

**Design Review Board
Minutes Of May 19, 2021**

Held Remotely Via Zoom And Telephone Access

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Design Review Board ("DRB") held Wednesday, May 19, 2021. Vice-Chair Keith Deyer called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

1) ROLLCALL

Present: Chair John Henke; Board Members Gigi Debbrecht, Keith Deyer (Harbor Springs, MI), Natalia Dukas, Dustin Kolo, Patricia Lang, Michael Willoughby; Student Representatives Charles Cusimano, Elizabeth Wiegand (Grosse Pointe Woods, MI).

All located in Birmingham, MI unless otherwise noted.

Absent: Alternate Board Members Samantha Cappello, Kathleen Kriel

Administration: Nicholas Dupuis, City Planner
Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist

05-043-21

2) Approval Of Minutes

Motion by Ms. Debbrecht

Seconded by Mr. Kolo to approve the DRB Minutes of April 7, 2021 as submitted.

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Debbrecht, Kolo, Dukas, Deyer, Henke, Willoughby, Lang

Nays: None

05-044-21

3) Public Hearing

None.

05-045-21

4) Design Review

A. 825 Bowers – Todd's Room

Chair Henke addressed the fact that Todd's Room had been asked to submit landscaping plans and color samples for different potential exterior paint colors since November 2020 and that those plans had not yet been submitted. He said his inclination was to deny the application and to

require Todd's Room to formally re-submit all the plans with the understanding that they would remain in violation of the ordinance until DRB-approved changes to the building and/or landscaping are made. Chair Henke stated that CP Dupuis had tried to get the required documentation from Raquel, one of the staff members of Todd's Room, a number of times.

Ms. Dukas and Ms. Debbrecht concurred that a denial would be fair.

Todd Skog, owner of Todd's Room, raised concern that Mr. Willoughby could not vote without bias regarding this item based on a comment Mr. Skog said Mr. Willoughby made at the November 2020 meeting.

Mr. Willoughby said he did not recall making the comment. He apologized to Mr. Skog if he had made the comment. He stated that he harbored no bias towards Mr. Skog or regarding this item.

Mr. Skog thanked Mr. Willoughby.

Chair Henke said he appreciated Mr. Skog expressing his concern. Chair Henke reiterated that the matter at hand was that the DRB still did not have the requisite documentation for the item.

Mr. Skog stated that he would personally guarantee he would get proposed landscaping and color samples to CP Dupuis if the Board would give him one more chance. He apologized for not having gotten the information to the Board sooner. He said he had been unclear on what it meant when the Board originally postponed the item 'indefinitely' in November 2020, and that Covid had caused complications, and that both factors had contributed to the confusion.

Mr. Deyer said it would be a waste of both Mr. Skog's time and the Board's if the matter was postponed one more meeting and Mr. Skog appeared again without documentation. He also clarified that Mr. Skog would need to have the documentation to CP Dupuis by May 28, 2021 in order for it to be included in the DRB's agenda packet.

Mr. Skog said he would return with documentation.

**Motion by Mr. Deyer
Seconded by Ms. Lang to postpone the design review of Todd's Room to the June 2,
2021 DRB meeting.**

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Deyer, Lang, Debbrecht, Kolo, Dukas, Henke, Willoughby

Nays: None

Mr. Skog stated his understanding was that he would return with landscaping plans and ideas of how to minimize some of the pink appearance of the exterior of the building.

The DRB confirmed.

Mr. Skog thanked the Board.

Chair Henke thanked Mr. Skog.

05-046-21

5) Sign Review

None.

05-047-21

6) Study Session

None.

05-048-21

7) Miscellaneous Business And Communications
A. Pre-Application Discussions

CP Dupuis reviewed a brief administrative approval request from the Forefront at 400 S. Old Woodward. He noted that the request adhered to all ordinance requirements. The Board consensus was that the changes to the three windows and the two front units could be administratively approved.

B. Draft Agenda for Next Meeting

C. Staff Reports

1. Administrative Sign Approvals

Mr. Deyer said that he personally wanted brighter-color backers on signs to be brought before the Board. He cited the administratively approved L.A. Insurance sign as an example, which used red as a backer.

2. Administrative Approvals

3. Action List - 2021

05-049-21

Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Lang

Seconded by Ms. Debbrecht to adjourn the DRB meeting of May 19, 2021 at 10:15 p.m.

Motion carried, 7-0

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ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Lang, Debbrecht, Henke, Willoughby, Kolo, Deyer, Dukas

Nays: None

Nicholas Dupuis
City Planner

APPROVED