appropriateness at 667 Craghead St. to construct an off-leash dog park.*

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Present on behalf of this request was Emily Ragsdale; I am with Parks and Rec. Mrs. Ragsdale stated we are proposing to construct an off leash area, to serve the residents of the River District, located beside the Carrington Pavilion. It is currently a large open area down there, right off of the River Walk Trail, that we would like to fence in.

Mr. Davis stated I think that the main thing we were concerned about at this time was the chain link fencing. I like the idea of the dog park and I do not think anybody had any problems with it. We were discussing the chain link fencing because we had discouraged the use of it. I think the City makes a good recommendation, as far as having the chain fence so I would like to open it up for discussion for you all. If you have any questions or concerns.

Mrs. Ragsdale stated I would just say before we get to that. We have explored all the options within the guidelines and to be honest we do not feel that any of them would be good options for this area. Due to it flooding and being in the flood plain, we do have to show that anytime we do new construction there is, a zero net rise. The more obstructions that we put in flood plain the harder it is for us to show zero net rise. So, some of the options anything that is not passable by water it is going to make extremely difficult for us to show a zero net rise. We will have to take more fill out somewhere else. We honestly do not want to put anything that is going to obstruct the water from flowing, which is going to cause more damage in the long run. Obviously, a hedge for a dog park is not going to work very well. The only two options that could possibly work would be the metal fencing but again this is in the flood plain and we replace fencing along the River Walk Trail constantly because anytime we have a flood it washes out the footings and it takes the fence with it. We know this is something that is going to go when it floods. This area floods constantly. The wooden fencing that is not passable enough for water and again it is

going to be more easily taken when it floods. We do want to screen. This it will be coated chain link fence, black coated like we use everywhere else in our parks. We will be screening this on portions, especially by the Carrington. Again that will have to be breakaway fabric, so that when it floods, it will not restrict water flow.

Mr. Lackey stated does the City go get the fencing once it flows down the River or does it go somewhere else?

Mrs. Ragsdale stated it depends. If the River takes it then it takes it. If it is somewhere where we can get to it, we will and if it is not damaged, we will reuse the metal fence.

Mr. Gillie stated how do you think all the fencing ended up in Angler's Park?

Mr. Whitfield stated and some of the nicer fencing in Halifax County.

Mr. Davis stated John I know at the last meeting you were the one that mentioned you were opposed to the idea.

Mr. Ranson stated I am still opposed to it because the Commission made it abundantly clear that this kind of fencing is not acceptable. Even if there is hundreds of feet, right adjacent.

Mr. Davis stated in my opinion when we were talking about it before that it was down around Memorial Drive area and very visible.

Mr. Ranson stated that place does not get as near traffic as this does.

Mr. Davis stated and this does match the fencing that is already down there?

Mrs. Ragsdale stated yes it is.

Mrs. Nicholas stated the location of this park is it okay in terms of water guidelines and if it's going flood and it has a lot of dog excrement in it, is it an environmental issue?

Mrs. Ragsdale stated we will have rules and regulations as far as cleaning up after your pets and things like that, because this will be so heavily used it will need to be monitored regularly. Our maintenance staff down there will be doing routine maintenance in that area and they will check for things like that. We do not see that being a problem.

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing.

Mrs. Nicholas made a motion that the request does not meet the guidelines and to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness. Mr. Keesee seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Mrs. Nicholas made a motion that the discrepancy is minor and that the Commission should approve the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct the off leash dog park with chain link fencing that is in keeping with the fencing in the surrounding area. Mrs. Chaney seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-2 vote.

2. *Request a Certificate of Appropriateness at 310 Main St. for a commercial window sign and projecting sign.*

Present on behalf of this request was Lauren Mathena; I am owner of Firefly Yoga Studio. Ms. Mathena stated I just started Firefly Yoga Studio's a few weeks ago and we are at 310 Main Street. We are going to be there for at least 4 months, possibly longer. As long as we are there, we want to have some signage so people will know that we are there. We can be building our clients whether we end up staying there longer or go elsewhere. Therefore, this is the door that you enter to get into Lizzy Lou as well as to go upstairs and go to the top of the stairs and go right into Firefly. So the glass door that we are looking at is crowded but it is a door that is meant to be the entrance to 3 businesses and so what I am asking for on the door space for a third business to go there. If it is not at eye level, it is perhaps, another alternative that we could look at that was the most obvious place to put our third logo where the other two are. As you are walking to that glass door there is a plain black wall that is slanted on the left and so there is potential that signage could go up on that wall but again just going on the door was our initial request. Then up on the corner just above the blue awning on the corner of Main Street and Memorial. Byrnes & Gould already has a sign there that sticks out because they were originally in the 310; space they have now moved to 312. The sign where it is, is a much more visible if they would to move it over they would lose all that visibility that they have at the traffic light. What I am suggesting other than have them move over so that we could resurface their sign we would add a second sign above theirs and so it be a sign for a three tenants.

Mr. Ranson stated is the sign going to be made of the same material?

Ms. Mathena stated whatever the Byrnes Gould sign is made of; the designer that I am working with is KG Graphics so I will make sure we get matching signs.

Mr. Gillie stated it is a coated metal sign or aluminum.

Mr. Davis stated could anybody see it up there.

Ms. Mathena stated when you start a business you start staring at it every time you drive by.

Mrs. Nicholas stated its one of those if you are looking for the business it is very easy to find if you are not looking for the business then you might not notice it.

Ms. Mathena stated we definitely hope that people will be looking for us.

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing.

Mrs. Chaney made a motion that the sign as vinyl lettering proposed for the glass door meets the guidelines and to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness as submitted. Mr. Keesee seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote

Mrs. Chaney made a motion that the projected sign Firefly Yoga go on the corner of the building above the Byrnes & Gould sign meets the guidelines as submitted and to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness. Mrs. Nicholas seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The November 8, 2018 minutes were approved after changes made on pages 3 and 4 by a unanimous vote.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:16: p.m.

Approved By: