



City of Oregon City

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Meeting Minutes Historic Review Board

Thursday, December 10, 2020

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers

1. Convene Regular Meeting and Roll Call

Acting Chair Baysinger called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: 4 - Board Member Ken Baysinger, Board Member Claire Met, Board Member Grant Blythe, and Board Member Ray Stobie

Staffers: 3 - Community Development Director Laura Terway, Planner Kelly Reid, and Tourism Coordinator Matthew Weintraub

2. Public Comment — None

3. Public Hearing: GLUA-20-00046 and HR 20-00010: Historic Review for a Major Public Improvement within the McLoughlin Conservation District to Install a Freestanding Laminate Sign within the McLoughlin Promenade Park

Acting Chair Baysinger opened the public hearing.

Kelly Reid, Planner, read the hearing statement. She asked if the Board had any ex parte contacts, conflicts of interest, bias, or any other statements to declare. There were none. All Board members had visited the site.

Ms. Reid presented the staff report. This was a request for approval of a major public improvement in the McLoughlin Conservation District to place a sign on the McLoughlin Promenade. She described the three potential locations for the sign. Due to the basalt, they did not know which location would be the most feasible yet. She then explained the materials, design, and style of the sign and recommended conditions of approval.

Matthew Weintraub, Tourism Coordinator, gave a background on the Oregon City Film Trail program. He discussed the proposed signage on the Promenade, examples of existing signage, budget, and outreach/public meetings. He thought the signage would be aesthetically pleasing, weather resistant, and more vandalism proof.

Karin Morey, resident of Oregon City, showed pictures of other Oregon Film Trail signs. She recommended approval of this sign which would join the others around the state with the same signage.

Acting Chair Baysinger closed the public hearing.

There was discussion regarding the locations for the sign.

A motion was made by Board Member Blythe, seconded by Board Member Stobie, to approve GLUA-20-00046 and HR 20-00010: Historic Review for a Major Public Improvement within the McLoughlin Conservation District to Install a Freestanding Laminate Sign within the McLoughlin Promenade Park with the recommended conditions. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Acting Chair Baysinger, Board Member Stobie, Board Member Blythe, and Board Member Met

4. New HRB Policy for Murals on Historic Structures

Ms. Reid introduced the topic of creating a new policy for murals on historic structures.

Mr. Weintraub said they had engaged a group of tourism stakeholders to implement the Tourism Strategic Plan. One of those initiatives was public art. They were still identifying where the public art murals would be allowed in commercial zones. They planned to move forward with the draft code from 2015 for murals and guidelines for how it would be administered.

Ms. Reid reviewed the draft mural policy, explaining when murals on designated historic structures and landmarks could be approved by staff and when they would require a review by the HRB.

There was discussion regarding the definition of mural.

Thelma Haggemiller thought they should delete the requirement that the mural could not cover or obscure any architectural features of the building. She thought creative artists could incorporate the cornices, trim, windows, and other decorative features into the design. There should be a definition difference between a mural and a sign. She thought this policy should be for all structures, not just historic ones.

Mr. Weintraub explained there were clearer definitions for mural and signs in the proposed code.

Ms. Reid said the Arts Commission would review the murals, and if they were on historic structures they would also come to the HRB. This policy explained when the HRB would review murals and when they wouldn't. If the mural was going to obscure an architectural feature, it would have to come to the HRB.

Chair Baysinger thought putting a mural on a historic structure would be a significant change to the appearance and he thought it was inappropriate.

The rest of the Board did not agree, especially since the murals would be placed on secondary facades.

There was discussion regarding the fact that the City could not regulate the content of the murals.

Board Member Met recommended the murals on historic structures have a historic

theme.

There was discussion regarding getting more information before making a decision on the policy.

Acting Chair Baysinger restated his opposition to allow murals on historic structures particularly since they could not regulate the content.

There was consensus to table this decision and for staff to bring back additional information to a future meeting.

5. Design Advice for New Construction in Canemah at 616 4th Avenue

Ms. Reid said the property owner had decided not to make changes to the right-of-way and there was no reason to go through the design advice.

6. Communications

Ms. Reid discussed the work on review thresholds for non-contributing structures in the McLoughlin District. She thanked the outgoing Board members for their service.

Members Baysinger and Met thanked staff as well.

7. Adjournment

Acting Chair Baysinger adjourned the meeting at 8:27 PM.