

HISTORIC VERMILION DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2021 @ 6:00 pm

Roll Call: Robbie Brown, Brenda Miklos, Judy Williams, Marilou Suszko. Absent:
Susan Cairns

Robbie Brown, Chairwoman called the Wednesday, May 5, 2021 meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

B. Miklos MOVED: M. Suszko seconded to approve the meeting minutes of April 7, 2021. Vote 4 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS:

(Commercial) Applicant: Vermilion Port Authority (Bill Yancar) – 537 Main Street (Roof)

Bill Yancar said they are replacing the bathroom roof with a Quarry Grey shingle that has a 50-year warranty. The work will be done by ADT. They will replace the flashings and underlay.

R. Brown MOVED: M. Suszko seconded to approve the application as submitted. Vote 4 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Commercial) Applicant: Angela Pasadyn – 5645 Liberty Avenue (Siding, Gutters)

Mike and Angela Pasadyn of 2775 Jerusalem Road said they recently purchased Parmer Screen Print and they want to replace missing gutters with one-piece seamless gutters and four windows on the west side on the second level and two windows on the south side on the second level. The windows will be white with white trim, and the gutters will be white.

M. Suszko MOVED: B. Miklos seconded to approve the application as submitted. Vote 4 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Commercial) Applicant: Angela McClure – 5532 Liberty Avenue (Signage)

Angela McClure provided the board with a color picture of her signage which is Rocky & Lela's Barkery and Boutique. She will sell dog treats and will have a boutique that will sell gifts for dogs and owners. She proposed a metal sign with the background color in black and the "Rocky & Lela's" lettering will be white, and the lettering color for "Barkery and Boutique" will be in gold.

M. Suszko said most of the signage in the downtown is resin signage and questioned why she chose the metal. A. McClure said there was really no reason as

she liked how it looked because it was clean. The sign will lay flat. M. Suszko asked if she planned on up lighting or downlighting the sign. A. McClure said she had not thought about this, but probably at night she should. M. Suszko said she noticed she put something on her door. A. McClure said for the 'Wine and Chocolate' walk she did, so people knew she was participating. M. Suszko asked if she was doing anything else on the window. A. McClure said she was doing dog decals down at the bottom and she put curtains on the inside. M. Suszko asked who was producing her sign. A. McClure said Affordable Signs and Graphics out of Avon Lake. R. Brown said signage on the windows should come before the board as well. A. McClure said she was not aware and only put it on her window temporarily because she participated in the event. M. Suszko said decals on the window is typically not part of the Historic Design & Review because it is not on the building, but on the window. She said they would like if she brought it before the board just as a courtesy.

J. Williams asked how big the sign was going to be. A. McClure said eight feet. M. Suszko said she was concerned with the proposed sign choice/colors due to the red and white awning, three colors schemes on the building, and then the color choices of the sign. She said she is not a fan of flat metal signs downtown, but she is only one vote on the board. R. Brown said she was not either and she has a hard time with the black. B. Miklos said the buildings are very historic. M. Suszko said these are the two most photographed buildings downtown, so signage is important, which is an advantage to the applicant. A. McClure asked what colors work for the board. M. Suszko said she was not opposed to black but would like for her to consider a different type of sign, but she didn't know what fits within her budget. She asked when she planned on opening. A. McClure said May 14. R. Brown said the lettering is fine. A. McClure said the building is like a cream, so she thought the gold would look nice. R. Brown said she would rather see cream or even red lettering rather than gold, but this is just her opinion. J. Williams asked M. Suszko if she was talking about a sign similar to what the Chamber is presenting to the board tonight. M. Suszko said the Chamber's sign is a blade sign.

M. Suszko said she is concerned because they are looking at two of the most historic and photographed buildings downtown. This sign in itself is nice, but on this building is what she is concerned about. She said this is her personal opinion, and it comes down to whether it fits in her budget. She said she will probably be voting no on this sign because she does not like the metal material. She told A. McClure that when she came to Main Street, she gave her guidelines for signage in historic districts and asked he if she looked at it to get an idea. A. McClure said she did, but it did not say anything about the aluminum not being able to be used. M. Suszko said it talks about different signage and materials to use, but it did not say that it was a no. She said to her this signage is not consistent with the historic flavor of downtown. She is not saying they cannot mix up signs, but they have an "Erie & Anchor" sign that is not necessarily about looking old or historic, but it fits. So, for her it is the material, and it is because it is flat. She would rather see some dimension on this building. A. McClure asked what she should do if the sign is too expensive. B. Miklos said Crystal's sign was pretty economical and maybe she could get with her. M. Suszko said she wants to be careful with this because Crystal had a

friend make her sign – it is a homemade sign, and they should be careful of this in downtown. A professionally produced sign makes a world of difference and it is very important for the image of the business.

J. Williams said she does not agree with everything M. Suszko says, but she would defer to her today because she knows more than she does about this. She suggested that A. McClure get some pricing done and maybe there is a loan or some sort of help she could get if she could not afford it. A. McClure asked if the board wants her to have the resin. R. Brown said yes, but she is willing to approve the signage if it is the resin. They want her business, and they want her to be successful. B. Miklos said she likes her signage, but they are protective of the downtown and those two buildings are historic, so if they could make a compromise that would be great. A. McClure asked if she would need to come back before the board. R. Brown said she did not want to hold her up another month if she was going to be opening soon. B. Miklos suggested that she contact M. Suszko and possibly they could have a special meeting or zoom meeting to resolve this.

Angela McClure said if she cannot have this sign, could she have a sign on the door inside. R. Brown said she can on the window because it is not on the building.

M. Suszko MOVED, B. Williams seconded to revisit this at a special meeting within two weeks. Roll Call Vote 4 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

(Commercial) Applicant: Vermilion Chamber of Commerce – 5495 Liberty Avenue (Signage)

Sandy Coe presented a design showing the dimensions for a new blade sign that will replace the existing. It will have a welded aluminum stock sign bracket to be primed and painted matte black to simulate wrought iron. The sign will be 2” thick high-density urethane; carved, primed and painted. Sherwin Williams Gloss Hale Navy Blue and Sherwin Williams Gloss White with digital print graphic applied. She was not sure about lighting over the sign. M. Suszko told her to wait to see how the street lighting will affect this.

B. Miklos MOVED, R. Brown seconded to approve the application as submitted for the signage. Roll Call Vote 3 YEAS, 1 ABSTENTION (Suszko). **MOTION CARRIED**.

(Residential) Applicant: James Liljegren - 519 Washington Street (Concrete Driveway & Fence)

J. Liljegren said he already replaced the existing driveway. However, he would like approval on replacing his existing wood fence in ‘like’ kind. J. Williams thought the fence was modern looking but technically they are not a modern neighborhood, so is this the right kind of fence. R. Brown said he is replacing the fence of ‘like’ kind. M. Suszko said they are only an advisory board for residential so he can do what he wants.

R. Brown MOVED, M. Suszko seconded to approve the concrete driveway and the fence as proposed. Roll Call Vote 4 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

(Commercial) Applicant: Mercedes Mitchell – 5312 ½ Liberty Avenue (Signage)

Mercedes Mitchell said she is renting out the building by the bait shop. She showed pictures from her phone of the signage. She said the big sign is 6' x 6', which will be in front of the building next to the renter's sign. She said the other renter parks his car in front of where the signs are located. The 3' x 6' sign is going to be behind the building facing towards the water. This is the same size as what the former sign was. The 24" x 24" sign will be on the garage door, and the 24" x 18" will be on her walk-in business door. R. Brown did not think the sign looked very historic. M. Mitchell said the signs are blue and white.

M. Suszko said this is the entrance to Harbourtown. She said Mark's car is always parked there and asked if he was going to change this because it will impact the sign. M. Mitchell said she did not know, and she would need to ask Joe who parks there. M. Suszko said for her to invest in this sign and this not to happen, she would think she would need to have some sort of agreement because it is his building. B. Miklos said she has not seen a 6' x 6' in Harbourtown. R. Brown said this is a big sign – it is almost a billboard. M. Suszko thought it falls within the maximum sign dimensions. She asked Mercedes if she looked at any of the sign guidelines that are available. M. Mitchell said no.

J. Williams said she would feel more comfortable if they had paperwork in front of them. M. Suszko said nobody ever had a chance to see her plans or a chance to ask questions prior to the meeting, so she would like to table this issue until a later date. She suggested that Mercedes review the sign guidelines because she is at an important point of the entrance and exit into Harbourtown. This board was established a long time ago to keep an eye on this kind of stuff.

R. Brown said this is the first time the board is looking at these plans, so she would like to table this matter until the applicant reviews the guidelines. B. Miklos said the board just wants her to be mindful of where she is moving and what her signage is going to look like. M. Suszko said she will give her some guidelines on the materials tomorrow. G. Fisher said if they have a special meeting, then they could possibly add her.

(Residential) Applicant: Scott & Melva Sherwood – 5710 Lake Street (Roof)

S. Sherwood explained they need to replace their roof shingles due to wind damage. They would like to use the CertainTeed Shingle-Landmark in Heather Blend.

B. Miklos MOVED, M. Suszko seconded to approve the roof project as described. Roll Call Vote 4 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

(Residential) Applicant: Chris Sena – 666 Perry Street (Fence, Front Steps, House Exterior, Walkway)

Chris Sena provided the board members with his exterior improvement ideas relative to replacing the existing wooden fence with a 6' white vinyl fence, replacing the front steps with the same stone, replacing the damaged shakes with cedar (paint same blue color), and replacing the current walkway with stamped concrete.

M. Suszko MOVED, B. Miklos seconded to approve this application as submitted. Roll Call Vote 4 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

(Commercial) Vermilion City Hall – 5511 Liberty Avenue (Decal Signage)

M. Suszko explained the Heritage Ohio Grant Program will help the city in replacing the worn decal signage on the building, so as a courtesy she explained they will be removing anything that is chipped and worn. They will replace the City of Vermilion up top, and they will add the schooner. Everything will be replaced except the history of the mayors.

R. Brown MOVED, D. Miklos seconded to approve the signage on the mayor's office. Roll Call Vote 3 YEAS, 1 ABSTENTION (Miklos). **MOTION CARRIED**.

ADJOURNMENT:

R. Brown adjourned the meeting upon no further discussion.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, June 2, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

@ Vermilion Municipal Complex, 687 Decatur Street, Vermilion

Transcribed by Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk