

RIVER DISTRICT DESIGN COMMISSION

MEETING OF

AUGUST 13, 2020

Members Present

George Davis
Andrew Hessler
R.J. Lackey
John Ranson
Courtney Nicholas

Members Absent

Peyton Keesee
Adam Jones

Staff

Ken Gillie
Lisa Jones
Clark Whitfield

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ITEMS FOR PUBLIC HEARING

1. *Request a Certificate of Appropriateness at 677 Craghead Street to install new signage at the Danville Science Center.*

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Adam Goebel, Executive Director of the Science Center, stated I appreciate your consideration of this request. I am here to answer any questions that you may have. Without getting into too much detail as far as the how and why. Back into January of 2019, we borrowed from a ten million dollar project to reinvent the Danville Science Center to include all new interior spaces and exhibits. We wrapped up Phase 1 with the Train Station Project in May of 2019, and right now Phase 2 includes ten thousand square feet of public exhibit gallery space and a new creativity lab is set to be unveiled this fall around November. That is if the Governor allows us to reopen. The Board of Directors and staff felt prudent that being we are completely flipping our museum, for lack of better words. That we look to our brand and how we identify our voice, appearance, and our logo. What you will find in your packet is the product of several public input surveys, as well as input from donors, members, focus groups and product of working. You will find there are some exterior signs that we would like to update with our new logo and brands. I welcome any questions that you may have.

Ms. Nicholas stated are we just approving all signage in masse. Is that what we are being asking to do?

Mr. Gillie stated it should just be the re-facing of those two others, and the large logo, that they have. What has been provided is what they are doing, right?

Mr. Goebel stated correct, it is all existing, and it is not new. It is basically, repurposing the existing inner structure with our new brand, logo, and colors in it.

Ms. Nicholas stated I just wanted to make sure that I understood.

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing.

Ms. Nicholas made a motion that the new signage meets guidelines as presented and to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness. Mr. Lackey seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

- 2. Request a Certificate of Appropriateness at 547 Main Street to reface the existing wall sign above the door, install a 40" x 40" window decals, a 68.5" x 8.5" banner along the bottom on each front window, a 20" x 14.4" door decal on the entrance door and paint the facility light gray. There is also a request to permanently remove a canopy that was previously removed due to safety concerns.*

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Dustin Haberer and Katie Inman, owner's, of Nana Karen's were present. Mr. Haberer stated we have talked to Ken and we are going to drop the sign for the window vinyl to 31", which will be the max for that window. It will also illuminate the banner in order to make that work. The sign for the existing one will go right over the Main Street Coffee Emporium sign. It will be the same size of the logo one and will screw right in.

Mr. Davis stated but you are going to do away with the banner at the bottom all together?

Mr. Haberer stated right, we may add like an insert stand up later on down the road. We want to maximize the size of the stickers. That will be the only thing affixed to them. Again, we are going to put up our door sign, hours of operation, location, social media and so forth. The awning was holding a lot of water and one of the metal pulls had just broken down, so we took it off before it got worse. The trees had overgrown into the building and awnings.

Ms. Nicholas stated are you painting it the same grey color or a lighter grey color?

Mr. Haberer stated it is actually like a cream beige. It will be different.

Mr. Gillie stated I'm sorry it probably looked grey to me. That is probably my fault because I am colorblind.

Mr. Haberer stated we are using several grey tones in the restaurant itself. It will be one that will match those.

Mr. Davis stated we are glad that you are giving it a try.

Mr. Haberer stated I will say and this might come back to bite me, but the store front that we are in, these five shops there, it is all done in that cream metal. I'm not looking to paint the other four the same grey. I'm looking to have a nice tapped straight edge line that makes our last store front on the right look somewhat separate from the rest. I don't want to get into the cost of painting their store fronts to match everything. I don't know what the policy is on that would be. We would paint just ours. When Mr. Lea had that building and had the front redone however many years ago he had all the same metal put down in the whole area.

Mr. Davis stated you obviously gotten permission from him to paint it any color you want to.

Mr. Haberer stated anybody that is coming in and putting money into his property, and he is very happy. I have been making his life very easy lately.

Mr. Hessler stated I know before we approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for this storefront, where the previous design with like beige with red awnings, and approved at the time to all be redone. Is that project continuing with the other four storefronts?

Mr. Haberer stated I don't know what the process was or what happened. When we took our awning down and we came down the next day, all of the awnings were gone. They are all gone. The way that Mr. Lea explained it to me; he has no interest in spending money in putting canopies on any of those. That is my understanding.

Mr. Hessler stated who was the owner of Coffee Emporium?

Mr. Haberer stated the owner was Mr. Lea, but the owner of Coffee Emporium was Lisa.

Mr. Lackey stated Lisa Royester.

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing.

Ms. Nicholas made a motion that the window sign as amended to 31" diameter decal and the overhead sign, paint and door decals that it meets guidelines as presented and to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness. Mr. Ranson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-1 vote.

- 3. Request a Certificate of Appropriateness at 214 N. Union Street to paint a mural onto the rear of the building.*

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Tommy Bennett, President of the Danville Branch and NAACP, stated Barry Koplen, myself, and a few citizens of Danville would really like to get this mural painted. We have the support of a grant doing it through Danville Historical. We already have the approval and the sketch from the painter. The same young man painted the Old Ninety Seven mural. It is going to be a very respectful blackish history mural from way back, from the old first state bank to the first black mayor. It is really going to be a nice history piece and we are just asking for your approval.

Mr. Gillie stated do you have a color for that mural? The one that I got is black and white. Do we have an actual color?

Mr. Bennett stated no, I don't have the color because we are sending him the collage of all the history pictures from way back. He is going to sketch it and send it to us for approval.

Mr. Davis stated we may have some questions.

Mr. Ranson stated it says in the recommendations that you are requesting the actual color. Can we go ahead and approve the mural or do we have to wait. I think it is a wonderful project.

Mr. Gillie stated that is up to you. I was recommending until we get the version because all the other murals done, we had the actual color of this is what it is going to look like up on the building. I didn't have that to provide to you, so I mention this just to be consistent with what we have done in the past. That was before the River District Design Commission when we had the old mural program. We would actually get a picture of what it is going to look like in a small scale and then we would send it. I don't have that and that is the only reason I was trying to follow the past.

Mr. Bennett stated I think it is going to be in black and white because all the pictures that he is receiving from way back in the thirties, forties and fifties were old black and white. What you have is black and white.

Mr. Gillie stated I just thought because of the church and stuff and it is such a striking building and everything probably like a brick or something else.

Mr. Bennett stated yes the old High Street Baptist Church.

Mr. Gillie stated yes, so that is why I was figuring it was going to be a color portion of it so that is what I was asking for. It is up to the Commission, I'm okay, and we think the mural concept is great. We are really in support of it but I just didn't have all the details.

He said the first picture was a stick figure then it went from there. I just wanted to make sure there wasn't another version that I didn't have for you.

Mr. Davis stated I would love to see a finished project. I think it is a wonderful idea. May I offer you a suggestion just for you and your group to think about? These are to say, they are interesting times to put it mildly. I know for a fact we have a building and I am with Davis Storage Warehouse. We have a building with an old garage that had some graffiti painted on it. Well the graffiti was almost dulled out and you could hardly read it but the powers that be within the City decided that we needed to white wash the sidewall and building. It was not a week later that once that beautiful mural got on there, that somebody came by and did their own little graffiti work all over what we had already done. It was not cheap putting that white wash on there. I would hate to see the time and energy put into this mural that I'm sure is going to be wonderful, be wasted. You know there are people in this City and in this Country that just do not appreciate things that are being done like this and come and throw white or black paint on it and do something like that. If there is anyway, and I know a huge piece of plexus glass is probably not a great idea, if there is any way that, you could try to protect it as much as possible, I think it would be time well spent.

Mr. Bennett stated it is costing us over forty thousand dollars to have it done. It is not a cheap process what so ever.

Mr. Whitfield stated I think when he came back, the artist, to retouch up the Old Ninety Seven Mural and he didn't have the ability to do this when he first painted it. He put some kind of coating on it and if you notice, it has not faded as it did before. It might actually be a situation to where if someone did graffiti they could rub it because of that coating. That might be something you could talk to him about.

Mr. Bennett stated we wanted the same artist because we saw his work and loved the Old Ninety Seven. We want that same type of painting.

Mr. Davis stated that would be my recommendation, because I am a citizen of this City and I have grown up here, and I love Danville. I would personally be embarrassed if somebody did come by and throw paint on that and try to deface it in any way. Just a consideration for you. I personally would like to see a finished product of some sort of picture to show what it looks like.

Ms. Nicholas stated when is our next meeting?

Mr. Gillie stated September 10.

Ms. Nicholas stated it says here that you plan for work to start mid-September?

Mr. Bennett stated that is correct.

Ms. Nicholas stated is there any chance that you could bring back to us the final sketch by September 10. I know that will be kind of a quick turnaround.

Mr. Bennett stated sure we can and we can contact the artist and let him know what our turnaround time is that we need a sketch. We are still getting a lot of the pictures from the family and from the Historical Society.

Ms. Nicholas stated I think people would feel better about approving something or giving final approval for something that we can actual see what we are approving.

Mr. Whitfield stated what you might want to do is postpone until the September 10 meeting and he will be automatically on the agenda for the September 10 meeting. He can come and take care of business.

Mr. Bennett stated that is not a problem.

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Lackey stated I have a question. I'm all in favor of the postponement and the mural. I recall and maybe Ken you might want to answer this, when they were doing murals, it was one that had to be done before anymore could be done or the City was going to lose a bunch of money. Do you know if that was the tobacco that went on Lyndsey Lofts or am I misremembering that? I just don't want to approve something and then find out that we screwed up process wise.

Mr. Davis stated you are making a little light bulb come on. That sounds so familiar.

Mr. Gillie stated it was one that they did as part of a historic tax credit project and they had to paint it back based on the historic tax credits because they had it listed on their drawings and application for the tax credits, which sort of flew in violation with what the code was so we had to work that one out. I don't remember which one it was but it was a tax credit issue.

Ms. Nicholas stated wasn't that the five points one with the Coke Cola sign?

Mr. Gillie stated it could have been.

Mr. Lackey stated no this was a mural, and I believe it was the one that went on the Lindsey Lofts. I think it was related to tobacco, but I'm not a 100% sure. I just want to make sure we get it right.

Mr. Gillie stated they had to get their CO in a certain time and stuff like that. They only had so much time to do it and that was the only one that I can think of. This one, there is no issue except him trying to schedule the artist to paint here during the weather when it is not too cold to paint and everything else.

Ms. Nicholas stated it also is not the City painting this one it, is a private organization.

Mr. Lackey stated I thought it had something to do with being a mural city and I don't remember. As long as we are good with it, I'm all for it.

Ms. Nicholas made a motion to postpone this agenda item to the September 10 meeting. Mr. Hessler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0-vote.

Mr. Davis stated before we look at Items 4, 5, 6, and 7. I asked Ken if we could lump them all together. They appear to be the same thing at four different locations and I have been by all four locations. I could not see any signs or even where they wanted to put them. So with your permission Mr. Whitfield is that okay?

Mr. Whitfield stated you can do the public hearing all together but I think you need to vote on each one.

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

4. *Request a Certificate of Appropriateness at 530 Main Street to install two 12" x 18" Parking by Permit Only signs.*
5. *Request a Certificate of Appropriateness at 416 Main Street to install two 12" x 18" Parking by Permit Only signs.*
6. *Request a Certificate of Appropriateness at 401 Craghead Street to install two 12" x 18" Parking by Permit Only signs.*
7. *Request a Certificate of Appropriateness at 501 Craghead Street to install two 12" x 18" Parking by Permit Only signs.*

Mr. Charles Perkins stated I'm just here to answer any questions that you have.

Mr. Lackey stated where are these going?

Mr. Perkins stated it's somewhat funny how the State Code works with this. The correct answer is they are supposed to be placed at each entrance to a parking lot to as someone is coming into the parking lot they can see the sign. 416 Main Street has that at each entrance and it is the old Belk Leggett building. 401 Craghead Street also has the signs there and they are actually on the sides of the brick. Each side of the entrances they are on the side of the brick not facing the road. That is at the old Richmond Cedar Works building. 501 Craghead Street that does not have a sign yet and this will be a new sign. It's the parking lot on Colquhoun Street that's right behind the building that is adjacent to. I don't know that one is beside it on Bridge Street. 530

Main Street is First Citizens Bank there is a lower parking lot that has a need for a sign there. Our larger sign on the upper parking lot already has a sign on it and this was done recently. We have an alley that comes down onto Floyd Street and we will have to put a sign there to.

Mr. Lackey stated it is all for private parking?

Mr. Perkins stated yes sir.

Mr. Davis stated you are just overseeing all of these properties.

Mr. Perkins stated yes, they gave me a fancy title of Facilities Director. If something needs to be done, I either take care of it or come here.

Mr. Davis stated the Public Hearing is closed.

Mr. Hessler stated living downtown does have the need for some of these signs. We live at the Risery and the Lynn Street market. Everyone thinks they can park in our parking lot, then walk around, and go into the Lynn Street market. My only question for later which I don't know if Ken will have any say about it. Is there ever going to be permit locations for residences like downtown on the street or anything at one point. Is there ever going to be a change in zoning for parking aside from the private parking zone. I always wondered, as a resident downtown, if there is going to be any change as we grow I can only imagine it getting tighter is not hard right now unless there is an event or something on then people start parking down there. Right now, it is pretty dead.

Mr. Gillie stated they just went through the process of doing the River District parking study. I don't know if you have read the results to that or not. They have made some recommendations on things to address some parking and different ways. The City is taking all of those and is looking at doing some modifications. At this point, I can't say yes or no but it is possible and the study was just done last month and we are going through all the results.

Mr. Hessler stated the downtown garage idea, multi-level hidden behind the old hotel location on Main. Is that tabled or forever gone?

Mr. Gillie stated I wouldn't say gone forever but at the moment it is not cost effective to do but it could possibly change. There are a lot of things going on in Danville that may change other things. I can't say no for sure.

Mr. Lackey left the meeting at 4:31 pm.

Mr. Hessler stated I do see the need for it and I even see the need for enforcing of it in some way. I do see issue arising for hand. As far as being in favor of having those signs in designated areas or help from the City in the future.

Mr. Hessler made a motion that the four locations of which are 530 Main, 416 Main, 401 Craghead, 501 Craghead because all the designs are the same design by the same author for private use and similar applications and styles that they are all inordinacy with the guidelines as presented, and should all be granted a Certificate of Appropriateness. Ms. Nicholas seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0- vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The May 14, 2020 minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Gillie stated you have the one item that you carried over and one additional item I believe for next month. This is just a reminder for everyone that our next meeting is September 10, and plan on being here. I know that is Labor Day weekend the Monday before we will still meet that week. If anyone can't, because of the extended Holiday, please let us know ahead of time so we can make sure that we have a quorum or we will have to reschedule the meeting.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Approved By: