

**CITY OF SONOMA
DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
July 16, 2013
Community Meeting Room, 177 First Street West**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Tippell called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL: **Present:** Comms. Anderson, McDonald, Tippell
Absent: Comm. Baptista, Barnett, Randolph
Others Present: Associate Planner Atkins

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Comm. McDonald made a motion to approve the minutes of June 18, 2013, as submitted. Comm. Anderson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, Baptista, Barnett, and Randolph absent.

CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence for Item #1.

ITEM #1 – SIGN REVIEW: Consideration of a new monument sign for a church (Lighthouse Christian Church) located at 170 Andrieux Street. Applicant: Lighthouse Christian Church.

Associate Planner Atkins presented staff's report.

Comm. McDonald requested the aggregate area of the property. Associate Planner Atkins stated that the property frontage on Andrieux Street is 259 feet and 188 feet on Second Street West.

Chair Tippell noted that the original handout calculating the size of the actual sign stated that the size is 34.5 feet tall. Associate Planner Atkins noted the sign is 4.5 feet tall, including the surrounding stone.

Comm. Anderson noted the scale of the sign looks similar to what's always been there. He asked if there was any comparison to the sign that was previously there; Associate Planner Atkins said no.

Chair Tippell opened the public hearing.

Robert Sanders, Robert Sanders Company, and Steven Reyes of Lighthouse Christian Church, were present to discuss the application. Mr. Sanders distributed samples of the proposed sign material. Mr. Reyes stated the proposed sign is smaller than what was there previously and was designed to be nonobtrusive and natural looking. The sign will not be lit directly, but will have a soft glow. Mr. Sanders noted the lighting will

be a warm-colored LED that silhouettes the letters at night. The scale of the sign is better in terms of height and positioning than what was there previously.

Chair Tippell closed the public hearing.

Comm. McDonald appreciates the thoughtfulness and tasteful design of the sign and feels it will be an asset and improvement to the neighborhood. He could support a variance for the size, as the property frontage is very large.

Comm. Anderson concurred. He likes the subdued color, natural stone look and softer backlighting, which are complementary to the scope and scale of the building and lot.

Chair Tippell concurred with her fellow Commissioners. She made a motion to approve the application as submitted. Comm. McDonald seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, Baptista, Barnett, and Randolph absent.

ITEM #2 – SIGN REVIEW: Consideration of a modification to a sign program for a commercial building (Sonoma Court Shops) located at 27 East Napa Street and 531 First Street East. Applicant: Architectural Signs & Associates.

Associate Planner Atkins presented staff's report and noted that this application was submitted in response to a code enforcement issue.

Chair Tippell opened the public hearing.

Rochelle Zatkan, Architectural Signs, was present to discuss the application. Currently most of the suites were occupied by Sotheby's. In the event the other suites were to have a retail tenant, they could do an identification sign for that tenant. The proposed sign is not very large and will fit in nicely. She noted that the landlord is very particular about signage for the shops.

Chair Tippell closed the public hearing.

Comm. McDonald would like to do everything possible to support the sign program for this space. Comm. Anderson feels the sign program is very appropriate for the space. He likes the color and contrast to the building and feels the scale is reasonable.

Chair Tippell concurred with her fellow Commissioners. She made a motion to approve the application as submitted. Comm. McDonald seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, Baptista, Barnett, and Randolph absent.

ITEM #3 – DESIGN REVIEW: Consideration of design review for planter boxes for a restaurant (Burgers & Vine) located at 400 First Street East. Applicant: Codi Binkley/Burgers & Vine.

Associate Planner Atkins presented staff's report and noted that this application was submitted in response to a code enforcement issue.

Comm. Anderson commented that he had worked on this property doing a structural rehab for the building owner, but will not recuse from this item. He recalled that there were previously rectangular-shaped planter boxes when the property was Viansa. Although the proposed planter boxes are a different shape, the scope and scale are quite similar to what was there previously.

Comm. McDonald asked if the building was constructed of steel-reinforced concrete and if the front building façade had been modified through the years. Comm. Anderson noted that this is a very unique building with an architecturally elegant façade.

Associate Planner Atkins stated that this building is listed as an historic structure and the City does not have photos of the building with the other planter boxes.

Chair Tippell opened the public hearing.

Lance Morgan, one of the Burgers & Vine partners, stated that their intent with the planters was to match what was there previously.

Comm. McDonald questioned how the water will drain from the barrel during rainfall, as the barrel planters appear to be watertight. Mr. Morgan noted the planters will drain due to their angle and a weep hole at the front.

Chair Tippell closed the public hearing.

Comm. Anderson would ordinarily say that wine barrels would be incongruous to the rather Spanish-Mediterranean look of the building, but the use and business influences the design.

Comm. McDonald noted that he is supportive of the business and anxious to see the space occupied. As the bolts for the planter boxes already exist, they will not change or alter the appearance. If the planters were not installed previously, he would probably not be in favor.

Chair Tippell concurred, noting that thematically, the proposed planters go with the business.

Comm. Anderson made a motion to approve the application as submitted. Comm. McDonald seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, Baptista, Barnett, and Randolph absent.

ISSUES UPDATE: None.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION: None.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m. to the regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 20, 2013.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were duly and regularly adopted at a regular meeting of the Design Review Commission on the 20th day of August 2013.

Robin Evans, Administrative Assistant