

TOWN OF ABINGDON
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 1, 2007 - 5:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Board of Architectural Review was held Wednesday, August 1, 2007 at 5:00 P.M. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building, Downstairs Meeting Room.

Mr. Robert Howard called the meeting to order. Mr. Jackson called the roll.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Robert M. Howard, Vice Chairman
Mr. Byrum L. Geisler
Dr. Charles M. Owens
Mrs. Doris Shuman

Comprising a quorum of the Board

Members Absent: Mr. Peyton Boyd

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

Visitors: None

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(2) Select Chairman - Board of Architectural Review

Due to a change in recent membership, there was a reorganization of the Board of Architectural Review for the selection of a new Chairman.

The floor was opened for nominations for selection of Chairman to the Board. Mr. Geisler made a motion that Dr. Owens be nominated to serve as Chairman. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Shuman. Mrs. Shuman made a motion that the floor be close since there were no further nominations. Mr. Geisler seconded the motion, with unanimous approval, thereby electing Dr. Owens as Chairman.

VOTE:

Mr. Geisler Aye
Mrs. Shuman Aye
Mr. Howard Aye

Dr. Owens thanked the Board members and began presiding as Chairman at that time.

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(3) Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, July 3, 2007

Motion was made by Mr. Howard to approve the minutes of the regular meeting, July 3, 2007, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Geisler, with unanimous approval.

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- (4) **CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - Lava Blue Gallery, Hugh Belcher, Representative**, 167 East Main Street, Abingdon, VA 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of one (1) sign to be **located at 167 East Main Street. Tax Map No. 13 (1) 58. (Tabled from July 3, 2007 meeting).**

This application was discussed at the July 3, 2007 meeting but was tabled to allow the applicant the opportunity to present more detailed information regarding the proposed sign. The original sign application presented at the July 3rd meeting indicated the background color of the sign would be black or gray, with red, blue and white lettering.

The applicant is requesting approval of one (1) sign to be located at 167 East Main Street. The proposed sign will be constructed of sandblasted wood composite, will be double faced, 4 sq. ft. in size, having black background, gray border, with red, blue and white lettering. The sign will read **“LAVA BLUE GALLERY HOT ART...COOL GIFTS”**.

In reviewing the application, Board members showed concerns regarding the lettering and colors of the sign, as well as the type of post to be use for displaying the sign. It was the consensus of the Board that the sign be re designed according to Paragraph 43f of the Guidelines; also the Board recommends to use a black wrought iron post for displaying the sign to blend with existing post for adjoining business.

After discussion, Mrs. Shuman made a motion that the requested post, type of lettering and colors be depleted and the sign be re-designed in keeping with the structure according to the recommended colors of the Guidelines and that Mr. Jackson talk to the applicant regarding the Board’s recommended changes. Mr. Jackson will inform the Board members of the applicant’s decision. Mr. Howard seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

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- (3) **CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - Star Museum, Robert Weisfeld, Owner/Representative**, 170 East Main Street, Abingdon, VA 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of signage to be **located at 170 East Main Street. Tax Map No. 13 (1) 110.**

This is a request for approval of two (2) signs; both signs have already been installed inadvertently by the applicant. The staff noticed the two signs last week at the grand opening and spoke with the owner about the proper procedure.

One of the requested signs, 4 sq. ft. in size, federal blue background, with cherry red lettering and white emblem has replaced the former sign (same design) used by the Abingdon Virginian Newspaper office. This sign was approved by the Board of Architectural Review in 1976 as cherry red with biscuit trim. Also, two (2) small shingle signs have been hung. These shingle signs are the originals, having been painted with a federal blue, cherry red and white scheme.

The staff stated that the opening date of the Star Museum seems to have been the deciding factor behind the creation and erection of the signage, however, the signs are required to be approved by the Board of Architectural Review. Since the number of signs previously approved by the Board of Architectural Review (1976), the staff feels the additional square footage can be overlooked. If the signage in place is approved by the Board of Architectural Review, it was recommended by the staff to try and talk with the applicant and have the colors match the building colors to the signs, or ask the sign colors be reversed, i.e. blue lettering, cherry red sign.

After discussion, Mr. Geisler made a motion that the application requesting approval of the signs be denied, per Paragraph 43f of the Guidelines, selecting colors and letters consistent with the structure. Mrs. Shuman seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Dr. Charles M. Owens, Chairman

W. Garrett Jackson, Secretary