

MELROSE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Meeting and Public Hearing
Wednesday, July 25, 2018
8:00 AM
Cassidy Conference Room, City Hall, 562 Main Street

PRESENT: Michael Coleman, Charlene Marinelli, and Judith Sullivan

ABSENT: Brad Hutchinson and Justine Sterling

Denise Gaffey, Director & City Planner, and Emma Schnur, Senior Planner, were present.

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 AM by Ms. Marinelli.

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, Ms. Marinelli inquired whether anyone would be making a video or audio recording of the meeting. No one in attendance indicated that they would be making such a recording.

I. APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Application for Certificate of Appropriateness: Linda Dunlap, Teachable Moments, 561 Main Street (public hearing)

The Applicant was present to explain her application to replace the existing Chime Time sign on the First Baptist Church's property with a sign for the new daycare tenant, Teachable Moments. The proposal includes a new two-sided sign designed by Gamit Signs of the same dimensions and in the same location as the previous sign. Like the previous sign, the new sign will include two faces separated by two poles and mounted together with four carriage bolts. The Applicant intends to use the existing poles.

Mr. Coleman MADE a MOTION to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for a new sign at 561 Main Street as described in the application. Ms. Sullivan SECONDED the MOTION. All members voted in favor. None were opposed.

Application for Certificate of Appropriateness: First Baptist Church, 561 Main Street (public hearing)

Rob MacDonald, Trustee for the First Baptist Church, was present to explain the application. The proposal is for a fence enclosure abutting the Upham Street side of the church that would allow the Applicant to store trash outside the building, rather than inside where it currently is being stored. The Applicant is proposing to construct a fence nearly identical to one approved by the Historic District Commission some years ago.

Mr. MacDonald explained that the First Baptist Church needs a large enclosure to fit about six 96-gallon trash totes and four recycling totes. The Applicant has a cleaning service that will bring the totes to Upham Street on pickup days. The fence can be opened through a gate accessible from an existing walkway that approaches a side door. Two windows will be blocked by the enclosure. Mr. MacDonald explained that the fence producer, Cleveland Fence Co., provided three material options: stained natural cedar, white PVC, or colored PVC. The members felt that the stained natural cedar would be more appropriate as it will match the other fence on the property.

Mr. Coleman MADE a MOTION to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for a new fence enclosure at 561 Main Street as described in the application. Ms. Sullivan SECONDED the MOTION. All members voted in favor. None were opposed.

Other

Ms. Sullivan inquired about the recent Free Press article regarding the Public Safety Feasibility Study. Ms. Gaffey summarized the yearlong effort by the City to evaluate different options for consolidating Police and Fire or otherwise improving the facilities for these Departments. The preferred option, which was outlined in the article, is to move Police to the Central Fire Station, consolidate Fire HQ and Station 2 in a new building at the Station 2 location on Tremont Street, and make essential renovations to Station 3 located at the Commons. This option currently includes demolishing the current Police Station and striping the parcel for parking, to compensate for the parking that will be displaced behind City Hall. HDC members expressed disappointment that the Police Station building might be demolished. Ms. Gaffey stated that she agrees with this concern and she noted that this element of the project has not been fully evaluated. She also ensured the members that the project is a long way from becoming a reality. It will eventually require a debt exclusion vote and additional planning and design work along with outreach to the community.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 AM.