

Michael Gehr, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 28, 2013, in the Fourth Floor Conference Room, City Hall. A roster of the members of the commission and the technical posts they fill are on file and available upon request. Also present were commission members S. Dozier, V. Hrabal, S. Silas, and M. Wertman. S. Bockmiller, Development Planner/Zoning Administrator, was present on behalf of the Planning and Code Administration Division. Councilmember P. Nigh was present on behalf of the Mayor and City Council.

Mr. Gehr noted that the case under Design Review for a sign and awning appears to be standard. He asked if any commission members objected to moving the case to the Consent Agenda. Ms. Hrabal indicated that she had questions about the awning so the case remained on the Design Review portion of the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 14, 2013.

MOTION: (Wertman/Silas) Mr. Chairman, I move we approve the minutes.
DISCUSSION: None.
ACTION: APPROVED (Unanimous)

(Recording Secretary's Note: The minutes approved above were most likely the approved minutes from January's meetings. The approved January 10 and January 24 minutes were inadvertently sent to HDC members the same week as the February 28 meeting. It is possible they were mistaken for the February 14 minutes.)

CONSENT AGENDA

None.

DESIGN REVIEW

10-12 East Washington Street - Stitches Awning Company/El Paso Mexican Restaurant - Signage and Awnings, Case No. HDC 2013-07.

It was noted that a grant was not requested for this sign. Commission members asked if a grant could be approved even though the applicant did not request one. Mr. Bockmiller said as long as the sign meets the commission's Design Guidelines, a grant could be approved, regardless of whether an application was received.

**Historic District Commission
MINUTES**

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City of Hagerstown, Maryland**

Rick Harbaugh of Stitches Awning Company, 14109 Cearfoss Pike, Hagerstown, Maryland, was present on behalf of El Paso Mexican Restaurant.

Staff Report: This building is a C resource in the Downtown Local Historic District. The applicant would like approval to recover two existing awning fixtures with vinyl, similar to the existing material. The new awnings will be green and red with white lettering. The two-sided sign will be hung from a decorative bracket on the second floor of the bay window. Material will be painted quarter-inch plywood. The zoning ordinance states that for projecting signs, the bottom of the sign must be at least eight feet above the ground and the top of the sign cannot be no more than 12 feet, leaving a four-foot window in which the signage can be installed. Staff recommended approval of the application and to not act on the grant unless one is applied for later. The owner can come back later if they want grant funds for the sign.

Applicant/Commission Discussion: Ms. Hrabal questioned the barrel shape of the awning and whether it was appropriate for the district. Mr. Bockmiller said the previous approval of the barrel awning for Durango's Restaurant was probably due to the C rating of the building. There was discussion about money allocated for grants. Mr. Bockmiller noted that the City had concerns about the owner possibly painting the building white, red, and green. Even though the commission has no purview over paint color, it would not have to award money to the owner if they chose to paint their building in that color scheme which would not be in harmony with the character of the district. It was decided that the owner could come back later and request a grant for the sign if desired.

MOTION: (Hrabal/Wertman) Mr. Chairman, I have inspected the project plans and the property in question and if constructed in accordance with these plans, the project is compatible with character of the district for the reasons that the sign is appropriate size and the height will be at least eight feet from the bottom of the sign to the sidewalk, the materials are appropriate for the district; the sign is plywood, and the vinyl material for the awning is appropriate and in general it is in harmony with the Architectural Guidelines for the Preservation Districts and the character of the adjoining properties. Therefore, I move that the HDC grant a Certificate of Appropriateness to the applicant for Case No. 2013-07.

DISCUSSION: None.

ACTION: APPROVED (Unanimous)

WORKSHOP:

None.

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NEW BUSINESS:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

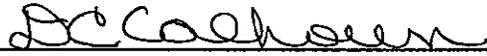
None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURN: It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn (4:45 p.m.).

3/14/2013
Date


Debra C. Calhoun - Secretary