

**MINUTES
KNOXVILLE DOWNTOWN DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18, 2009**

Present:

*Kim Henry
Finbarr Saunders
David Dewhirst
Bob Alcorn
Amy Haynes
Joe Petre
Gregg White
Madeleine Weil
Michelle Hummel
Mike Reynolds
Mark Donaldson
Anne Wallace
Charlotte West*

Organization:

*APA Representative
Historic Zoning Commission
Dewhirst Properties
Bob Alcorn Architects
Resident
CBID Representative
GWE, LLC
City of Knoxville
CBID
MPC
MPC
City of Knoxville
MPC*

Kim Henry, Chair, called the meeting to order. There was a quorum present. Board members present are shown in italics.

A motion was made by Bob Alcorn and seconded by Finbarr Saunders to approve the December 17 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Certificates of Appropriateness:

Certificate No. 2-A-09-DT

525 Henley St. – Holiday Inn (Valerie Steinmeyer, Colite International)

Pre-development meeting: N/A

Description of Work

This proposal is to replace the existing building wall signs and pylon sign with new signs. There will also be one old parking sign removed that will not be replaced.

The wall signs are located at the top of the building on the north and south facades. The new signs will be placed in the same location as the old signs. The new signs will be smaller than the old signs and will be internally illuminated.

The pylon sign is located in the southeastern corner of the property, along Henley Street. The new sign will be placed in the same location as the old pylon sign. The new sign will be 3 feet shorter, 8 inches wider, and 3 square feet smaller than the old sign. The sign will be internally illuminated with only large “H” and square box surround the H, and the words “Holiday Inn” illuminated. There will also be a band of light on either side of the base (see attached example image).

Staff Comments

The Boulevard District allows for monument signs but not pylon signs. The challenges associated with this site in regard to traffic merging from the Western/Broadway intersection and from the interstate create a discernable need for a sign of this height. Being that the sign is shorter and smaller than the previous sign; staff feels that the proposed pylon sign is appropriate for the site.

Staff Recommendation

APPROVE as submitted.

Mike Reynolds discussed the proposed sign package. Pylon signs are not a permitted sign type in the Design Guidelines. Since this property is in a high traffic location, staff felt that the sign height and size was appropriate.

A motion was made by Amy Haynes and seconded by Finbarr Saunders to approve the staff recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff Report:

Issued Certificates of Appropriateness

- 137 S. Gay St – Projecting sign for Havana Cafe

Staff did not have any problems with this sign and approved it.

Other Business:

Ann Wallace stated she is working on a downtown way finding working group City Council approved it on February 10. MERJE is the firm selected from the RFQ. The timeframe will be in town March 11-13. She wants the Design Board to meet with the consultants related to design review process. If you cannot participate, she will give members the contact information for the consultants. The board needs to choose between March 12th and 13th to meet with the consultants.

Mark Donaldson stated that the East Tennessee Community Design Center is working on a study and recommendation on regulating signs downtown to reduce the number and will present this to the board.