

MELROSE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Meeting and Public Hearing
Tuesday, September 21, 2021
7:00 PM
Remote

PRESENT: Brad Hutchinson, Michael Coleman, Justine Sterling, Richard Curl, Kevin Erb, Liz Ryan, Lindsay Toghil

ABSENT: None

Denise Gaffey, Director & City Planner, was present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Mr. Hutchinson.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Melrose Historic District Commission was conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting was found on the City of Melrose's website. No in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted, but every effort was made to ensure that the public could adequately access the proceedings in real time. An audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings was posted on the mmtv3.org website as soon as possible after the meeting. Meeting access information was found at the following link and the plans could be requested by emailing the Senior Planner: www.cityofmelrose.org/remote-meetings.

I. APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

City of Melrose OPCD, Central Terrace/497 Main Street (Public Hearing)

Denise Gaffey from OPCD appeared to discuss the proposal for the installation of a mural located in Central Terrace on the north wall of the YMCA building. This project was introduced at the previous Historic District Committee meeting on August 10th, 2021, however it was advertised as a new public hearing for tonight's meeting. Ms. Gaffey explained that the Planning Office is sponsoring this application. She noted that after hearing some of the Commissioner's concerns, she reached out to several local artists and muralists who offered helpful advice concerning materials and preservation techniques. Before introducing the artist, Sagie Vangelina, Ms. Gaffey reminded Commissioners of the grant awarded to the City to activate public spaces and OPCD's goals for Central Terrace.

Ms. Vangelina proceeded to explain the meaning and color scheme of the mural's design. She explained that after receiving input from both Turners and the YMCA, the final sketch was created. Ms. Gaffey noted that this rendition has received lots of support from both parties and all are excited. Ms. Vangelina detailed the different materials that she would be using. She explained that she will be applying a protective coating to preserve the mural that would protect the piece for a guaranteed 10 years and that the coating is suitable for brick. Ms. Vangelina also offered a year of maintenance in the event that the mural is vandalized.

Ms. Gaffey described the necessary steps that will have to be taken prior to the mural's application including power washing the brick wall and letting it dry, and then applying a clear product that will help

with the paint. For the mural at the high school, Ms. Gaffey noted that OPCD worked with DPW to prepare the wall and that they will be working closely together for this project as well. In terms of fading, Ms. Gaffey noted that due to the location, the wall where the mural will be painted is very protected from the elements and there is hardly any solar exposure.

Commissioners asked questions about the efficacy and tenure of the protective coating on the asphalt. Ms. Vangelina explained that because of the foot traffic and climate, it's possible that the paint on the pavement will have a shorter life span but that it would be easy to repave or repaint. Ms. Vangelina also spoke to her personal experience painting on the pavement and how the paint she uses is suitable for multiple surfaces.

Ms. Vangelina answered questions regarding the mural's design, specifically around its size and how she would accommodate the window in the middle of the wall. In terms of the mural's extension to the right side, she explained that having it be visible from the street would help draw people in, in alignment with OPCD's goals of activating the space, and that the plaque on the right side of the wall would be left untouched. To the left, the mural would stop where the YMCA's addition begins. Ms. Vangelina noted that the mural's size is completely flexible and adaptable. For the window, she explained that the plan would be to wrap the mural around the window meaning she would paint the windowsill and leave the window untouched, but she doesn't have to paint the windowsill if that was unfavorable.

Commissioners asked whether OPCD saw this mural as being a rotating piece or more permanent. Ms. Gaffey noted that the City would like to keep this mural for as long as it lasts. Commissioners expressed concerns over the longevity of the mural and the paint removal process, specifically around potentially having to power wash historic brick. There were also concerns around wear on the pavement and the aesthetics of the mural on the ground after some time. Additional questions were raised around the repointing process and how often that would need to be done to which Mr. Curl explained that it does not need to happen often. Commissioners brought up the possibility of putting the mural on Rising Eagle's wall instead of the YMCA's wall but Ms. Gaffey explained that while at one point the mural was on both walls, it was decided that the mural would just be placed on the YMCA's wall. Commissioners were in support of the color scheme especially when thinking about the fading process.

Ms. Gaffey answered Commissioners questions around the mural's maintenance. She explained that DPW would be responsible for the pavement and the YMCA would be responsible for the wall, although she doesn't expect there to be a lot of touching up to do.

Mr. Hutchinson MADE a MOTION to approve the Central Terrace Mural. Ms. Ryan SECONDED the MOTION. Six members voted in favor. One, Mr. Curl, was opposed.

Mr. Curl MADE a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Toghill SECONDED the MOTION. All members voted in favor. None were opposed.

The meeting adjourned.