

Downtown Design Review Board
January 16, 2008
4:00 p.m.
Small Assembly Room

- Welcome, Agenda Review, and Introductions.

Amy Haynes, Chair, called the meeting to order. There was a quorum present, Board members present are shown in italics. Everyone introduced themselves.

Present:

Anne Wallace

Amy Haynes

Finbarr Saunders

John Sanders

Kim Henry

Madeleine Weil

Gregg White

Jeffrey Nash

Brent Johnson

Michelle Hummel

Mark Donaldson

Mike Reynolds

Charlotte West

Organization:

MPC

Resident

Historic Zoning Commission

AIA

SITE, Inc.

City of Knoxville

GWE, LLC

Courtland Group, LLC

City of Knoxville

CBID

MPC

MPC

MPC

- Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Finbarr Saunders and seconded by Kim Henry to approve the December 19 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Certificates of Appropriateness:

Certificate No. 1-A-08-DT

123 S. Central St. – The Courtland Group (Jeffery Nash, Applicant) for The Crown and Goose

Pre-development meeting: N/A

Description of Work

This request is for installing a hanging sign. The sign size is proposed at 4 by 2 feet and 3.6 inches. This project is located in the Southern Terminal and Warehouse National Register District.

Staff Comments

This is an additional sign to the other signs that were presented and approved by the Board in July (application 7-DT-07-R). The base, C-2, zoning will allow up to 3 times the linear feet of a building for commercial signs. The front façade of this building shows 45 feet so the allowable sign area is 45 feet times 3, equal to 135 square feet for the whole building. The sign proposed is larger than the recommended size of hanging signs, which the guidelines recommend 6 feet squared, see page 38, 1a. For other sign information see page 26 of the Guidelines.

Anne Wallace stated that staff was reluctant to approve this application without bringing it before the board. Finbarr stated it looks like it is scaled nicely. Jeffrey Nash, applicant, stated they are trying to keep the building as authentic as possible, like it would be on an English Pub. This gives a nice visual from the street. Madeleine stated that the size does not pose a problem for pedestrians. Ann Bennett has looked at the drawing and told Anne Wallace that Historic Zoning Commission would approve this size sign. It is in a National Register district. Gregg White asked if the sign blocks any other signs. Mr. Nash stated that on one sign there is only a sandwich-type sign, and the ones across the street are larger.

A motion was made by Kim Henry and seconded by Gregg White to approve the staff recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

Certificate No. 1-B-08-DT

317 N. Central Street. – The Art Gallery of Knoxville (Chris Molinski, Applicant)
Pre-development meeting: N/A

Description of Work

This request is for a painted sign that has already been installed on the building. The sign was painted in consultation with the building owner, Jack O’Hanlan. The sign is intended to be a temporary sign for the duration of the art exhibit until November 2008.

Staff Comments

The City of Knoxville’s Zoning Ordinance defines temporary signs as the following: TEMPORARY SIGN - Temporary signs shall include any sign, banner, pennant, valance or advertising display constructed of wood, metal, cloth, canvas, light fabric, cardboard, wallboard, or other light material, with or without frames, where either by reason of construction or purpose the sign is intended to be displayed for a short period of time only. (Article 2, Section1). Additionally, the guidelines recommend painted wall signs for this district, see pg. 38, 1c. Please see the letter from the applicant regarding the timeline for this sign.

Amy stated that the art gallery is trying to replicate the original COPYSHOP in Copenhagen and will paint over this sign when the art show is over. Anne stated that the guidelines do not designate how long a temporary sign can stay or include any rules about them. The sign is already installed, but if we do not approve it, the city sign inspector could ask them to paint over it. Amy stated she would not have any trouble

telling them to paint over it. The original COPYSHOP sign was painted on boards that were attached to the building. John Sanders stated that the sign is temporary, and maybe they did not know about our board when they put the sign up. Amy stated she wants to be sure they repaint the building, and asked what would happen if they do not repaint and move out. John stated that if they rented it to someone else, they would have to repaint the storefront to remove the sign. Greg stated that this will take care of itself when they take the art exhibit out.

A motion was made by Kim Henry and seconded by Finbarr Saunders that the temporary sign be removed by November 30. The motion carried unanimously.

Amy stated that the letter should stipulate the date the sign is to be removed. The sign is approved for the duration of the exhibit.

Staff Report:

Issued Certificates of Appropriateness

12-B-07-DT, 118 S. Central St. – Sign Request, 12-21-07 Anne said the sign was installed and looks nice.

1-C-08-DT, Regas Square – Sign Request, 1-8-08. Madeleine said Council passed a resolution in December about a sign being erected. We submitted for administrative approval and the signs were approved at 18” x 18”. When the signs were constructed the Engineering Department determined they were too small and the signs were recreated at 30” x 30”. An amended certificate needs to be issued. Madeleine said we could have said it was a directional sign. Anne was concerned we might be setting a precedent of putting too many signs in one area. We should work with engineering to make sure it is appropriate for the area before it is erected and work with City Council so they do not approve something before our board looks at it. Madeleine said an inventory of all directional signs has been completed and will be on the web soon. Anne said that these signs should be included in the way finding study.

Other Business:

Continued discussion related to the “Knoxville Central Business District Alleyways Recommended Policy and Guidelines”.

Anne introduced Mike Reynolds from MPC who will take over her duties for the board.

Amy thanked Anne for her hard work in helping to create the board and wished her success in her new job.