

Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

City of Foley Council Chambers

407 E. Laurel Ave.

Foley, Alabama

April 11, 2017

1:00 p.m.

I. Call to order

Chairman Dawson called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

II. Roll call

Members present were: Justin Shanks, Randy Arp, Jack Purser, JaNay Dawson and Kathie LeDrew. Absent members were: Perry Wilbourne and Pat Davis. Staff present were: Miriam Boutwell, City Planner; Chuck Lay, Chief Building Inspector, and Melissa Ringler, Recording Secretary.

III. Approval of Minutes

- Approve February 9, 2017 minutes as published

Commissioner LeDrew made a motion to approve the February 9, 2017 meeting minutes as published. Vice-Chairman Shanks seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.

Motion to approve the February 9, 2017 meeting minutes as published passes.

IV. Staff Approvals:

- Bryan Eslava
Gamer's Domain
108 E. Laurel Ave.
National District - Contributing
 - a. Request to install a 4' x 7' aluminum wall sign. The colors will be black and Chinese red and will read "Gamer's Domain"

Mr. Chuck Lay explained a staff approval was done for the signage which met all requirements.

V. New Business

- John Foley
7 Broad St., LLC.
218 S. McKenzie St.
Local District-Non-Contributing
 - a. Request to install drive thru lane and window
 - b. Request to install a 15' tall lollipop style pole sign. The sign will be green, black, and white with the company logo which reads "The Drowsy Poet".

Mr. Lay explained the request is for signage, a drive thru lane and window.

Commissioner Purser stated the building was originally listed as a contributing building on the old inventory survey.

Chairman Dawson stated the circa of the building is 1952. She explained in the design guidelines section D, 5 reads modernizations which reduce or enlarge windows from the original or change the original fenestration are not permitted without prior approval of the Foley Historical Commission. Large, modern “picture” windows, for example, are totally out of character for the age and style of the Districts historical structures. She explained in the future the City will be having another survey done and changes to the building could affect the building from being listed in the National District and prevent the owner from getting tax credits.

Mr. John Foley explained the window will be a standard small drive thru window on the back of the building where it will not be seen from the street.

Commissioner Purser asked if the new window will resemble the existing windows.

Mr. Foley stated the other windows on the building are mainly large store front windows.

Chairman Dawson asked if the drive thru window would be replacing an existing window.

Mr. Foley stated this window will not be replacing any existing windows.

Ms. Miriam Boutwell explained the applicant has met with the City Engineer and the location of the drive thru lane was recommended to prevent traffic stacking onto Highway 59.

Mr. Foley stated there is an irrigated planting area near the building and he is going to talk with the City about allowing him to landscaping the area.

Chairman Dawson stated she liked the addition of the sodded area.

Ms. Boutwell explained there are no landscaping requirements since there are no onsite parking requirements and any landscaping he is doing is above and beyond what is required.

Commissioner Purser stated the item could fall under design guidelines section I, 1 since the changes will not be seen from Myrtle Ave. or S. McKenzie St. He explained the window will only have minimal exposure due to the location.

Commissioner LeDrew made a motion to approve the requested Certificate of Appropriateness for the addition of a drive thru window and lane on the rear of the building. Commissioner Purser seconded the motion. Commissioner Arp abstained. All other Commissioners voted aye.

Motion to approve the requested Certificate of Appropriateness for the addition of a drive thru window and lane on the rear of the building passes.

Mr. Lay explained the requested sign violates the design guidelines section Q, 12 which reads new pole or “lollipop” signs are not permitted. He stated the signage and colors are the company’s logo which is used at multiple other locations.

Mr. Foley stated they were trying to get the look of an old gas station sign. He explained he is pretty sure there was a similar style sign at this location at some point.

Chairman Dawson stated she remembers a round Pure gas sign at this location at one time.

Ms. Boutwell explained the signage would have to go before the Board of Adjustment and Appeals for a height variance. She stated the height of the sign will be better than the allowed 5’ for visibility.

Mr. Foley explained the drawing shows two sign options of signs on the drawing. He explained it is the same signage other than one is internally lighted with a single led green border.

Mr. Arp said the signage could be justified since there was a similar sign at the location originally.

Commissioner LeDrew made a motion to approve the requested lighted double faced lollipop sign as requested. Vice-Chairman Shanks seconded the motion. Commissioner Arp abstained. All Commissioners voted aye.

Chairman Dawson stated historically there was a similar pole sign at this location and the request is historically fitting.

Motion to approve the requested lighted double faced lollipop sign as requested passes.

VI. Adjournment

Ms. Boutwell stated the design guidelines updates will be starting shortly with the project end date being June 1, 2017. She explained information has been sent to Mr. Stephen McNair so he can start reviewing and meetings will be scheduled soon. The GIS historic mapping picture project was done by an intern. The state has requested a few more items be added which is being handled by the City’s GIS department. Once completed there will be a link to the map located on the City’s web site. The city has applied for a \$5,000 grant for historical signage which would be eligible for contributing buildings located in the national district. Another grant has been done to evaluate the southeast quadrant to see what improvements need to be done to better handle the future growth. A traffic analysis is being done for the area of County Road 20 and the Foley Beach Express. A second grant will be done next year for the downtown area which will require the Commission and the local merchant’s involvement. Mayor and Council are in agreement with the creation of a bicentennial committee which the State encourages for grants and benefits. Ms. Boutwell asked the Commission to consider serving on the Committee and to email her with any recommendations they may have.

Commissioner Arp made a motion to adjourn at 1:51 p.m. Commissioner LeDrew seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.