

**HARB BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 16TH, 2010 4:30 PM**

PRESENT:

STEVE GIFFORD, CHAIRMAN
LEE CALISTI
NANCY STEWART
BARBARA JONES
PETE CICCAGLIONE
AUTUMN DELELLIS
BARBARA CIAMPINI

ALSO PRESENT: LOU DEROSE, SOLICITOR

Steve Gifford: The first thing on the agenda is the approval of the January 19th, 2010 meeting minutes. Can I have a motion to approve the minutes as presented?

Lee Calisti: I make a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Pete Ciccaglione: I second the motion.

OLD BUSINESS:

ITEM #1 113-S. Pennsylvania Avenue-Owner-Richard Kurtz-Applicant-Richard Kurtz-Project-façade/windows

Steve Gifford: We have one old business items and the property owner is not here. Just a quick update Richard is trying to get new numbers and also images of the windows for his property at 113 S. Pennsylvania Ave. He is doing the second and third floor replacement project. He is taking our comments into consideration and just getting more information before coming before the board. Any comments or questions on that?

Lou DeRose: Was this tabled from last month?

Barbara Ciampini: Yes.

Lou DeRose: Then you need to table this again.

Barbara Ciampini: I make a motion to table this request.

Barbara Jones: I second the motion.

All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item #1 534 W. Otterman Street-Property Owner-Melanie Alexander-Applicant-Melanie Alexander-Project-Signage

Item #2 970 North Main Street-Owner-Open Door Baptist Church-Applicant-Open Door Baptist Church-Project-Signage

Item #3 Greensburg Shopping Center-Owner-Union Real Estate-Applicant-Johnny's-Project-Signage

Item #1 534 W. Otterman Street-Owner-Melanie Alexander-Applicant-Melanie Alexander-Project-

Melanie Alexander: I am the owner of *Moonglow Yoga* and we just purchased 534 W. Otterman Street and we want to move our current signs from 114 W. Pittsburgh Street to our new place at 534 W. Otterman Street. These signs do work at our new location and we only have to remove them from the old place and affix them to the new location. Dave Wodoslawsky from the City did a final walk through and we do have our occupancy permit on the way and we are now open for business.

Steve Gifford: It is important to note that the freestanding pole sign was an existing sign that was used by the previous tenant?

Melanie Alexander: Correct.

Steve Gifford: So that is why you are using that one?

Melanie Alexander: Yes. It looks like we can just take the vertical sign and just bolt it right to that standing fixture and then the overhead sign that will be above the window we will probably just bolt that and once the snow melts we can safely get up there.

Steve Gifford: Any comments or questions? If not can I have a motion to approve this request for signage as presented?

Nancy Stewart: I make a motion to approve the sign as presented.

Lee Calisti: I second the motion.

All were in favor.

Melanie Alexander: I have one or two more questions? We find that we do have some problems with our parking. People from the fire hall are coming over and parking and this sort of happened after we started to move in. I was wondering, can we post signs like this along our property?

Barbara Ciampini: Yes.

Melanie Alexander: Do we have to have any sort of permission?

Barbara Ciampini: No those signs you have there will work just fine.

Melanie Alexander: Also, at some point we are going to have people renting from us. I was wondering if it would be okay to have vinyl lettering on the windows and if so do we have to have that approved by this board?

Barbara Ciampini: Yes, if it's on the window here or any front facing façade windows, then yes, we should look at that.

Melanie Alexander: Okay, very good, thank you.

Pete Ciccaglione: On that sign, if I were you I would put your name on there because maybe some of your own customers might not think they can park there.

Melanie Alexander: I see your point, no problem.

Barbara Ciampini: Congratulations on your building purchase. Good luck at your new location.

Item #2 970 N. Main Street-Owner-Open Door Baptist Church-Applicant-Open Door Baptist Church-Project Signage

Jim Pillsbury: I am Jim Pillsbury and I am on the board of the *Open Door Baptist Church* and here with me tonight is our Pastor and Assistant Pastor. They can also answer some questions. Our church has been at this location for quite a long time, since 1972 and the sign has been there since that time. We've been having some electrical problems with the sign and if you drive by it looks okay but when you get up close you realize that it has reached the end of its life, so we would like to replace it with a new sign which would be similar to the one that you see on the screen to the right. There are probably some extra photos here.

Steve Gifford: I think the dimensions might be off? Is that correct Jim, it's not 8 feet wide?

Jim Pillsbury: I was thinking it was 6 feet wide.

Steve Gifford: I think that's what the e-mail said that Barb sent.

Pastor Joel Pendl: The first few pictures are going to be our church property and then I took pictures of our old sign. You can see how it kind of matches.

Barbara Ciampini: Are you going to get rid of the planter and everything?

Jim Pillsbury: We want to move the new sign closer to the church driveway and where the sign is now large trucks park at *Shop N Save* and no one can see the sign. And sometimes the large deliver trucks park right in front of the sign and then you really can't see it coming south on Main Street. So we would like to move the whole sign closer to our driveway.

Steve Gifford: Do you have a photograph of the approximate placement?

Jim Pillsbury: It will be right beyond this, (he is pointing to the screen).

Pastor Joel Pendl: It will be right back in here.

Steve Gifford: Are you staying back from the State Road the same distance?

Jim Pillsbury: Probably, we have to check with Penn Dot.

Nancy Stewart: Is this going to be a lighted sign?

Jim Pillsbury: It's internally lit; the current sign is also internally lit.

Steve Gifford: Great. I am showing on the screen that we have four (4) options to choose from. So I guess the question for the board is which base do we prefer, the pyramid, the large rectangle or the small brick base

Nancy Stewart: Which one do you prefer?

Jim Pillsbury: Probably the smaller one.

Pastor Joel Pendl: Let me ask you this, do we have to go with the brick foundation? Would that be a requirement? Would you let us go with a new sign without the foundation?

Pete Ciccaglione: What is your landscaping, your first picture on the left (he is pointing to the screen) what is that base made out of? Is that a metal base?

Pastor Joel Pendl: Yes.

Pete Ciccaglione: It's going to get rusty, dented from the snow lying against it.

Pastor Joel Pendl: We would do a full landscaping around it.

Barbara Jones: The one to the right of that one, is that some sort of a container like the other one was that you could put planting in?

Jim Pillsbury: It will probably be a 3 dimensional box out of brick.

Barbara Jones: There won't be any dirt in it or anything for planting?

Jim Pillsbury: We don't have any plants in the existing one.

Pete Ciccaglione: I think that fourth one would look great.

Barbara Jones: I would like to see some planting; it would soften it up a little bit. It's more balanced. This one seems to be a little top heavy, she is pointing to the screen.

Lee Calisti: I agree with that, it also looks less commercial or retail looking, it looks more hometown, church like not a business. It depends on what type of image you want to convey. I'm sure you don't want to convey yourself as a business. That's just the impression I get.

Pete Ciccaglione: The base that you have, if you use that, can you just bring the sign up higher? It will be more visible.

Barbara Ciampini: They want to move it.

Pete Ciccaglione: Well I think they want to move it because you can't see it but if you raise that up.

Jim Pillsbury: The brick that is there now is just crumbling and we wouldn't be able to use that and the other thing is you couldn't raise it up to high; it would be too high of a sign. The appliance co and the *Shop N Save* will just park a truck right there.

Lee Calisti: I don't think there is anything in our guidelines that stipulate one way or the other.

Autumn DeLellis: Just my opinion but I think the bottom left one is balanced and the bottom right there is a lot of brick, I mean its okay.

Pete Ciccaglione: I like either one on the bottom and if you took the cost of your landscaping which I'm sure replacing the brick around the bottom is going to be more landscaping, maybe not a whole lot more but definitely more. Every year you will have to mulch it and do whatever out there. I would go with either one of them on the bottom.

Nancy Stewart: None of them are objectionable to me. I think they are all fine and if they don't want to go with brick then I don't think they have to go with brick.

Steve Gifford: I share your opinion as well.

Pastor Craig Pendl: That would be my question as to the fact that we can do any of those?

Steve Gifford: Well it's a majority decision of the board. Nancy and I are indifferent as far as the base but some of the other board members here have expressed their opinions. I think it would be whatever decision they reach. If they are leaning towards more of a substantial base to balance this sign on. Does it matter rather its rectangle or the pyramid shape style. Am I over stating the opinion of the board?

Barbara Ciampini: No, I don't care which one it is either but if you look at the Gateway image that we are trying to create, the *Rite Aid Sign* has a base., It has the brick and if we are going to continue to do that then that gives us that image as you drive through town", hey, we've arrived somewhere special." The first two signs don't really do that.

Steve Gifford: Then based on that comment then the two bottom photos will be the two design photos to consider. Does the board want to make a motion on one or the other?

Lee Calisti: I think it has to be noted that the base is there to convey the image that Barb just stated, but I also think that it's also conveyed that this is a church not a commercial business. I think it's to their advantage not just an opinion that they have some type of base there. Pete brought up a really good point from a maintenance standpoint that no matter what is there; we've had 3 feet of snow and no matter what you have there, landscaping or whatever, if you have any metal that is close to the ground it will decay

fast then if you have some type of masonry protecting it. Those are three reasons I would say, it makes sense. You're going to have to put in some type of foundation to support the sign anyway.

Steve Gifford: Okay.

Lee Calisti: It seems like we're asking them to extend the foundation a little bit more but these are options that they also suggested, we didn't initiate those suggestions.

Steve Gifford: Okay. Does anyone have any questions?

Jim Pillsbury: Aside from the base, cover up the base, is the sign okay?

Steve Gifford: Sure.

Lee Calisti: Sure, it's your sign it's your image. If that's what you want to convey we don't have any objection to it.

Jim Pillsbury: It does kind of match what we have there right now, dimension wise.

Lee Calisti: Well just moving it helps it to be seen and there is no regulation that prohibits that.

Jim Pillsbury: We will check with Penn Dot if we are in the right-of-way or not.

Steve Gifford: Just to summarize, the motion from the board would be to approve the sign, the metal and the wood design part of the sign as presented with giving the church the flexibility of constructing a brick base that balances the sign in some way that ties into the property.

Barbara Ciampini: I don't know if you heard our comment but we were talking about coming into the Gateway and your location is the actually entrance one of the first institutions that is on the City's Gateway and we started that with the *Rite Aid* to create the low monument type of signs. When someone is coming into the City for the first time and looking for your church its right there and they have a feeling of okay, this is a nice place I am coming into some place different because it looks different as you drive in from Hempfield Township. That is the kind of image we are trying to create with all the Gateway properties. On behalf of the City I appreciate that you are replacing your sign and making it look better. I would concur with the other members of the board you need a brick base for the sign.

Steve Gifford: I made the motion can I have a second?

Lee Calisti: I second the motion.

All were in favor

Steve Gifford: Motion is approved. When you determine your final base that will be for the sign, just let Barb know so she can sign off on it.

Barbara Ciampini: Usually what we do with Religious Institutes, I don't think you are required to pay the fee but we do require you to fill out the paperwork.

Pete Ciccaglione: What color is the metal going to be?

Jim Pillsbury: That is also open to change; it might be a dark maroon color.

Pete Ciccaglione: Some of the darker colors like that they tend to fade so maybe you might want to check with your sign company to see what kind of warranty you get. You don't want something that is going to wash out right away.

Lee Calisti: Is that the color you use on your letterhead, web-site? Usually most people pick a color that goes along with the color you're using for your letterhead.

Pastor Joel Pendl: Our web-site is maroon and blue.

Pete Ciccaglione: You can use a light gray.

Lee Calisti: The colors are nice and obviously you want people to notice.

Pete Ciccaglione: The blue and maroon fade a lot.

Steve Gifford: Thank you. The final one on the agenda is for a sign at Johnny's at the Greensburg Shopping center. Are we going to take action on this tonight even though no one is here?

Barbara Ciampini: No we are not. They did not complete the application; the owner did not sign it.

Nancy Stewart: Is he just replacing what was there?

Barbara Ciampini: Yes.

Nancy Stewart: With exactly the same thing?

Barbara Ciampini: I believe so, but I really didn't get to look at it the whole way through.

Lou DeRose: Well, it's on the agenda so it needs to be tabled.

Barbara Ciampini: I make a motion to table this until next month's meeting.

Steve Gifford: I will second the motion.

All were in favor.

Pete Ciccaglione: I make a motion to adjourn.

Steve Gifford: I second the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

