

CITY OF SULPHUR SPRINGS
DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 17, 2009

Present: G. V. Hughes, Sara Gibson, Joy Wilson, Roy Pelton, Becky Flippin

Staff: Johnny Vance, Dir. Of Comm. Dev., Jennifer Graham, Administrative Asst.

Other: Roberta Vanderburg, Vance Vanderburg, Nelda Winkle, Susan Jones, Claude Walter, Penny Altenbaumer, Deanna Hasten, Morgan Standbridge, Billie R. Standbridge, Cedric Standbridge, Angela Standbridge, Julie Walter, Rita Edwards, Tammy Olague

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

DRB Chairman G.V. Hughes called the meeting of the Downtown Revitalization Board to order at 6:30 P.M.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2009:

A motion was made by Becky Flippin and seconded by Joy Wilson to approve the minutes of February 17, 2009. Motion carried, all voting aye.

DISCUSSION ON RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE FARMERS' MARKET:

This item was pulled from the Agenda and will be discussed at a later date. Board Members were given the rules and regulations regarding the Downtown Flea Market.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Billie R. Standbridge addressed the Board regarding grant money and its use. She feels that a business is essentially operating as a public restroom when open for business, therefore help with costs to renovate them is reasonable. Currently her building has one restroom but she was told by Travis Crump, the Building Official, that she would need to put in another restroom because of the square footage of the building space. She named two businesses in town that she said do not have two restrooms and was upset that she was having to install an additional restroom to meet the code requirements while they did not. One of those businesses does have three restrooms while the other the square footage does not require two restrooms. Mrs. Standbridge was told to talk to Travis and if she could not get clarity then she would have to go before the Construction Board of Appeals and ask for permission to not be required to install a second bathroom. Several people spoke on behalf of Mrs. Standbridge and said that other towns do not have as stringent a requirement on restrooms. Attendee, Mrs. Vanderburg, felt that when you had to remodel a building to meet the code requirements that it took away from the charm of the structure.

Mrs. Standbridge also brought up the issue of asbestos testing and removal. The State requires an asbestos survey be done on any building being renovated or demolished. A survey was done on Mrs. Standbridge's building and asbestos was found in the bathroom. Claude Walter who also owns a building Downtown, in which asbestos was found in some floor tiles, reiterated Mrs. Standbridge's position on asbestos testing and removal. Before any renovations can take place the building must be cleared of asbestos. This is costly and they would like to see grant money given to renovate bathrooms and help with asbestos removal cost.

Board Member Joy Wilson would like to see money other than Facade Grants given to help with the inside restorations required to meet the building codes. She feels like if the building cannot be opened for business then the Facade Grant is useless because you are fixing up the outside of a building that cannot open.

Becky Flippin also asked if there was something that could be done to stop owners from using their buildings as storage. Johnny let her know that it was in the Downtown Master Plan that storage in a building was not acceptable but that there was a process that must be followed in order to make an owner clean up the structure.

Johnny informed the attending group that the request for money to renovate bathrooms and to help with asbestos cost could be brought back before the Board for consideration, but the final decision would have to come from the City Council because it involves City funds.

ADJOURN:

With no other business before the Board, a motion was made by Sara Gibson and seconded by Roy Pelton to adjourn the meeting of March 17, 2009 at 7:13 P.M. Motion carried, all voting aye.