

Minutes
Old Town Design Review Committee
December 13, 2010

Item 1:

The Old Town Design Review Committee was called to order at 4:02 p.m., with the following members present: Amanda Ferguson (Vice Chairperson), Sharon Ellis, Edward Resh, and Bill Peck (nonvoting). Place No. 4 and Place No. 5 have been vacated.

Staff members Claude King, Patia Boomsma, Mary Paron-Boswell, and Collin Tinsley were present.

Brent Groff and Dan Holzshuh were present to speak to Item 3.

Mark King was present to speak to Item 4.

Michael Duval was present to speak to Item 5.

Item 2:

A motion was made by Sharon Ellis to approve the November 8, 2010 minutes, seconded by Ed Resh. The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Item 3:

The third item on the agenda was the Consideration of a Letter of Design Approval for a New Wall Sign at 123 W. Main Street for Old Town Hobby Shop as Requested by Brent Groff, the Business Owner. Staff advised the Committee that the spelling of “Shop” in the sign should be “Shoppe” as confirmed with the Business Owner. Edward Resh and Sharon Ellis both requested that the sign stay within the brick border found in the center of the frieze. *Ed Resh made a motion to approve the sign with the condition that the revised sign stay within the brick border and subject to staff approval. Sharon Ellis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).*

Item 4:

The fourth item on the agenda was the Consideration of a Letter of Design Approval for re-siding and New Windows at 247 W. Walters as Requested by Jason Tsakonas, the Property Owner. Mark King, representing Mr. Tsakonas, explained that the Hardie Board siding will be smooth and not have the woodgrain texture like the submitted sample. He also asked to modify the color selection to a light gray base with bluish-gray trim. Mark also said the large window at the front of the house would have 8-over-8 simulated divided lights and the rest of the windows would be 6-over-6 simulated divided lights. The Committee expressed no objection to the changes. *Sharon Ellis made a motion to approve the changes as noted with a base (siding) color of Woodlawn Colonial Gray (Valspar 6004-1B) and a trim color of Mark Twain House Ombra Gray (Valspar 4004-2A). Ed Resh seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).*

Item 5:

The fifth item on the agenda was the Discussion of the Role of the Old Town Design Review Committee. The Committee expressed concern over the process and its role in

the recent approval of variances requested for the new MCL Grand Theatre. In particular, the Committee was concerned with the addition of a digital sign to Old Town. City Manager Claude King explained that other options were considered by the City Council, but the need to showcase short-term running productions drove the discussion for the digital sign. He also explained that the nature of the public interest is different than the private interest and that there can sometimes be competing interests among public interests. He explained that the Committee and Ordinance are in place as a gateway through which a project must pass for such a subjective issue as aesthetics, however the decision ultimately rests with the City Council. He also affirmed that maintaining the historic character of Old Town is still supported by staff and Council, but noted that this issue is different than historic preservation. Bill Peck suggested that for public projects in the future, perhaps the best course of action is to have the Committee add their comments at the beginning of the design process and then let it proceed through City Council for the final decision. This process can be considered as a policy change for public buildings. *This item did not require a motion from the Committee.*

There being no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Mary Paron-Boswell, Sr. Planner

Amanda Ferguson, Vice-Chairperson