

RIVER DISTRICT DESIGN COMMISSION

MEETING OF

SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Justin Ferrell

Staff

Ken Gillie
Shanta Hairston
Scott Holtry
Clarke Whitfield
Renee Burton
Patty Jordan

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 to install a 32 square foot metal wall sign with vinyl letters at 220 Boatwright Ave.*

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Present to speak on behalf of the request was Mr. Brian O'Neal. I'm a representative for R&D Construction.

Mr. O'Neal stated we sent an email with what the sign for what it will look like. It's going to be 32 square feet. It's metal on both sides. It's all painted it will be white with vinyl lettering I believe you got the email. I wanted to find out if we could do a monument out front if you think it's a possibility. Right out front there is a grass area put like a monument sign out there and you have solar lights on.

Mr. Davis stated lets address the original request first that sign that you have. Any questions from anyone?

Mr. O'Neal stated if you wanna know a little bit about my background I can give you that as well.

Mr. Davis stated which building is this exactly on Boatwright? Is it the first one you get to if you turn off.

Mr. O'Neal stated one with the white in front of it the one with the beige yes both of them. Its right next to the roofing company it's like an alley way in between.

Mr. Keesee stated is this beside biomat?

Mrs. Chaney It's the second building down from biomat.

Mr. O'neal stated well it's nobody in the next one. Both of them together he owns them both. This is the white one we are talking about putting on the front of the property.

Mr. Keesee stated where do you want to put the sign again?

Mr. O'neal stated there is an awning there up right over the awning.

Mrs. Chaney stated you already have a sign there currently?

Mr. O'neal stated there is not a sign there. There is a sign that is just like a real estate sign that is sitting out front.

Mr. Keesee stated did yall just purchase the building or something?

Mr. O'Neal stated yes Roger purchased the building. But I was also thinking about doing to monument sign out front I don't know what the square footage would be but I think that would be appropriate for that area.

Mr. Davis stated that's probably going to have to be submitted in a separate request. We will go ahead and take some action on the original request.

Mr. O'Neal stated how soon will I be able to get that permit for the signage?

Mr. Gillie stated the one over the door or the pole sign we are talking about?

Mr. O'Neal stated right up front over the door.

Mr. Gillie stated if they approve it now you will be able to get your permit this afternoon or tomorrow.

Mr. O'neal stated sounds great.

Mr. Gillie stated the one on the ground we will have to work with you on because of the size and everything else. If they give this okay we can issue the permit. If they give it we have to wait and see what they vote on.

Mr. Davis stated any further questions?

Mr. Davis Closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Ranson made a motion to approve the request as submitted. Mrs. Chaney seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

2. *A request has been filed for a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct a wooden refuse enclosure in the parking lot at 231 Main Street.*

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Kathy Cropp stated I gave three sheets and this is currently if you are looking out our back door you have a triangular structure on the left side. The triangular structure has resided and a drum for recycled kitchen oil as of last week we have had to increase the size of that recycling drum because we are running two fryers we are going to be open longer. So, now I either have to get rid of one can or I have to let it sit outside of the wooden fence. The other things we are open longer hours and I'm have to have delivery twice a week or pick up twice a week. So that means five cans are spread through the parking lot up next to the building three feet apart so that the truck can get in and get those lifted and leave them. Now from the time we put them out there until someone comes in the next morning those bins are taking up about six parking spaces in the public parking lot that between us and Lou's antiques. So I've done everything I can to work with this plus I don't like the situation. We are putting boxes out for the city to pick them up. I really don't like the looks of the back of the building what we would like to do, we will probably do something else with the boxes for the city to pick up. It just looks bad when you are driving down Patton Street to get on the bridge or getting ready to turn in the lot. So what we are proposing is what to build we are looking a six yard container this drawing is the best possible communication between a wife that can't measure and a husband who didn't measure. He left so I could tell this should not take but a few minutes but it took a while. So there is you come out of our building and there is a green box about 2x9 and 2x10 that is the power supply. What we are looking is to be about 6 feet four inches from not only the box but there is also a curb that is about this thick that is a protecting barrier because of this box. So there's a grassy area there and there is also if the lines were still there, at one point there was a line there that showed you it was a no parking area because of the green box so we would put that 12x10 structure up and put the 6 yard container inside of there. We would also put gates on it so that the truck pulls in dumps it sits it down closes the gate. And the parking lot isn't filled with containers and it looks a whole lot neater and cleaner as you pull down Patton Street. So that is our I do I mentioned to the IDA that I will be willing to get the utilities company to come out because I think there has to be at least 6 feet for them to be able to get in that power box and things we are gonna need to have assessed. But I promise if you do this I won't come back next month. I think these are the last of my requests for now. I won't keep bugging you for now. Although, there is a sign we want to put out on Patton Street. And we will be open officially next Tuesday.

Mrs. Keesee stated are you going to paint this sign or just wood?

Kathy Cropp stated we probably will just do the pressure treated lumber. If you needed it painted we can but probably just some kind of preservative so we don't have to replace it very often.

Mr. Ranson stated so this is accessed from your parking lot?

Kathy Cropp stated yeah you come into the parking lot down towards the structure on the right. I know this drawing has to really bug you John. You pull in so the truck would pull in and turn and lift it out and sit it back down and we would close the gates.

Mr. Ranson stated so are saying you are not losing any parking spaces?

Kathy Cropp stated no it's in a grassy area and it's in the no parking spaces. That is there already. So it would, believe it or not, when the lot is full people park there in that no parking place and pull up close to the green power supply as it is. Thus, we can't find any place that it is an opening and we have had people park there and we have asked them to come move their cars.

Mr. Ranson stated well, one thing you know you have a dumpster there and it's not concrete but its asphalt it will destroy your asphalt in a very short time. So you might consider concrete.

Kathy Cropp stated it's been pulling in there ever since whoever put asphalt in there. That truck has been pulling in there at least once or twice a week for four years or since it was asphalted. And there hasn't been any damage other than it doesn't look very good. And the lines are pretty much gone.

Mr. Ranson stated good.

Mr. Lackey stated It's the IDA's lot it's their problem not ours.

Kathy Cropp stated yeah did I mention at the last meeting that there were no lines anymore which would be nice because you could actually get more parking in there. But without lines you know how people park they take up two or three spaces if they can. Any questions?

Present on behalf of the request was Corrie Teague with the City of Danville's Economic Development.

Corrie Teague states I wanted to let you know that this was a problem for the IDA at their meeting this week and they did approve it contingent on her discussing the location with the electric department.

Mr. Davis stated and this approval?

Corrie Teague stated and this approval, yes.

Mr. Gillie stated just please note we have recommendation of the distance from the street and the plaza just to make sure it doesn't get moved around.

Mr. Davis stated anything else?

Mr. Davis Closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Keesee made a motion to approve with setbacks and as long as she does the utility thing. Mr. Lackey seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Mr. Davis announced that three additional items were requested to be added to the agenda. The board voted and the additional items were approved to be added to the agenda my unanimous vote. Mr. Lackey abstained.

3. *Paint front façade of the building located at 312 Main Street, Danville, Virginia. The front awning would be painted a chocolate brown color with the black part of the façade (currently green) painted a beige color. (see attached picture)*

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Present on behalf of the request was Tim Clark with Blair Construction.

Mr. Clark stated we have recently renovated the building on behalf of the IDA for the purpose of Bobby Carlson moving his photography studio into that space this space. This space is essentially finished. Along the way Bobby talked directly to the painter and expressed his interest in the outside trim paint being changed from white to black. That came circle around to us from the painter we said we can't change anything without jumping through hoops and doing some stuff and making sure it's okay. Bobby came back around said its fine it's not that big of deal don't worry about it. No more came of it until probably about a month and half ago and the painter was painting on that site on the outside on a Sunday afternoon so he didn't disrupt business down town and I got an email late on Sunday night from Corrie Teague saying on my gosh this was painted black and we said we were going to do that. I said we can paint back white I didn't know it's okay. Before we painted it, it is still black today and we went back so I can have the painter paint it back white but I think that it looks good black. I think Bobby Carlson thinks that it looks good black. It compliments the buildings next to it black. I got a picture of it when it was white I don't have a. I didn't know that I could get this put on the agenda. I submitted it this morning thinking it would be on the October meeting so I'm not thoroughly prepared with two different color photos. I do have it on my phone. I do have a picture of It black if you care to pass it down the table and see it. As you can see

from the picture the building that is adjacent to it the trim on it was painted a dark green color. So I really think it's more astatic being a darker color. But they don't let me pick out colors so. You see a lot of the roof trim was already black. Anybody have any questions?

Mr. Lackey stated do we have any idea what it historically was? I'm sure the answer is no but I'm going to ask the question.

Mr. Clark stated I don't have any idea. I'm sure we might be able to find someone that knows but I don't. Most of the windows are the glass under there some of it is actually plexi glass. So it not like we didn't change anything with that so it's not like the original. Some of the brick and the metal trim is original we have kept all of that the way it was.

Mr. Clarke stated I think there were a lot of changes made when it was a furniture store.

Mr. Clark stated I apologize that we had to come before you in this situation. But it got out of our control. I appreciate being heard.

It sounds like it got out of control that Sunday.

Mr. Clark stated It did, it did I don't like getting mad emails ever let alone on Sunday night.

Mr. Davis Closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Lackey stated this is not a reflection on this applicant or this building but this is the second time in two months that we have been asked forgiveness rather than permission and I think that is a really bad precedent for us to have because it's going to get around. Hey you can go forward and they are not going to make you reverse it. Now that's no reflection on this particular applicant. But that's the second, excuse me, that's the third time that this has happen to this Board because it happen over here at your building.

Mr. Chaney stated that one never even got submitted.

Mr. Lackey stated Oh okay. It didn't?

Mrs. Chaney stated they just painted the building.

Mr. Lackey stated I had some real concerns I wanted to make that clear that it's not about this particular project, but I have some real concerns about where we are soon not going to be enforcing. We're going to have everyone coming before us and saying oops I painted it. That's what we heard the last two times. I don't know what you do about it but I want to make that comment. I think we've got a real presidential problem staring us in the face.

Mr. Davis stated when they do come forward we don't have to approve it.

Mr. Lackey stated no, we don't but it's a lot harder to say go spend the money to re paint the building rather than don't spend the money at all. Then are we going to get awnings put up that aren't approved. I'm just very concerned about people just saying I don't have to follow the Board I can go afterwards and they'll approve it. Again, I wanna make it very clear that it's no reflection on this particular application.

Mr. Clark stated I would paint it back white.

Mr. Ranson stated what I would tell you having been on both commissions this is a continuing problem. I mean we have discussed this many, many times when I was on the Commission of Architectural Review. People do things and I think 99% of it is ignorance of what the requirements are. It is hard to it does put us in a bad position. I don't know what can be done to stop it because apparently this person had been told not to paint it black and they painted it black anyway.

Mr. Lackey stated and I think the way to stop, and again I'm not suggesting I'm answering that question I'm not suggesting that they do that this time. The way to stop it is we say no and the painter has to paint it back white at his dime. And then the painters will quit painting when they have to re paint the think and then it's their fault for not digging in front of this board first.

Mrs. Nicholas stated why were they told not to paint black? Just because it hadn't been submitted to us? Or the decisions hadn't been made?

Mr. Ranson stated the other thing is that I sort of think it looks better than the white.

Mrs. Chaney stated it does but the point that he is making is the fact that they think oh just so what about the rules. I'm just go ahead and do it and then they are gonna go okay just leave it. That's kinda like the school board putting their sign up on the building after the fact and then being called out on it. Then do we make them take it down and then put it back up? So are they gonna pay those extra fees? Are you going to charge them a fine? Then people are gonna know they are gonna be charged a fine then they will be like well 250 ill pay the 250 and go ahead and do this. So it's like what do you do?

Mr. Ranson stated you know it's gonna happen it's really ignorance.

Mr. Gillie stated from staff perspective this board was put in place to see and do what was best for the district. I'm not debating on what in the grand scheme of things does the white look better or the black? That's the purpose for someone who has done something we have had very good reception from the people down-town because this Board has been so good about in this case heard an item that has been brought up at

the last minute. You're getting the reputation in this area of the board that people want to work with. So we do have small cases like this where people do something by mistake. They are not then afraid to come to you and ask hey is this okay? And in fact almost apologizing to you we didn't mean to do what we did can we keep this? If not we will fix it back. The reputation you are getting compared to some others boards for the city; is a good positive thing for us people because say I see this board is trying to do what is really good for this area. So, while I agree, with you there's a precedent where someone is going to say skip the rules most of the time we have found that's not the case. As soon as they find out about it they are apologetic they come back and said hey can I do this is it okay? And they are not afraid to bring things we tell them this is the cutoff date but if you bring it maybe the board will be willing to hear it. And you guys have done that so just I wanna.

Mr. Lackey stated I appreciate that knowledge because I didn't have it I'm glad they're staff in the city because that's what were hear for.

Mr. Gillie stated oh yeah you have made other boards rethink the way they do things.

Mr. Lackey stated but I guess I'm really thinking about the previous one there entire building. I don't know how many comments yall have heard about it, but I heard about any number of comments about the bright blue building and downtown Danville. How could you have possibly approved it?

Mr. Keesee stated well, I think on that building RJ we approved the front of the building but I didn't think we approved the back.

Mr. Lackey stated we approved the back after it had been done.

Mr. Keesee stated I wasn't at that meeting but I made a phone call to somebody and tried and get it stopped because I saw it and thought this sticks out like.

Mrs. Lackey stated and then the owner comes and said I didn't realize I was supposed to do it even though they got a phone call from you. Just here we are voting I'm just concerned about it and if it had been one and then another eight months later I probably would have less concern but this is the third time.

Mr. Keesee stated Mr. Davis can we make a motion on this?

Mr. Keesee made a motion to approve the request as submitted. Mrs. Chaney seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-1 vote.

4. *Placement of a dumpster behind the building/ parking lot and construction of a wooden enclosure to conceal the dumpster. (See attached photo showing location of dumpster.)*

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Keesee stated this is the old Glenmore correct?

I am Tammy Poplin from Piedmont Lands of Virginia thank you guys for hearing these at late notice. We are here to propose to paint the front facade at the old Glenmore building at 309 Main Street. I think the part you guys the front that has a shingle look to it that we propose to paint a cocoa brown like a chocolate brown color and the back that is I guess a green color will be a sand stone beige. And at this point we are proposing to paint it at this point we have had a couple of protential renters look at it. And at that point once we rent it then they can come before you guys and customize it to what they would like it to be.

Mrs. Nicholas stated will you be repairing the missing shingles and all that before you paint it?

Mrs. Poplin stated yes.

Mrs. Nicholas stated but there won't be any changing of the material?

Mrs. Poplin states no.

Mr. Keesee stated tell me this color picture you gave us what is this I'm a little confused. This is how it looks now?

Mrs. Poplin stated yes this is how it looks now.

Mr. Davis stated so this is just for the aluminum part?

Mrs. Poplin stated yes.

Mrs. Chaney stated for the aluminum and the shingles?

Mrs. Poplin stated yes the brick will stay the same.

Mr. Davis stated we can go ahead and discuss the other part of the request for placement of a dumpster behind the building parking lot and the construction of a wooden enclosure to conceal the dumpster.

Mrs. Poplin stated and that would be if you see on the picture that would be where the generator is located which actually belongs to the school board. They will remove that and the dumpster would actually be located there and it would actually model what you guys previously approved for Golden Leaf Bistro the wood left natural and just an enclosure. And I believe that was an eight yard so we would probably put another eight yard right there.

Mrs. Nicholas stated so you would be taken out the generator entirely and putting the dumpster in its place?

Mrs. Poplin stated yes.

Mr. Gillie stated the school system owns the generator they will relocate it somewhere else.

Mrs. Nicholas stated I didn't know that.

Mr. Gillie stated yeah it's not their generator it's the schools.

Mrs. Chaney stated question for does this location follow in the guidelines and restrictions?

Mr. Gillie stated it's about dead center of the building so yeah it would be screened for both sides adequately. And that's what the enclosure is. With the generator their now bollards is still gonna stay so I assume you're not gonna notice a real change between what was there and what's going on. We have no comments of the previous colors.

Mr. Davis stated anyone that would like to speak for or against either one of these requests?

Mr. Davis Closed the Public Hearing.

Mrs. Chaney made a motion to approve the request as submitted. Mr. Keesee seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0-1 vote. Mr. Lackey abstained from voting due to conflict of interest.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The August 13, 2015 minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Gillie stated as announced last meeting Ms. Hairston wasn't supposed to be here today but she graciously agreed to stay for a little while longer but tomorrow will be here official last day with the city so she will be leaving. Mr. Holtry is will also leaving so these are their last official public meetings they will be attending. So we wish them good luck in all of their future endeavors. Also, I was serious that this board has gotten a very good reputation. I have heard very good things from people who have spoken about the good deeds that are going on down-town. This board has been very easy to work with and people don't mind coming here. Some of the other boards in the city we have heard the opposite. So from the Staff's perspective it's been pretty easy and keep up the good

work. When I tell someone oh you have to go before the board and it's like oh okay and they're not fighting us to go. That's all we have.

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

Approved By: