

NORTH LITTLE ROCK HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

**506 Main Street
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114
Telephone (501) 371-0755; Fax (501) 371-8360**

**MINUTES
NORTH LITTLE ROCK HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING
February 9, 2017
506 Main Street
North Little Rock, AR
6:00 P.M.**

Commission Members Present:

**Tom Marr
Denise Hanson
Charlie Hart
Mason Toms
Susan Markman
Ken Davenport**

Others Present:

**Sandra Taylor Smith, Director
Chris Kent
Louis France
Rachel Walters
Monty Bradburn**

Commission Members Absent:

Debra Roberts

Chairman Tom Marr called the North Little Rock Historic District Commission meeting of February 9, 2017 to order at 6:00 P.M. and a quorum was established. Commissioner Debra Roberts had an excused absence. Guests were introduced.

Chairman Marr went over the procedure for review of applications for those present.

CORRECTION AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Chairman Marr asked if Commissioners had read the minutes of the December 8, 2016 Historic District Commission meeting. Sandra Smith said there was a misspelling in the first paragraph and that has been corrected. Denise Hanson moved to approve the minutes of the December 2016 HDC meeting with the correction. Susan Dollar seconded the motion and it was approved 6-0 in roll call vote.

New Business:

A. 312 Main Street- Paint mural on east elevation (rear)

Sandra Smith showed slides of the north and east elevations of 312 Main Street. The application submitted called for painting a mural on the north elevation. The applicant asked to amend the application on February 6, 2017 to be painted on the east (rear) elevation.

NORTH LITTLE ROCK HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Historic District Commission Meeting of February 9, 2017

Page 2

Chris Kent with the Argenta Downtown Council told Commissioners that Sweet Water Brewing approached them asking if there was a location in Argenta where a mural could be painted. Mr. Kent said there are not many available places for a mural in Argenta. He said he approached Louis France with Reno's Café and Mr. France was interested in the mural for his building.

Chris Kent said originally they proposed to paint the mural on the north wall of the building, but have decided to paint it on the back (east) wall. Susan Markman said the mural is attractive and looks like a sign would have looked if painted on the wall in the early 20th century. Commissioners discussed if the proposal constitutes a sign or mural. Mason Toms said it is obviously a sign since the name of the business and a product is written on the proposed painting. Tom Marr said that the Argenta Historic District Design Guidelines state that no letters on signage should be over 18" tall. He also stated that the guidelines state no unpainted masonry should be painted. Mr. Marr referenced the Secretary of the Interior Standards for treatment of historic properties. He said from a historical perspective paint sometimes damages brick, causing water to collect and seep into the mortar, then maintenance becomes an issue.

Charlie Hart said he thinks the sign should be bigger and painted on the north wall. Mr. Hart referred to the Coca Cola sign painted on the north wall of the Argenta Drug Store building, saying the letters are much bigger than 18". The Coca Cola sign was repainted in 2005. Mason Toms said it is a valid concern to keep letters in signs within the 18" height limit.

Chairman Marr called for public comment and there was none.

Susan Markman stated that in as much as the decision presented in the amended application is appropriate for the Argenta Historic District business area and would enhance the rear entrance of 312 Main Street, she moved to approve the amended application. Tom Marr amended the motion to add that the letters will not exceed 18" in height. Denise Hanson seconded the amendment, but stated that she thinks the S and W in the sign should be bigger. Denise Hanson moved to approve the application for the sign on the east wall of 312 Main Street with the amendment. Motion was seconded by Mason Toms and approved by all in roll call vote.

Staff Report:

Railroad exhibit has been very successful with over 700 people having been in to see it since the opening on December 1, 2016. Ms. Smith reported attending a training session for Certified Local Government cities on February 1 and said there was a handout she will be making copies of for Commissioners. The handout reviews how to make motions and procedures.

NORTH LITTLE ROCK HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Historic District Commission Meeting of February 9, 2017

Page 3

Comments/Discussion:

Charlie Hart said the enclosed porch at 812 Orange Street is still in violation of the district regulations and he is very frustrated with the lack of progress on this issue. Sandra Smith said she has spoken to the City Attorney's office and will continue to pursue this matter.

It was decided to not work on design guideline revisions at this meeting. Commissioners will form committees to try to expedite the revision process.

After determining there was no further business to discuss, Charlie Hart moved to adjourn the meeting. Mason Toms seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Taylor Smith, Director