

HISTORIC VERMILION DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2022

Roll Call: Robbie Brown, Brenda Miklos, Judy Williams, Marilou Suszko Absent: Judy Doll

Present: Pat Stein, Council Representative; Mayor Forthofer, Guest

CALL TO ORDER:

Robbie Brown, Chairwoman called the meeting of May 4, 2022 to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Vermilion Municipal Court Complex.

Pat Stein, Council Representative addressed the Design and Review Board stating that she was on the board in the past, and they also had last minute requests. Her suggestion is that the grapevine knows what is happening in Vermilion, everybody knows who is opening or closing a business. When you hear there is a new business coming in, introduce yourself to them, make them feel welcome, explain to them what the Design and Review Board is and how to go about it. Either have the forms with you or tell them where to get the forms that they need and then make sure they understand they have to have the things in by a due date but be nice. You get a lot more flies with honey than you do with vinegar. If they do not want to greet them, she is happy to greet them and she will be the ambassador telling them welcome, and what they need to know.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

M. Suszko MOVED; B. Miklos seconded to approve the meeting minutes of April 6, 2022. Roll Call Vote 4 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS:

(Residential) Applicant: Denis Greg – 791 Main St. (Windows)

Representative was not in attendance, application tabled until next meeting.

(Residential) Applicant: Tim and Jean Schooley – 601 Perry St. (Siding, Doors, Windows, Painting)

Tim and Jean Schooley presented the board with plan to repair the back deck at their home. It is currently in disrepair and unsafe. They would like to enclose it to make a mud room and they will use the same contractors that they did to the front, but just enclose it. The roofline will not change, that is staying below the roof structure, they will demolish and build brand new from the ground up once approved by the city. R. Brown stated she was glad they are restoring the property; she loves what they did in the front, so she feels good about the back. M. Suszko asked if it would be screened in or walled in. T. Schooley answered it would be

solid walls, the window will be on the exterior so they will keep the architecture safe and secure within the same boards.

J. Williams MOVED; B. Miklos seconded to approve the siding, doors, windows and painting as described above. Roll Call Vote 4 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

(Residential) Applicant: Kody Herchler – 737 Perry St. (Emergency Roof Replacement)

Representative was not in attendance, application tabled until next meeting.

(Residential) Applicant: Jonathan Hauck – 612 Main St. (Emergency Roof Replacement)

Jonathan Hauck of 612 Main Street provided a sample shingle for the roof replacement which will be gray in color.

M. Suszko MOVED; B. Miklos seconded to approve the emergency roof replacement as described. 4 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

(Residential) Applicant: Josh & Julianne Dewey – 590 Main St. (Window Replacement and Exterior Painting)

Josh Dewey presented the board with the proposed paint colors for the exterior of the home. The proposed paint color will be Van Courtland Blue for the siding and the trim of the house will be painted in Boothbay Gray. These colors are a close match to the current colors of the house. They will also be replacing 11 windows which will have a white trim. The Board noted that the colors will be very similar to what is currently on the home.

M. Suszko MOVED; B. Miklos seconded to approve window replacement and exterior painting as described. 4 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

(Commercial) Applicant: Alison Zaleski Racine – 651 Main St. (Awnings, Doors, Windows, Exterior Painting, Signage, Landscaping)

Alison Zaleski Racine presented the board with her concept for S.O.S. Wines at 651 Main Street. At this time, she will not be adding an awning, but will paint the damaged brick white. She would like to paint the trim, the steps and base navy blue and the trip would be white. She will remove the screen door and paint the current door red. The numbering on the building will be in gold. The window decal will be in gold lettering as well. J. Williams stated she believes it will be a compliment to downtown Vermilion. M. Suszko agreed and said if you stand on the street and start looking at who has white trim around their windows, it is staggered throughout the downtown, but matching or blending into the brick is a plus. R. Brown said that she thought the white would work as well because the blue and the red are bold. She said she did not realize that the steps were all painted in that area and that side of the street looks very coordinated and together. She is not quite sure how she feels about navy blue, but she understands how that stands out,

because you've got that little dark insert. J. Williams asked if the flooring leading to the door is the same as Erie and Anchor next door. A. Racine answered yes it is. She stated that the glass feature on the storefront is beautiful, and they want to clean it up very carefully and will shine it up more. M. Suszko said this is still left and it is also left on the Poppin around building, it is a unique feature, and she is glad that she isn't covering it up. A.. Racine said that she likes awnings, but it is something they will have to hold off temporarily because they are trying their best to save money where they can for now and if they do decide to have an awning they will bring that back to the board.

B. Miklos MOVED; R. Brown seconded to approve the door, windows, signage, painting, and landscaping as described above. 4 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Commercial) Applicant: Jacqui Adkins – 666 Main St. (Signage, Exterior Painting)

Jacqui Adkins provided the board with her concept for Main Street Threads at 666 Main Street. She stated that they are looking to add signage and clean up the exterior. Right now, it is a taupe brown color, and they are looking at painting the top part in the Benjamin Moore color Charcoal Slate. All of the trim will stay white which already exists. The only changes they would like to do would be painting and adding the sign. The steps are pretty washed, and she would love to paint them the color Concrete Grey to make it more inviting. She used an anti-skid there to prevent falls. The sign will be individual letters that will waterproof, they are high density urethane which is the same material used on the signs at Poppin Around, Erie and Anchor and a few other projects downtown. She wanted everything to be cohesive, and at the same time make it look clean.

R. Brown asked what color is on the door now. J. Adkins answered right now it is very weathered and almost has an orange color to it, so they will sand that down and paint it gray. M. Suszko asked if there was a temporary sign on the door right now. J. Adkins answered yes, for right now, but they will adhere the new sign from the back. R. Brown thanked her for coming to Vermilion and said they are always excited to get these shops. J. Williams asked if they would have the green plastic grass that is in the concept photo. J. Adkins answered no, that is photoshop, there are flowers there right now and they wanted to show color in the concept. B. Miklos stated that she likes the paint colors. J. Adkins thanked her and said that she really wanted to use black, but she knows that black is not a historical color. M. Suszko said in reality, there is no historic color palate for the city, but they are glad she is going that way. B. Miklos said that she thinks the gray marries everything well. R. Brown said she likes that the white is not that bright white and asked what the color of the letters will be. J. Adkins answered they will be white as well.

J. Williams MOVED; B. Miklos seconded to approve the signage and exterior painting as described above. 4 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Commercial) Applicant: Main Street Vermilion – Main St. (Signage)

Amy Hoffman representing Main Street Vermilion said that pending City Council's approval of DORA they will have to have boundary signage at any point where you would enter or exit the DORA area. The size of the signs would be about the same size as a parking sign. R. Brown asked if the hours would be listed on the sign. A. Hoffman said that they will have a rollout period of education and because the hours can always change, they probably will not have the hours listed because that is the DORA boundary regardless of time. A. Hoffman presented the board with the locations of the signs. B. Miklos noted that it is a lot of signage. A. Hoffman said that is because you have to have them where the area changes for example when you go from the beach to residential you have to have a sign, where you enter main street from a cross street, you have to have a sign and so on. The example given would be the most signs they would have, it might not be that many. Mayor Forthofer mentioned that some of those signs would not be located in the Historic District. He asked her to estimate how many signs would be in the historic area west of the bridge. A. Hoffman answered three signs would be east of the bridge so there would be about 24 in the downtown area. J. Williams asked if there would be a sign at the end of each of the streets so that as you are walking, you know where the area ends. A. Hoffman answered yes. Mayor Forthofer said that it is an odd situation in which the Ohio Revised Code stipulates there has to be signs, so what the board needs to look at is if these are the kind of signs that are acceptable, we don't have a choice in if there are signs. J. Williams asked what type of material would be used to make them. A. Hoffman answered it would be metal like a parking sign.

A. Hoffman explained the logo they came up with for DORA is something simple, but obvious that can fit in with our quaint town and not be a blaring orange sign. R. Brown asked if it would be curved like the example. A. Hoffman answered it would be the same shape as a traditional parking sign. J. Williams stated that the logo is very simple, there is no graphic there at all. She said that she noticed another sign had a bridge symbol. A. Hoffman said that is for Tiffin and that is what they use to mark their DORA cups. She said that the smaller square is the logo itself, DORA Vermilion and it says Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area, so the idea is to have something that represents where you are, but not to take it any further. B. Miklos asked if they would consider moving the DORA Boundary wording on the sign above the words "No Alcohol Beyond this Point" and make DORA Vermilion larger. R. Brown agreed and said the most important thing you are looking at is the boundary and the alcohol. B. Miklos said that DORA Vermilion looks more friendly than the word Boundary, and if the word Boundary is down further and then No Alcohol as a suggestion would look better visually. J. Williams said it looks rather busy. B. Miklos said that it does not balance well to her. R. Brown said to her, the word Boundary is off balance a little bit. B. Miklos said that in her opinion, DORA Vermilion would look visually better if it is larger and first, then DORA Boundary, and then No Alcohol Beyond this Point. When she looks at it she gets confused. R. Brown agreed.

M. Suszko said she is not voting on it because it is a Main Street project, and asked if Amy can send the board a revised copy because they want to make sure all of their ducks are in a row in case this passes through Council. Would she be able to send a

revised copy of the sign, and everyone can just weigh in. Mayor Forthofer answered they are not able to do that because they can't have a meeting outside of a public meeting. If they want to have a public meeting, they can do it that way. DORA will not be narrowed down a month from now anyway, there will be another meeting in which A. Hoffman can bring another version. A. Hoffman asked if it would be better that she bring multiple options and if that would help. R. Brown said that she would like that. A. Hoffman said she had talked to the Service Director and of the samples, he liked the sign that said DORA Boundary at the top and that is why she went that direction. R. Brown said she understands that is what you want people to see first and wondered what the police said about it. Mayor Forthofer said the police want whatever is good for the businesses. A. Hoffman said she would make revisions and bring them back. J. Williams asked if the colors on the sign are just blue and white. A. Hoffman said yes. J. Williams asked if there was some type of a graphic or logo. A. Hoffman answered they created that to be their DORA logo because while Main Street Vermilion is getting it running and will be the administrators of the program, it is not all about the organization Main Street Vermilion, it is a program for the City. Mayor Forthofer stated the seal is proprietary, it is in the charter. M. Suszko said they would not want to put that on the DORA cups. The logo goes on cups, signage, and posters. A. Hoffman said this is just for boundary signage only. M. Suszko wanted the board to remember that the purpose for the signage is pretty utilitarian, we don't want to put 24 highly stylized signs all around town, it is a boundary.

R. Brown tabled the application until the June meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS:

M. Suszko wanted to address last minute applications and said that she did encourage Amy and Jacqui to ask to be on the agenda for this meeting because she knows that these store owners trying to get ahead of the upcoming summer season, it is very important for them to try to get their store ready under the gun. Yes, they were late, and she totally agrees with the feeling about late proposals, but she is guilty of these last two. R. Brown said that she knew Jacqui was told earlier about the meeting and she wished she could get people to understand it is great if they have the materials and what they are asking the board to approve. She knows that everyone can't always get those, but it is nice to get the whole picture. M. Suszko stated that the application has not been revised for a long time and she said when she looks at it, she does not pick up the specific checkpoints that you should have these materials by this date. R. Brown stated that it says on the application a minimum of six copies that the applicants must supply but she realizes it is easy for people to miss, she likes to have all of the information before she is asked to make a decision that is important for the community. She also understands there are emergencies like roofing that she wouldn't want someone to wait, but somehow the communication needs to be out there when they go to the building department they know that they have to have it all together. R. Brown stated she would like to have a workshop with the whole group and the public can attend, and they can discuss further.

ADJOURNMENT:

R. Brown adjourned the meeting upon no further discussion.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

@ Vermilion Municipal Complex, 687 Decatur Street, Vermilion

Transcribed by: Melanie Wood, Building Clerk