

**CITY OF SONOMA
DESIGN REVIEW AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
May 17, 2016
Community Meeting Room, 177 First Street West, Sonoma, CA
MINUTES**

Chair Randolph called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Chair Randolph, Comms. Tippell, Essert, Barnett, Cory (Alternate)

Absent: Comm. Johnson

Others Present: Associate Planner Atkins, Administrative Assistant Morris

Chair Randolph stated that no new items would be heard after 10:30 p.m. unless the Design Review and Historic Preservation Commission so decides. Any decisions made tonight can be appealed within 15 days to the City Council. She reminded everyone to turn off cell phones and pagers.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Comm. Tippell made a motion to approve the minutes of April 21, 2015, May 19, 2015, and March 15, 2016 as submitted. Comm. Barnett seconded. The motion carried unanimously (4-0). (Comm. Cory abstained)

Item 1- Sign and Design-consideration of design review and new signs for a bar (Starling Bar) at 19380 Sonoma Highway.

Applicant: Anthony Lauino/Fred Johnson (Starling Bar)

Associate Planner Atkins presented the staff report.

Comm. Essert confirmed with staff that a 16 square foot sign is proposed at the rear entrance and 3 feet is allowed.

Chair Randolph clarified with staff that the main body color proposed in color scheme A is Benjamin Moore Summer Nights.

Chair Randolph opened the item to public comment.

Anthony Lauino, co-business partner Speaker New/Starling Bar felt the blue color had a better impact than neutral taupe.

Chair Randolph closed the item to public comment.

Comm. Cory questioned why the sign would be illuminated during non-business hours.

Fred Johnson, co-owner, said it is for visibility at this prominent corner that would help promote the establishment.

Comm. Tippell asked the applicant to explain the new business concept.

The applicant said he intended to have a more formal atmosphere, in comparison to the Blue Moon, to attract a sophisticated clientele.

Comm. Tippell preferred color design option A that she believed is well coordinated with the new branding. She is satisfied with the signage proposed.

Comm. Barnett questioned whether the fence along Highway 12 will be removed.

The applicant will not remove the fencing but it is an option in the future given possible changes along this corridor. He supported the plan and deferred to the business owner to select the sign color and materials.

Comm. Essert preferred color option B.

Chair Randolph felt the blue color was a good choice.

Comm. Essert made a motion to approve the project as submitted with color option A or B. Comm. Barnett seconded. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Item 2- Design review-consideration of design review for a commercial building at 117 West Napa Street.

Applicant: Bill Hooper(Kenwood Investments, LLC)

Associate Planner Atkins presented the staff report.

Michael Ross, project architect/ Ross Drulis Cusenbery, noted that adaptive re-use of the building is critical to the historic district. The interior expansion and renovation will not have an adverse effect on the historical resource.

Comm. Barnett questioned the parapet, slump stone planter, and sign reduction for the Index Tribune sign.

Michael Ross explained the parapet will be functioning and conceal mechanical equipment. Paige and Turnbill, historical consultant, reported that the slump stone planter is one of a number of identified character-defining features (however, a somewhat less important one), so removing the planter will not affect the overall design, character, or significance of the building. He said the current sign appeared oversized for the size of the building but would be addressed when a comprehensive sign proposal was submitted.

Comm. Essert questioned the height of the parapet.

Michael Ross responded the height would be 27 feet.

Chair Randolph confirmed with Mr. Ross that parking was addressed in the Use Permit approval.

Comm. Tippell inquired if the balcony will be used.

Chair Randolph opened the item to public comment.

No public comment.

Chair Randolph closed the item to public comment.

Comm. Cory was satisfied with the plan.

Comm. Barnett wanted to ensure that the “character defining features” of the existing sign were preserved and requested that this issue be addressed by the historical consultants, Page & Turnbull.

Comm. Tippell is pleased with the Monterey white and sign reduction.

Chair Randolph agreed with Comm. Barnett and would like to review the sign reduction as part of a full signage program.

Comm. Barnett made a motion to approve the project as submitted with the condition that the applicant returns to the DRHPC with a revised sign application. Comm. Essert seconded. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Item 3- Design review-consideration of site design and architectural review of a new accessory structure (barn) at 277 Fourth Street East.

Applicant: Sutton Suzuki Architects

Associate Planner Atkins presented the staff report.

Ron Sutton, Sutton Suzuki Architects, said the gravel road is a defining feature for the new barn and no trees will be removed.

Comm. Barnett asked if the view from the bike path is compromised.

Comm. Essert questioned the operability of the doors.

Ron Sutton said the doors will be sliding and blend in with the building.

Chair Randolph confirmed with the project architect that a rust colored roof is proposed.

Chair Randolph opened the item to public comment.

No public comment.

Chair Randolph closed the item to public comment.

Comms. Tippell and Barnett were impressed with the application.

Comms. Essert , Cory, and Chair Randolph supported the application.

Comm. Barnett made a motion to approve the project as submitted. Comm. Cory seconded. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Item 4- Demolition Review of a duplex at 166 and 168 West Napa Street.

Applicant: Michael Marino

Comm. Tippell recused due to financial interest and left the dais.

Associate Planner Atkins presented the staff report.

Michael Marino, resident/business owner California Wine Tours/vacation rental operator (850 Broadway), obtained permits to remodel the building and is now moving forward with a proposal to reconfigure the property by merging the two parcels.

Chair Randolph opened the item to public comment.

No public comment.

Chair Randolph closed the item to public comment.

All commissioners supported the changes.

Comm. Essert made a motion to approve the Demolition Permit as project as submitted. Comm. Cory seconded. The motion carried unanimously (4-0) (Comm. Tippell recused).

Comm. Tippell returned to the dais.

Issues Update: Associate Planner Atkins reported the following;

A special meeting will be held on May 31st.

A draft of the Downtown Design Guidelines will be reviewed at the June 21st meeting.

Comments from the Commission:

Comm. Essert recommended louder volume on the meeting room speakers.

Comm. Essert was pleased to attend the League of Historic Preservation conference and thanked staff. He suggested that commissioners consider CEQA workshops and touring historic buildings.

Adjournment: Chair Randolph made a motion to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. to the next regular meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 31, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were duly and regularly adopted at a regular meeting of the Design Review and Historic Preservation Commission on the 31st day of May 2016.

Approved:

Cristina Morris, Administrative Assistant