

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Manistee County Historical Museum
425 River Street
Manistee, MI 49660

MEETING MINUTES

July 5, 2007

A Meeting of the Manistee City Historic District Commission was held on Thursday, July 5, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. at the Manistee County Historical Museum, 425 River Street, Manistee, Michigan.

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Kracht.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Dave Carlson, Maria DeRee, Teena Kracht, P. Kelly Niles, John Perschbacher, Dennis terHorst

Members Absent: T. Eftaxiadis (excused)

Others: Steve Harold (Manistee County Historical Museum), Jon Rose (Community Development), and Denise Blakeslee (Planning & Zoning)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES:

MOTION by John Perschbacher, seconded by Kelly Niles that the Agenda for the July 5, 2007 Meeting be approved and the Minutes of the June 7, 2007 Meeting be approved with a correction on Page 2 from "Ground" to "Grounds".

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS:

The Order of New Business was changed due to the absence of the first two applicants.

Northern Spirits, LLC. - Request for exterior alteration to building

Commissioner ~~Niles~~ DeRee declared a conflict of interest and removed herself to the audience.

Northern Spirits, LLC, 389 River Street - Paint Removal. Maria DeRee owner of 389 River Street spoke of the desire to remove the paint from the glass bock on building front, restoring to original condition to allow natural light into the building. The area is above the storefront window and below the sign marquis.

Ms. DeRee was asked what type of method was to be used for paint removal. Ms. DeRee said that she had contacted a local paint store to research what type of technique should be used.

Commissioners discussed paint removal and it was recommended that she contact Robb McKay, Historical Architect, State Historic Preservation Office.

MOTION by John Perschbacher, seconded by Dave Carlson to approve the request from Northern Spirits, LLC, 389 River Street (HDC-2007-12) for paint removal following the Secretary of the Interior Guideline #7 which reads "Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible."

With a roll call vote this motion passed 4 to 0 with Maria DeRee Abstaining.

Yes: Perschbacher, Carlson, Niles, Kracht
No: None

Review "Smokers' Post" Outdoor Cigarette Disposal

Both City Hall and the Ramsdell Theatre are in need of a way to dispose of cigarettes. Some options have been found for the committee to review. Commissioners discussed the options and the need for cigarette disposal.

MOTION by Maria DeRee, seconded by Dave Carlson that the either the "Roman Column Smoke Stopper" or the "Rubbermaid Commercial Grounds Keeper Outdoor Tuscan Cigarette Receptacle" in Black can be installed at the City Hall, 70 Maple Street or the Ramsdell Theatre, 101 Maple Street.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 4 to 1.

Yes: Niles, Carlson, DeRee, Kracht
No: Perschbacher

Karen Brener - Suvi Inc. - Request for Signage

Commissioner Niles declared a conflict of interest and removed himself to the audience.

Suvi Inc., 419 River Street - Window Signs. No representative was in attendance.

MOTION by Dave Carlson, seconded by John Perschbacher to approve the request from Suvi Inc., 419 River Street for the installation of Window Signs as shown on application #HDC-2007-10.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 4 to 0 with Commissioner Niles Abstaining.

Yes: Carlson, DeRee Perschbacher, Kracht
No: None

William Anderson - Port City Grille - Request for Signage

Port City Grille, 318 River Street - Window Sign. No Representative from Port City Grille was in attendance. Commissioners reviewed the request.

MOTION by Dave Carlson, seconded by Kelly Niles that the request from Port City Grille, 318 River Street for a window sign as shown on application #HDC-2007-11 be approved as presented.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 5 to 0.

Yes: DeRee, Carlson, Perschbacher, Niles, Kracht
No: None

Miscellaneous:

Chair Kracht Spoke of the need to establish guidelines for Awnings and Signs. The number of requests before the commission at this time does not allow time to work on establishing these standards.

Discussed the signage that was installed at 440 River Street (former 440 West Restaurant). At this time no formal requests have been received for temporary signs or a banner. Verbal approval was granted for the installation of 8 1/2" x 11" temporary paper signs in the windows.

Discussed how people who have installed their permanent signs as temporary signs in the hopes that approval will be granted by the commission. Members were told that the applicants have been warned that they are proceeding at their own risk and that if the sign is not approved then they must be removed at their own expense. The application clearly states the approval is for only temporary signs.

Discussed the installation of "lighted - open signs" at TJ's Pub. The manager had been called and was told that the signs needed to be removed.

Commission wants a letter drafted to business owners and occupants regarding the Historic District Commission and the restriction on lighted signs. The letter is to be positive and explain tax credits and the process of the commission.

OLD BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

STAFF REPORTS

Steve Harold is unable to attend the September meeting. Will discuss at the August meeting if the meeting should be rescheduled.

Steve Harold spoke of the problems that have arisen in Mackinaw Island regarding Awnings/Signage and the display of merchandise. This article will be copied and sent to the commissioners for review.

Ms. Blakeslee spoke of a request regarding "for sale, for rent and/or future development site signage" in the Historic District. These types of signs are exempt under the Zoning Ordinance. The Commission determined that they do not want to deal with these signs either. In the event that a problem develops they will address them at that time.

Discussion began on awnings and changes will be drafted for the standards for the commission to review prior to the next meeting.

The Next meeting of the Historic District Commission will be on Thursday, August 2, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. at the Museum, 425 River Street.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by John Perschabacher, seconded by Dave Carlson that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:20 P.M.

MANISTEE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise J. Blakeslee", written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Denise J. Blakeslee, Recording Secretary