

MINUTES
CITY OF HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS
Historic District Commission

The regular meeting of the Historic District Commission was held on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the Hot Springs Municipal Building, 133 Convention Boulevard, with Chairman Long Hua Xu presiding.

Roll Call

Present: Chairman Long Hua Xu, Commissioner Mary Francis Moore,
Commissioner Gary Jackson, Commissioner James Gray & Commissioner
Clyde Covington

Absent:

Staff: Rick Stauder, Planning Manager

Chairman Long Hua Xu called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Chairman Long Hua Xu asked the commissioners if there were any corrections or additions that needed to be made to the previous minutes from the Thursday, December 21, 2017 meeting. Hearing none, Chairman Long Hua asked for a motion to approve the Thursday, December 21, 2017 meeting minutes as printed. Commissioner Gary Jackson made a motion with Commissioner Clyde Covington. The motion carried with a unanimous vote 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Gangster Museum
510 Central Ave.
Certificate of appropriateness application request to add two illuminated business identification signs to this storefront. (HDC-17-0353)

Chairman Long Hua Xu asked staff to introduce the item. Mr. Stauder presented some history on the Gangster Museum and its location in respect to the signage, one of which was a large sign on the north facing wall of the building, which faced a parking lot owned by the Wheatley family, and then a historic request for construction of new building, the Wheatley family building, at the parking lot location, which was approved through the historic commission, and as a result of that construction project the major sign for this business is going to be covered up and no longer seen, which has necessitated that Mr. Raines seeks approval to do advertisement for his business, and is the proposal that you have before you today. Mr. Stauder stated that there is a unique arched canopy on the front of the building, on each side, north and south of the canopy are endcaps, and they

have requested to do two illuminated signs. Mr. Stauder informed the commission that in the staff report, it is discussed that the guidelines discourage internally illuminated signs, however do not prohibit them, but that if this is approved they would have 3 major or minor, illuminated signs at this location. Mr. Stauder stated that the applicant and his representative are present to speak on the request. The applicant, Robert Raines and his representative, Robert Manning both gave their name and address for the record. Mr. Stauder asked them to present the item and answer any questions the commissioners might have. Mr. Raines takes the floor to explain the proposal and stated that he will be losing his major sign because of the Wheatley building, so he wants to propose placing two minor signs on the endcaps of the canopy, and keep the menu board sign as his major, which had been his minor sign before. Mr. Raines stated that he just needs some signage, so he will have the prior minor menu board sign as his major, as well as adding the endcaps, no illumination, as his two minor signs, which will fit the guidelines, especially without the inside illumination, but with external overhanging lights. Mr. Raines then stated that he would let his representative, Robert Manning, explain the street scape. Mr. Manning took the floor and stated that the locations chosen are the best places possible for exposure and visibility to customers. Mr. Manning stated that with the Gangster Museum logo, you could not do a push through acrylic as was done with the Kilwin's sign, without having to completely change the logo. Commissioner James Gray asked to verify that the menu board sign is illuminated, to which the applicant replied yes it is, it was an existing menu board sign that we had replaced to display our hours and prices. Mr. Raines stated that he would rather keep that illuminated menu board sign and make the two endcaps as non-illuminated. Mr. Raines also stated that there are two trees, a bench, and two newspaper vending machines that don't function anymore, that block the visibility of the illuminated menu board from the street, but it is still effect from the walking traffic. Commissioner James Gray asked what kind of sign would be used on those endcaps, if not the illuminated cabinet signs. Mr. Manning responded that it would be a digital print graphics, vinyl impressed upon the plastic, which would reduce the light behind it. Commissioner James Gray then asked what would be the depth of the sign, if the channel box will not be used. Mr. Raines replied that he thought about that and the fact that the sign would stick out about 7", and decided that it would be better to have a flat sign at about an 1/8" instead. Mr. Stauder asked the applicant if he was amending his request to have two non-illuminated signs on the endcaps. Mr. Raines stated that he is changing the request to have the endcap signs, but with external over hanging led lights instead of the internally illuminated sign. Mr. Stauder asked if the existing illuminated menu board sign would stay, to which Mr. Raines replied that yes it would. Commissioner James Gray asked if the signs would be too big to be considered minor signs. Mr. Stauder stated that it isn't really explained in the guidelines what the dimensions are for the major or minor sign, and that he believed that these would fall under the minor sign, and since they are losing their major sign, keeping the existing illuminated menu board as the major and have the endcaps as the minors. Commissioner James Gray stated that with the endcap signs he would like to see what the amount of area is, in order to not overwhelm the border of the endcaps. Mr. Raines stated that it would not completely cover the endcap, but would leave a border and be artistic. Mr. Stauder stated that if there are no more questions for the applicant or the representative, or anyone in the audience, there is no one present, we will close the public portion, and

differed to Chairman Long Hua Xu and it was asked if there was a motion to approve. Commissioner James Gray motions to approve the request as amended in the hearing and Commissioner Mary Moore seconds, there is no discussion on the motion, and roll is called for approval, to which the motion is carried with a unanimous vote. (For- 5, Against- 0, Absent-0, Abstain-0)

Report: Mr. Stauder stated that the only for the report is to remind the commissioners about the grant application that is being put together for the upcoming NAPC training that is going to be held in Des Moines, Iowa in July 17-22 of this year, and if the commissioners had a chance to look at their schedules to see if they might be able to attend. Mr. Stauder stated that this will be contingent on receiving funding, with the anticipation of having maybe two or three people to be able to attend.

Adjourn: Commissioner James Gray made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Chairman Mary Moore. The motion carried with a unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 am.
(For- 5, Against- 0, Absent-0, Abstain-0)



Chairman Long Hua Xu