

Design Committee
Perry Main Street Board
Minutes - March 25, 2015

Welcome : Chairman Walker called the meeting to order at 12:02pm.

Roll: Chairman Walker; Committee members Brown, Cossart, Gray, Mullins and Myers were present.

Absent: Bill Loudermilk and Ross Yasin

Staff: Catherine Edgemon – Main Street Coordinator, Robert Smith – Economic Development Director, and Christine Sewell – Recording Clerk.

Guests: Mr. Emory Wilson and Mr. Jeff Bone.

New Business

- 1). Approval of minutes from February 25, 2015

Committee member Gray motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; Committee member Cossart seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.

- 2). 1013 Jernigan Street- Davida's and 900 Commerce Street Two of a Kind – façade grant reimbursement request

Committee member Mullins motioned to approve the grant reimbursement of \$500 for Davida's; Committee member Cossart seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.

Committee member Brown motioned to approve the grant reimbursement of \$250 for Two of a Kind; Committee member Gray seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.

- 3). 624 Gen. Courtney Hodges Blvd. – Wholesale Tire – façade grant discussion

Ms. Edgemon advised she had spoken with the owner, Mr. Bone, about his desire to improve the property; however, what he is considering is not currently eligible for the façade grant, per its guidelines.

Mr. Bone addressed the board and advised he would like to improve the appeal of his business and is looking for guidance on doing. Currently there is a fence on the property, which he would like to remove. Removing the fence would create a security issue, which could be resolved with roll up doors on the bays and a security camera system; other changes would include landscaping. Committee member Mullins suggested moving the current fence back a few feet or considering a black vinyl fence. Committee member Gray suggested if shrubbery was considered do the same as the nursing home on Gen. Courtney Hodges Boulevard. The board discussed different design changes on the property with Ms. Edgemon reminding the board landscaping was not an eligible item under the current grant guidelines.

Chairman Walker thanked Mr. Bone in taking initiative to improve his property and advised a member of the committee may be interested in assisting with a design plan. A design plan is needed for the process to continue to the next step, and recommended he do so and then once completed, submit it for ~~the~~ committee to review. Ms. Edgemon will provide the information to Mr. Bone to contact the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for assistance in a design layout.

4). 813 Carroll Street – sign approval review

Ms. Edgemon presented the issue of the temporary sign per the request of the Community Development Department. Community Development provided a picture of the sign, which is a banner attached to wood and is non-permissible by the ordinance. Committee member Myers, owner of the building, said it is temporary in nature, and he could remove it in the next two months when he anticipates removing the front building façade.

Committee member Mullins motioned to allow the temporary sign to remain for (60) days; Committee member Cossart seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved with Committee member Myers abstaining from the vote.

5). Review of preliminary ordinance for murals on downtown buildings

Chairman Walker advised the draft mural ordinance was based on the California Public Arts Mural Society and what had been provided was for review and comment. In discussion, concerns were voiced with application on historic buildings, the surfaces for application, and the type of materials used. Chairman Walker noted the ordinance would stipulate requirements. When an application is made it will be reviewed for compliance, appropriateness and concerns addressed at that time. Ms. Edgemon advised comments would be forwarded to Mr. Beecham, that the Perry Arts Commission would be involved in a mural review process and the matter would be brought forth again at a later date for further review.

6). Discussion of Perry Land Development Ordinance change to allow for banners and Stick-in-the ground signs for non-profit organizations

Committee member Myers provided a recent article from the Macon Telegraph and the sign ordinance from the City of Anacortes. Mr. Myers recommended the committee consider recommending to the Planning Commission that churches and non-profits to be exempt from the current Perry ordinance in relation to banners and stick-in-the-ground signs on private property. Chairman Walker recommended the committee read the ordinance Committee Member Myers provided, along with the current Perry ordinance and the matter be brought back for further discussion at the next meeting; the committee concurred.

7). Discuss Gen. Courtney Hodges Boulevard design goals in PLDO update

The committee discussed the fact that the Community Development Department was pursuing form based codes and was currently in the initial research phase. The committee agreed to place a discussion on design goals for Gen. Courtney Hodges Boulevard on hold until further information was received.

Other:

- 1). Certificate of Appropriateness issued – Ms. Edgemon reviewed the monthly report.
- 2). Available façade grant funding report – Ms. Edgemon review the monthly report.

Chairman Items

Chairman Walker advised she had spoken with Universal Concepts in regards to downtown roof top lighting and was provided a “turn-key” cost of \$4.50 per linear foot and inquired of the committee if they would like to proceed with the company providing a site visit for further details and information; the committee concurred with proceeding with a site visit to obtain additional information.

Chairman Walker advised she had spoken with the Downtown Merchants Association in regards to property owners addressing the maintenance of the alley ways in relation to weeds, trash, etc. and was encouraged by their desire to address alley issues.

Chairman Walker, as a reminder, advised members of the committee a survey had been done on Gen. Courtney Hodges Blvd. and a list of concerns provided to the City Manager. Items that could be addressed through Public Works had been forwarded accordingly, and Community Development handled items in regards to property code violations with letters being sent. Chairman Walker thanked the departments for their work, and even though these were small steps, it was the beginning of the process.

Committee member Mullins disagreed and felt in lieu of letters the property owners should have been visited and the matter discussed with them so they would not have felt they were being targeted or picked on; Committee member Myers agreed and felt the letters were a bit impersonal. Chairman Walker reminded the board it had agreed committee members were going to try and visit businesses prior to the letters being sent.

Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the board the meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.