

**MINUTES**  
*CITY OF HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS*  
**Historic District Commission**

The regular meeting of the Historic District Commission was held on Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the Hot Springs Municipal Building, 133 Convention Boulevard, with Commissioner James Gray presiding.

**Roll Call**

Present: Commissioner Mary Francis Moore, Commissioner Gary Jackson,  
Commissioner James Gray & Commissioner Clyde Covington

Absent: Chairman Long Hua Xu

Staff: Dawn Sweet-Dobbs, Planner

Commissioner James Gray called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Commissioner James Gray asked the commissioners if there were any corrections or additions that needed to be made to the previous minutes from the Thursday, June 21, 2018 meeting. Hearing none, Commissioner James Gray asked for a motion to approve the Thursday, June 21, 2018 meeting minutes as printed. Commissioner Clyde Covington made a motion with Commissioner Gary Jackson. The motion carried with a unanimous vote 4-0.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

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1. It's About Rocks Signage  
350 Central Ave.  
Certificate of appropriateness request to replace previous business sign with  
new business identification signage. (HDC-18-0177)

Commissioner James Gray asked staff to introduce the item.

Mrs. Sweet-Dobbs stated that the applicant Charles Miller, representing property owner Wheatley Family Trust, seeks Category IV Certificate of Appropriateness application approval for removal of existing business identification signage and installation of exterior signage located on the front façade of the building located at 350 Central Avenue. This property is located in the Central Avenue Historic District, is currently zoned C-1 (Central Business District) and is located in Board of Directors District #1.

The applicant submitted renderings of the existing and proposed signage with dimensions. The proposed sign has dimensions of 3' by 10', which is the same as the previous sign and is to be located in the same location on the building. The color scheme is to be a white sign, with black text and a green logo.

The Central Avenue Historic District Design Review Guidelines state in SECTION E - REGULATIONS - SIGNS AND BILLBOARDS - GENERAL PROVISIONS:

1. For all signage, signage width and height must be in proportion to the façade, respecting the size, scale, and mass of the façade, building height and rhythms and sizes of window and door openings.

The applicant has proposed only one wall mounted sign. The proposed sign is to have dimensions of 3' by 10' and will be located in the same place as previous Earthbound Trading sign. The "It's About Rocks" business would be the only tenant in the structure at this time as the upper floors of this building are vacant.

The Central Avenue Historic District Design Review Guidelines state in SECTION D - GUIDELINES - SIGNS:

1. Signs are a vital part of a coherent historic district. Often storeowners try to out-shout each other with over-sized, flashy signs that disrupt the visual continuity of the district and obscure architectural features

2. Because the district is primarily pedestrian with slow-moving traffic, small signs can serve the needs of businesses, while contributing to both the image of individual buildings and to the overall character of the district.

The applicant's proposal complies with the above provision, as the signage request is not over-sized or "flashy" in such a way that it disrupts the visual continuity of the streetscape, nor the request detract from the historic character of the district.

The proposal for removal of existing business identification signage and installation of exterior signage located on the front façade at 350 Central Avenue, complies with the Central Avenue Historic District Design Review Guidelines.

Mrs. Sweet-Dobbs stated that the staff recommendation is to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness request for the It's All About Rocks business as presented as it complies with the Central Avenue Historic District Design Guidelines.

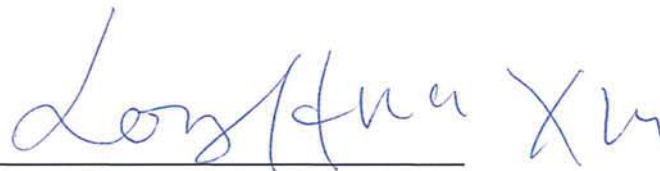
Commissioner James Gray asked the applicant to come forward and speak on the request. The owner/applicant, Charles Miller, gave his name and address for the record. Mr. Miller stated that he did not have anything to add, but would answer any questions the commissioners had.

Commissioner James Gray asked if there were any questions from the commissioners, and there were none. Mrs. Sweet-Dobbs asked if there was anyone in the audience to speak for or against the item, and there was none, so she then closed the public portion of the meeting.

Commissioner James Gray then asked if there was any discussion among the commissioners on this item, there was none, so he then asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Mary Francis Moore to approve the request as staff recommended and Commissioner Clyde Covington 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- 4, Against- 0, Absent-1, Abstain-0)

**Report:** Mrs. Sweet-Dobbs stated that there was not anything to really report on at this time, but that Mr. Stauder and Chairman Long Hua Xu were in Des Moines, Iowa for the NAPC conference and would be presenting their experience when they return.

**Adjourn:** Commissioner James Gray stated that with no further business to discuss, we are ready to adjourn the July 19, 2018 Historic District Commission Meeting, and asked may I have a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mary Francis Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Gary Jackson. The motion carried with a unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 am. (For- 4, Against- 0, Absent-1, Abstain-0)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Long Hua Xu". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Chairman Long Hua Xu