

## ***Historical Commission Minutes***

City of Foley Council Chambers

407 E. Laurel Ave.

Foley, Alabama

**March 5, 2024**

**1:00 p.m.**

### **I. Call to order**

Chairman JaNay Dawson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

### **II. Roll call**

Members present were: Chad Watkins, Jerry Morrison, JaNay Dawson, Kathie LeDrew, Donna Turbyfill and Kim Ward. Absent member was Bill Swanson. Staff present were: Chuck Lay, Chief Building Inspector; Nathan Smith, Building Inspector; Amanda Cole, Planning and Zoning Assistant and Melissa Ringler, Recording Secretary.

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

- Approve February 6, 2024 minutes as published

Commissioner LeDrew made a motion to approve the February 6, 2024 meeting minutes. Commissioner Morrison seconded the motion. All members voted aye.

**Motion to approve the February 6, 2024 meeting minutes passes.**

### **III. Staff Approvals**

- Mark Wright  
232 W. Laurel Ave.  
National District-Contributing
  - a. Request to paint exterior of building

Mr. Chuck Lay stated the request to paint the exterior of the building was staff approved based on the color being within the historical color palette.

### **IV. New Business**

- Mark Wright  
118 W. Laurel Ave.  
National District-Contributing
  - a. Request to install awning
  - b. Request to change previously approved paint color
  - c. Discuss painting entire exterior of building

Mr. Lay explained the applicant is requesting to install metal awnings.

Chairman Dawson stated it appears the majority of the request is for the metal awnings and a change in the previously approved paint color.

Mr. Wright stated the awning change was discussed at a previous meeting and the Commission had requested the new proposed awning come before them for approval. He explained they are also requesting to change the paint color.

Commissioner Turbyfill stated she recalls at a previous meeting it was discussed the awning style was being changed to prevent covering up architectural features.

Chairman Dawson stated she would like to remind everyone that Mr. Wright has already submitted the previously approved items to the Alabama Historical Commission.

Mr. Wright explained he has abandoned the Alabama Historical Commission and tax incentive due to it being too cumbersome. He stated the awning color is not changing just the style. He explained there is evidence there was an extension on the building which indicates there was a flat awning on the building at some point in time.

Commissioner Watkins asked if the transom windows in the front of the building are being removed and replaced with bricks.

Mr. Wright explained all the front window trims and windows have been removed in order to refurbish the copper trim and replace the windows. He stated the windows will not be replaced with brick as the renderings prepared by McCollough Architect are showing. He explained there will be transom windows above the proposed awnings.

Chairman Dawson stated page 57 of the Design Guidelines regarding awnings mentions the slope and states the awning cannot be solid or closed on the underside.

Mr. Wright explained the awning top and bottom are not closed and the profile is 6 to 8 inches.

Chairman Dawson asked if the same style of awning will be used for the W. Laurel Ave. and S. Alston St. sides of the building.

Mr. Wright answered yes.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the requested awning. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye

**Motion to approve the requested awning passes.**

Mr. Wright stated he is requesting to add a painted band to break up the bottom painted brick and top unpainted brick portions of the building. He explained the building is currently 60% painted. He stated they have had the building cleaned twice in hopes of cleaning the mortar. He explained even after cleaning the building the mortar is still red.

Mr. Watkins asked if he was able to paint the entire building if he would still want to do the painted band.

Mr. Wright stated if the entire building was painted white he would look at removing the request for the painted band.

Mr. Watkins stated there are many different window sizes which are not asymmetrical on the side of the building. He explained he feels throwing another line in might be too much. He stated the windows on the side of the building give it charm and make it interesting. He asked the reasoning for wanting to paint the entire building.

Mr. Wright explained the brick looks bad. He stated the bricks are all different colors and the mortar is red.

Mr. Watkins stated he thinks the Commission needs to see a rendering with the building all painted and one with the bottom portion painted with the added band and the awnings in the correct location.

Mr. Wright stated he would get an updated drawing for the Commissioners to review.

Commissioner LeDrew stated the bricks are all different and some of the top bricks appear to have been painted at some point in time.

Commissioner LeDrew made a motion to deny the request to add the dark bronze painted band. Commissioner Turbyfill seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.

Staff explained the applicant had also requested to change the previously approved paint color.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to table the request to change the paint color in order for the applicant to provide the Commissioners revised renderings of the building showing the proposed changes. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.

**Motion to deny the request to add the dark bronze painted band passes.**

**Motion to table the request to change the paint color in order for the applicant to provide the Commissioners revised renderings of the building showing the proposed changes passes.**

- Foley CB, LLC
  - Vita Bruno
  - 200 W. Laurel Ave.
  - National District- Non Contributing
    - a. Request to install signage
    - b. Request to replace external entry door
    - c. Request to replace 4 damaged windows
    - d. Request to create a retail storefront with a walkway

A representative for Foley CB, LLC stated the Truist portion at the top of the signage is remaining the same. She explained they are requesting to add a lower face with tenant names which will not have back lighting. She explained there are currently three sections of glass on the portion of the building facing Alston St. She stated they will be removing one of the windows and replacing it with a glass door. She stated they would like to add awnings to match existing awnings downtown and will request to do so at a later date.

Commissioner Morrison asked how many tenants will be located in the portion facing Alston St.

The representative explained she is unsure of the number of tenants. She explained the area currently is only accessible through the atrium. She explained the added storefront will open options for potential prospects. She explained a window on the front of the building is missing tint which will have tinted added to match the rest of the windows. She explained they will be adding a sidewalk to the door being installed on the Alston St. side of the building.

Chairman Dawson asked about the request to replace the exterior metal door.

The representative stated the door will be replaced with a similar metal door.

Commissioner Turbyfill made a motion to approve the requested certificate of appropriateness. Commissioner LeDrew seconded the motion.

**Motion to approve the requested certificate of appropriateness passes.**

**V. Façade Grant Recommendation**

- Foley CB, LLC  
Vita Bruno  
200 W. Laurel Ave.  
National District-Non Contributing

Commissioner Turbyfill made a motion to recommend the requested façade grant to the Mayor and Council. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.

**Motion to recommend the requested façade grant to the Mayor and Council passes.**

**VII. Monthly Discussion**

There was no monthly discussion items.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to adjourn at 2:00 p.m. Commissioner Morrison seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.

**Motion to adjourn at 2:00 p.m. passes.**