

TOWN OF ABINGDON
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
REGULAR MEETING
March 7, 2007 - 5:00 P.M

The regular meeting of the Board of Architectural Review was held Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at 5:00 P.M. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building, Downstairs Meeting Room.

Mr. Garrett Jackson, Secretary, called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mrs. Betsy White, Chairman
Mr. Andrew Hargroves
Mr. Robert M. Howard
Mr. Harry L. McKinney, Jr.
Mrs. Doris Shuman

Comprising a quorum of the Board

Members Absent: None

Administrative Staff: Mr. Garrett Jackson, Director of Planning/Zoning

Visitors: None

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- (2) Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, December 6, 2006 (Incomplete)
Regular Meeting, January 31, 2007 (Incomplete)

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- (3) DISCUSSION - Farmer's Market 3-D Drawings

Mr. McKinney presented the proposed drawings for the Farmers Market, as the Town Planning Department had envisioned. The proposed structure is an open-air shelter with a center stage area and a "wing" on each side, on a concrete pad, large enough to accommodate up to 40 vendors. The stage area will allow for the accommodation of a temporary stage to be erected for concerts and community events. The structure is similar in design to those in Martinsville, Virginia and Rocky Mount, Virginia.

Mr. Hargroves commented that the proposed plan was not "Abingdon" and looked more like a flea market in design, with the non-decorative poles and eaves. He said he feared this facility would turn into such a venue. He also asked that, due to the scope of this project, it be tabled for further review by the Board and addressed at a future meeting. Mrs. White concurred. Mr. Jackson assured the Board that the Farmers Market would be guided by rules, set by the Town Council, defining what could and could not be sold or take place at the facility.

Mr. Jackson informed the Board that the project had a very limited budget and was further behind schedule than it should be and construction needed to begin, as soon as possible, to meet the contractor's schedule and to keep funding from the Virginia Tobacco Commission. Mr. Howard also spoke to the urgency of the approval, commenting that the Town Council would like the market be open before the Virginia Highlands Festival to be used for other events.

Mr. Hargroves asked that the design be modified to include a higher pitched roof than that proposed. Mr. McKinney commented that the height of the structure would cause a high pitched roof to look overwhelming on the site and would not be conducive to the historic reproduction of the Train Depot Passenger Walkway.

Mr. McKinney then made a suggestion to Mr. Hargroves' comment on the ornamentation of the structure, illustrating how the poles could be decorated as columns for a more attractive look. He also showed the Board how a railing around the "stage roof" could be used for decoration. The Board asked that this be incorporated into the plans.

Mr. Jackson informed the Board that roof colors of Black and Virginia Green have been discussed for the structure. Though Virginia Green is more attractive for the Farmers Market theme, the Board prefers Black, to match the Fields-Penn House, making it seem like an accessory structure to the museum house. The Board agreed to both colors being appropriate, however, the preferred color to be Black.

The next topic of discussion was the nature of the framing that would support the structure. Mr. McKinney addressed this saying that the roof supports would be wooden trusses, held up by steel poles, covered in wooden columns. Mrs. White asked if the poles and trusses would be painted White. Mr. McKinney added that the best solution would be a stain, but not White; possibly a Green to last longer. The Board concurred.

In addition, Mrs. White asked if the inside trusses would be covered by a ceiling. Mr. Jackson explained that the addition of a ceiling would require a sprinkler system and is an unneeded expense in the scope of the project.

Mr. McKinney explained the grass areas on the plan and drive, allowing access to the rear of the facility. A geo-grid or reinforced earth system will be installed in the grass area in the front to allow for vehicles to travel across the grass with minimal damage to the grass. The Board members asked if this would be visible and Mr. McKinney explained it would be pressed into the ground, the grass growing through it.

Mr. Hargroves asked if the Board would approve the previously discussed items but request 3-D sketches be presented to give a better idea of the structure's design. Mr. Jackson agreed that this could be done. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hargroves and seconded by Mrs. Shuman to approve the concept of the plan as presented, with additional details to be brought back to the Board for further review at a future date.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Betsy White, Chairman

W. Garrett Jackson, Secretary