

TOWN OF ABINGDON
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 13, 2014 - 6:00 P.M.

The Regular meeting of the Town of Abingdon Board of Zoning Appeals was held Tuesday, May 13, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building, Colonel Arthur Campbell room.

Mr. Paul Quetsch called the meeting to order, Mr. W. Garrett Jackson called the roll.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Mr. Paul Quetsch, Chairman
Mr. Andy Stockner, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Scott Wilson
Mr. Mathew T. Bundy
Dr. H. Ramsey White

Comprising a quorum of the Board

Members Absent: None

Administrative Staff: Mr. W. Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager
Director of Planning/Zoning
Mr. John Dew, Director of Public Services
and Construction (Absent)
Mrs. Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney (Absent)
Mr. Jim C. Smith, Director of Wastewater Operations
Town Engineer (Absent)
Mr. Sean Taylor, Assistant Town Planner (Absent)
Mr. C. J. McGlothlin, Code Enforcement Officer (Absent)
Ms. Rebecca Moody, Environmental Planner/
Sustainability Coordinator (Absent)
Mrs. Jenny Carlisle, Administrative Assistant; Planning,
Public Works, and Public Services

Visitors: Ms. Marcy Miller, William King Museum of Art
Dr. Evelyn Goldston, William King Museum of Art

(2) Approval of Minutes: Special meeting, April 18, 2013

Mr. Stockner made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special meeting, April 18, 2013 as presented. Second by Mr. Wilson. Approved with Mr. Bundy and Dr. White abstaining.

Approval of Minutes: Reconvened meeting, April 25, 2013

Dr. White made a motion to approve the minutes from the Reconvened meeting, April 25, 2013 as presented. Second by Mr. Bundy. Approved unanimously.

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- (3) Case No. 400 - **William King Museum of Art**, Marcy Miller, representative; 415 Academy Drive NW, Abingdon, VA 24210; application for a variance from the requirements of Article 21, Section § 21-14, Sign Ordinance, to allow animated message boards in the B-3 Central Business District. Premises affected by this request are **located at Academy Drive and Main Street. Tax Map No. 10-1-33.**

The date of the application is April 3, 2014, to be heard on Tuesday, May 13, 2014. The application was duly advertised in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended, Section § 15.2-2204) and adjoining owners were notified of the meeting.

Mr. Jackson introduced the application for a variance from the requirements of Article 21, Section § 21-14, Sign Ordinance, to allow animated message boards in the B-3 Central Business District. The town will be widening Academy Drive, and William King Museum of Art is requesting that they be allowed to install a sign/electronic message board on the corner of Main Street at Academy Drive.

Ms. Miller conveyed that many people say they cannot find the museum because the businesses located on Main Street at the base of Academy Drive are a laundromat, transmission shop and gas station, which are not what people expect to see when they're going to a museum. She also noted that it would be wonderful to let people know when the museum is holding a special exhibit. They will only change the board when there is a new exhibit; once a month or less. She mentioned that if the town wanted to put a message up they would be happy to do that as well, and clarified that it will just be verbiage, no pictures or animation.

Discussion ensued with members voicing concern that if they approve this request, they would be setting a precedent for future requests. Members also expressed the opinion that once the road has been widened, the museum will be much easier to find and a sign of this type won't be necessary. Mr. Stockner remarked that a unique piece of artwork might be an attractive alternative to a sign, but Ms. Miller countered that while she likes the idea of having a sculpture in place, event listings cannot be accomplished with a piece of art.

After further discussion, Dr. White made a motion to table the application until the roadway has been cut in and opened up. This will be three months from now, which will be roughly two months into construction. Second by Mr. Bundy. The application will be tabled until Tuesday, August 12, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

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- (3) **Reorganization of Board of Zoning Appeals - Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

Dr. White made a motion to keep the same Chairman and Vice-Chairman as the past year. Second by Mr. Wilson. Motion carried and Mr. Quetsch was selected to serve as Chairman to the Board of Zoning Appeals with Mr. Stockner serving as Vice-Chairman.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Paul Quetsch, Chairman

W. Garrett Jackson, Secretary