

CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS
DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 12, 2019
5:30 PM

Present: Chairperson Phyllis Roundtree, Vice-Chairman Zane Darling, Board Member Mike Elliott, Board Member Helena Martinez

Absent: Board Member Robin Boshears

Staff: Tory Niewiadomski, Community Development Director, Jennifer Graham, Community Dev. Admin. Asst. vc

Other: Karen Riddle, Mickey Barker, Tom Glossup, Marty Brown, Tamara Brown, Lewis Tatum, Tanner Crump, Robert Newsome

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson Roundtree called the meeting of the Downtown Revitalization Board to order at 5:30 P.M.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2019:

Consider for approval the Downtown Revitalization Board meeting minutes of January 22, 2019. Board Member Elliott moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Vice-Chairman Darling seconded. Motion carried, all voting aye.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON A DESIGN COMPLIANCE APPLICATION FOR 300 CONNALLY ST.

The Owner is seeking approval to install three signs on the building, a mural on the exterior wall of Caps and Flasks on the north side, improve an outdoor patio area with outdoor seating and exterior decorative elements and trees, paint the building, and construct a 12ft. addition for a kitchen on the rear of the building facing a private alley. Board Member Martinez made a motion to approve the requests by the applicant as presented, but table the request for the mural. After some conversation the Board requested that the Applicant bring back some of her work as a painter and another mural for consideration. The wall is quite large and the Board feels that the mural does not depict what her business is promoting. This large mural will be visible to the public and it should be consistent with the other buildings downtown and their visible art. Board Member Martinez moved to approve the request recommended by staff and to table the request for the mural. Vice-Chairman Darling seconded. Motion carried, all voting aye.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON A REQUEST TO INSTAL SOLAR PANELS ON THE ROOF OF THE JAIL LOCATED AT 298 ROSEMONT ST.

The County is seeking to install solar panels on the roof of the jail to offset their energy costs. The solar panels will be put on top of the gabled roof facing west towards Rosemont Street. Vice-Chairman Darling moved to approve the request recommended by staff. Board Member Martinez seconded. Motion carried, all voting aye.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Marty Brown spoke on his behalf and told the Board that he owned 206 Main St. and that we were all well aware of that. He wanted to address the Board to let them know he would be taking off the façade of that building when he comes back next October and wants to know how this Board thinks he can get a fair hearing before it when the Chair and the Vice-Chair voted against his signage when it came up, despite the fact that the Supreme Court told them that they can't deny it, First Amendment, on and on. So what he is asking, and he was hoping Attorney McLeroy was there, is that he would like for the Chair and Vice Chair to recuse themselves when he comes before this Board in the future. Chairperson Roundtree let Mr. Brown know that by the time he came back there would probably be another Chair because we select in the summer and that she didn't think there was anything left for them to do right now. Mr. Brown acknowledged that statement, but wanted everyone to be aware of it because what he intends on doing is going to be pretty progressive and if he had any resistance he is going to feel that there is a bias and a prejudice due to the fact that the Chair and Vice-Chair didn't approve of his signage even though it is allowed by his First Amendment right. Board Member Elliott and Chairperson Roundtree informed Mr. Brown that the Board had approved the sign. Mr. Brown stated that Board Member Elliott and Chairperson Roundtree had voted against it and it shows that there is a prejudice. Chairperson Roundtree stated that someone's voting against something is not necessarily a symbol of prejudice. Mr. Brown stated that he disagreed. Chairperson Roundtree stated that it was just a vote. Chairperson Roundtree stated the she didn't feel that he was going to be able to base something that happened over a year ago and assume this and that is going to happen. Mr. Brown disagreed and felt like it was going to flow into this and that the Board didn't have a choice whether they liked it or not, we have technical information and the signage met that, and the rest of it is my First Amendment right and the Supreme Court already made that decision so for you to vote against it, it tells me you have a prejudice whether it's emotional or not. Chairperson Roundtree stated that they had nothing to vote on and thanked Mr. Brown for coming and good luck with his project but that they had nothing to vote on tonight. Mr. Brown stated he was there to address this and, it's not a matter of voting on it, he wanted them to be prepared that he would be requesting that the Chair and Vice-Chair, if they are still in this position, recuse themselves so that it was on the record. Community Development Director Neiwiadomski informed Chairperson Roundtree that he would discuss the matter with the city attorney and when this comes up we will address this at that time.

ADJOURN

With no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:57 P.M.