

DOWNTOWN DESIGN REVIEW BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**July 17, 2019 – 8:30am
City Hall – Planning Conference Room**

1) Roll Call – Members Present

The meeting was called to order by Leah Byzewski at 8:30 a.m. with the following members present: Dave Badman, Leah Byzewski, Chuck Flemmer, Kate Kvamme and. Absent: Alex Reichert. Quorum present. Staff present: Andrea Edwardson, Senior Planner, Others present: Nick Cox, Indigo Signworks(appearing telephonically), Brian Kounovsky.

2) Renovations at 22 S 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, Window Materials

Mrs. Edwardson introduced the item by stating at the last meeting, the board wanted more information/details regarding the window materials before approving the same. Mr. Kounovsky stated that the windows are Pella fiberglass with a black matte finish to match the building, as the storefront has a flat black finish. After follow up questions from the board, he replied that the openings and style of the window materials are not changing and the screens will open. The board was in agreement that the high quality windows make sense, as long as the new window materials had the same look and finish as the originals.

Motion by Badman, second by Flemmer for approval of window materials at 22 S 3rd Street, 2nd Floor. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Wall Signage at 22 S 3rd Street, Epic Place

Mrs. Edwardson introduced the item and Mr. Kounovsky stated he thought that Mr. Cox, from Indigo Signworks, was going to attend the meeting. Mr. Cox was reached by phone and remained on the line during the discussion. The board had questions as to how the letter would be lit, and how many holes in the brick would need to be made to light each letter. Mr. Cox stated that the holes to the brick would be minimal, as they would try to use the mortar joints when making the holes for the lighting. The board asked if Indigo Signs had previously received approval to use this same lighting method elsewhere in the downtown area and Mr. Cox stated yes, both at Wells Fargo and Edgewood.

Motion by Flemmer, second by Ms. Kvamme for approval of Wall Signage at 22 S 3rd Street, Epic Place. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Historic Plaque Signs at 401 Demers Ave, and 55th S 5th St.

Mr. Flemmer began the discussion by stating that these two plaques were part of the plaques made to recognize historic buildings that were lost during the 1997 flood. The

plaque stand at the Corporate ramp looks really bad, and as such, the idea is to come up with a solution to relocate the plaque and stand. The second plaque is currently in storage, but will be placed once the Demers project is complete. It was agreed that they shouldn't be placed on sidewalks, as that makes snow removal more difficult. It was suggested that these be placed in a manner similar to those outside the Brownstones. Mr. Flemmer asked the board for their input as to which would be better placement for the plaque at Demers -the Demers facing side or the alley side. Ms. Byzewski stated that neither option seemed intrusive. Before voting on the placement of these two signs, the board also discussed options for other plaques currently in storage, with the suggestion that some be placed on the ground/grass using angular placement similar to that used at the historical society.

Motion by Kvamme, second by Badman for approval of placement of Historic Plaque signs at 401 Demers Ave, and 55th S 5th St. Motion carried unanimously.

5) Wall and Flag signage at 8 S 3rd Street, for True Colors

Mrs. Edwardson began the discussion by stating that the wall clings requested by True Colors will go in the exact location that the Trojan sign was previously located. Without further discussion, the board was ready to vote.

Motion by Flemmer, second by Badman for approval of Wall and Flag signage at 8 S 3rd Street, for True Colors. Motion carried unanimously.

6) Staff Updates

a. Hugo's Site Plan

Mrs. Edwardson introduced the item and stated that the site plan is currently under review. Hugos will be located at 5th and Demers, and the Alerus drive thru will be off 5th Street instead of off Demers, where it is currently located. This will result in busier traffic on both 6th Street and 1st Avenue, which in turn will be beneficial for the businesses on 6th Street corridor. An overview of the proposed materials was given, and there was a question about what would be located on the second floor of Hugos. Mrs. Edwardson stated there is a balcony area in the design and thought perhaps Hugos may be building a café/deli in that second floor area. Mrs. Edwardson also discussed the proposed underground parking, pointing out that as part of the design, a protective retaining wall would be installed near the parking entrance to prevent individuals from falling. All board members appeared to agree that the materials in general were good, but had concerns about the corrugated metal, but conceding that the material was only being used in the area of the building that backs to the parking lot. Mrs. Edwardson will let the consultants know that the preference is to not use any corrugated metal for the project.

b. Bike Share Stations Downtown

Mrs. Edwardson stated that the City is currently looking to install Bike Share Stations at four locations: (1) Metro Transit; (2) City Hall, (3) sidewalk outside Bonzers (exact location to be determined at a later date); and (4) Town Square. Ms. Byzewski asked about the possibility of have scooters available as well, and Mr. Badman thought that was a bad idea, as he personally witnessed issues with scooters in Minneapolis and added that Grand Forks doesn't have large enough sidewalks for them. Mrs. Edwardson stating that they will start with the Bike Share Stations to see how those work out before exploring other options.

Motion to adjourn by Flemmer, second by Badman with meeting adjourned at 8:58am.