

Landmark Commission  
September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Meeting Minutes

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:00PM. The following members were present: Mr. Jon Lawrence, Chairman Michael Zuilhof, Mr. Joe Galea, Mr. Griffith, and Ms. Nikki Llyod. Mr. Greg Voltz and Ms. Angela Byington represented the Planning Department; Mr. Trevor Hayberger represented the Law Department; and Casey Sparks, Clerk There were 5 voting members present.

Mr. Griffith moved to accept the minutes from September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Mr. Lawrence second the motion.

Mr. Zuilhof stated that the applicant, Briana Metzger, on behalf of the City of Sandusky, has submitted an application for exterior signage for City Hall at 240 Columbus Ave.

Ms. Byington stated that she will give a staff presentation then Chuck Tackett from Marous Brothers is present to answer any questions and Briana Metzger from RLR Associates is available over the phone line for any technical questions.

Ms. Byington presented that the City is requesting approval for a Certificate of Appropriateness for exterior signage for city hall. This would be including a large city hall identification sign, numerous informational and addressing signs. This evening the commission will review the city hall signage that will be constructed of channel letters and is approximately 12 square feet. The letters are painted black aluminum, the front letter is opaque and there is a letter cut out behind this. The LED lighting is placed on the front letter and is shining onto the back letter. The two cut outs are enclosed, what is translucent is the back letter and a very narrow portion of the sign which is connecting the front to the back. The applicant has provided a rendering of what the full sign could look like illuminated at night. The property is within the historic district and staff has reviewed it based on the Secretary of Interior Standards and is recommending approval. Ms. Byington discussed the sections of the Secretary of Interior Standards used when reviewing the application; such as the sign has simple graphics, simple color, and is an externally lit sign. One important factor to keep in mind is that it is city owned and can be dimmed down if needed. Another important factor to keep in mind is there has already been other back lit signs that have been approved. Staff also provided a letter from Sharon Trsek which reviewed the historic guidelines for signage from the Secretary of Interior Standards and discussed how the sign met these standards. Ms. Trsek stated that the graphics are very easy to read and stylistically appropriate. The sign is being placed on the marquee which works architecturally and symbolically. The sign fits the scale of the building, the placement is historically accurate, and the lighting does not over power the design.

Ms. Byington stated that staff does believe that this sign meets the Secretary of Interior Standards.

Mr. Griffith stated that she would like to hear the description of the sign from Ms. Metzger.

Mr. Zuilhof asked if the sign will be opaque on the front and back and translucent on the side. Brianna Metzger, RLR Associates, stated the back of the front letters will be an acrylic opaque white. The illuminating white acrylic back would be 1/2 inch thick, and would be 1/2 inch off set around aluminum channel.

Mr. Zuilhof ask if the back would be opaque as well.

Ms. Metzger stated that the front and the back of the front letter are both opaque and back letter is translucent white.

Mr. Lawrence asked the color of the sides.

Ms. Metzger stated they are white as well, what you will see from the front face of the sign will be a nice halo with an edge effect.

Chuck Tackett, Marous Brothers, explained the side elevation stating that it will be mostly opaque on the sides and translucent on the back.

Ms. Lloyd ask about the Section detail, asking if the right or left side is facing out.

Ms. Byington explained the left side is facing out and the lights will be shinning off the front onto the back. The LED lights will be shinning back onto the translucent white on the back.

Mr. Griffith stated that the intent is to set the dark letters off in relief to the lit translucent back ground.

Ms. Lloyd stated that the example given within the packet appears to be much thicker than what is being proposed.

Ms. Byington stated that this is correct and stated the Commission may want to condition the approval to state that the majority of the sign is opaque for review of future applications.

Mr. Zuilhof stated that this could be argued that it is an internally lit letter and is in the spirit of the regulations. This is more of a backlit letter and we are solid ground and not setting a precedence.

Mr. Griffith stated that the key to this application is that it is off set from the building, it is on an offset awning, rather than on the building. This is the critical issue that makes this acceptable.

Mr. Galea moved to approve the applicant for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the proposed sign; Mr. Griffith seconded the motion.

With no further discussion the motion passed with a vote of 5/0.

Ms. Lloyd motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Lawrence seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:17pm



Casey Sparks, Clerk



Michael Zuilhof, Chairman