

FLINT HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Draft Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2022

Commissioners Present

Heather Burnash, Chair
Beverly Davis, Vice-Chair
Joe Schipani
Stephanie Wright
Michael Hurley
Kurt Neiswender

Staff Present

Jonathan Mateen, Planner I
Max Lester, Planner I

Absent:

ROLL CALL:

Chairperson Burnash called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m. Roll was taken, and a quorum was present.

The meeting was held in-person as well as via Zoom and phone conferencing as approved.

Heather Burnash, present in-person
Beverly Davis, present in-person
Michael Hurley, present in-person

Kurt Neiswender, present in-person
Joe Schipani, present in-person
Stephanie Wright, present in-person

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

Commissioner Schipani made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Hurley supported the motion.

M/S – Schipani/Hurley

Motion carried by voice vote.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND DISPOSAL:

Minutes for the meeting of August 4, 2022, were presented.

An arrival time was removed.

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to accept the minutes of August 4, 2022 as corrected.

Commissioner Schipani supported the motion.

M/S – Hurley/Schipani

Motion carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairperson Burnash opened the floor for public comment. No one spoke.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS/NOTICES TO PROCEED:

Applicant: Peoples Church of Flint
Property Owner: Peoples Church of Flint
Location: 503 Garland St. (PID # 40-12-478-026)

Dale Emery is speaking on behalf of the Peoples Church of Flint. Mr. Emery stated that an application was approved earlier in the year for Peoples Plaza at this address, but the applicants realized they did not include additional signage or awnings in their original application. Mr. Emery explained the different signage and awnings included in the application and the variations they were proposing.

Commissioner Schipani asked how the signs and awnings would be installed on the building, whether they would be screwed into the mortar or the brick. Mr. Emery responded that the plan is to screw into the mortar. Commissioner Schipani asked what material the awnings were made from. Mr. Emery answered that he believed the structure is aluminum and the awning is a vinyl canvas material. Commissioner Schipani asked if any of the signs illuminate. Mr. Emery's answer is inaudible.

Chairperson Burnash noted there is an option for an awning that is triangular and sloped. Mr. Emery stated there were two options, one being plainer and one that is stylized to resemble spokes of a wheel. Chairperson Burnash explained that the triangular awning would be more appropriate. Commissioner Schipani agreed, adding that the goal would be to avoid creating a false sense of history in new additions.

Commissioner Neiswender stated that he did not feel it was the role of the Commission to choose a design more than it is to rule on the appropriateness of a proposed design. Chairperson Burnash replied that she finds one to be appropriate and one that does not. Commissioner Schipani agreed. Mr. Emery shared a picture of the original rolled up awning. Commissioners Schipani and Burnash discussed the original awning resembling the triangular option more, with rounded awnings appearing more modern. Commissioner Wright discussed both awning options. Mr. Emery indicated the awning color would be a dark green.

Chairperson Burnash asked the commissioners what their thoughts were on the standalone community board sign. Commissioner Schipani said he was okay with this one as there were others in the community that resembles this style. Commissioner Schipani also commented on the standalone sign being more easily removeable than the awnings.

Commissioner Hurley asked why they did not want to go for a roll up awning. Mr. Emery replied that the awnings are meant to provide some shelter from the elements and the roll up awnings would need to be put up for the winter due to snow buildup.

Commissioner Hurley noted the provided materials say the drilling points for the canopies would be in the center of the bricks. Commissioner Hurley discussed the difference of drilling into the brick. Chairperson Burnash asked Mr. Emery if he recalled what was there now, if there are holes from the old canopies. Mr. Emery responded that he did not remember. Commissioner Hurley noted that it looked like canopies would be installed in areas where there were not canopies before. Mr. Emery stated they could have the canopies drilled into the mortar rather than the brick.

Commissioner Neiswender noted there were multiple sign options as well. Chairperson Burnash noted the signs are indicated as wash illuminated and asked what that meant. Mr. Emery indicated that wash illumination means an external light would cast light onto the sign. Mr. Emery added that he was not

aware of any illumination for the signs as they have not planned any electrical for them. Mr. Emery stated the lighting can be up to the commission for appropriateness, adding that there are old light poles in the plaza that do a good job of soft lighting the space. Commissioner Schipani said that he does not have a problem with the sign being illuminated so long as it is not a nuisance. Chairperson Burnash gave a few examples of inappropriate lights such as blinking lights and neon. Mr. Emery stated he believed the wash light would be a soft light cast on the building, but that lighting was not discussed with them by the sign company and whether there was lighting would not be an issue with the applicants. Commissioner Davis asked about the proximity to businesses. Mr. Emery stated there is the hotel across the street and an empty lot nearby.

Chairperson Burnash suggested a motion be made that indicated the specific signs and awnings that would be approved.

Commissioner Schipani made a motion to approve the application with Option 1 (A1 O1) for the wall mounted sign with the understanding that it is drilled into the mortar, the water station sign (A2) with the understanding that the sign is drilled into the mortar, the freestanding sign (A3), and the black awnings (B1 O2 & B2 O2). Commissioner Hurley supported the motion.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Davis, yes
Commissioner Wright, yes
Commissioner Schipani, yes

Commissioner Neiswender, yes
Commissioner Hurley, yes
Commissioner Burnash, yes

M/S – Schipani/Hurley

6 – yes, 0 – no, 0 – abstain, 0 – absent

Motion carried.

Applicant: George Ananich
Property Owner: Mott Community College/Catholic Charities
Location: E. Fifth Ave. (PID # 40-12-434-005)

George Ananich from H2A Architects is representing Mott Community College. Mr. Ananich stated the new signs were part of a new branding for the college. Mr. Ananich stated this sign will be located where the existing sign is on the property, the new sign will be a lit monument sign with a video board on both sides. Mr. Ananich added that the parcel the sign sits on belongs to Catholic Charities across the road and that the sign will not go up until an agreement is reached with them. Mr. Ananich stated the letters would be lit as well as the bar along the top.

Commissioner Schipani asked if the sign faces any houses. Chairperson Burnash responded that it is a commercial area.

Commissioner Hurley asked if one of the pictures shows the sign that will be removed. Mr. Ananich confirmed and added that the new sign will be longer.

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to accept the application, stating this location is not a contributing resource for the Historic District. Commissioner Schipani seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Davis, yes
Commissioner Wright, yes
Commissioner Schipani, yes

Commissioner Neiswender, yes
Commissioner Hurley, yes
Commissioner Burnash, yes

M/S – Hurley/Schipani

6 – yes, 0 – no, 0 – abstain, 0 – absent

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion was held on the expiration timelines of Certificates of Appropriateness and Building Permits.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Davis asked why there was no attorney present. Max Lester stated that the agenda and meeting materials was sent to the city attorney as well as the commissioners and that there was no indication from the city attorney that they would not be attending tonight's meeting.

Chairperson Burnash mentioned the bricks project that still has not begun. Commissioner Schipani stated he believed they were waiting until after Back to the Bricks to begin, sometime in October or November.

ADJOURNMENT:

M/S – Schipani/Davis

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Unanimously carried.