

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2013
COUNCIL COMMITTEE ROOM**

Members Present: Chairman Smunt, Bobowiec, Norris (7:05 pm), Pretz, Withey

Members Absent: Weals, Prestidge

Also Present: Russell Colby, Planning Division Manager

1. Call to order:

Chairman Smunt called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Roll call:

Chairman Smunt called roll with four members present. There was a quorum. Mr. Norris joined the meeting at 7:05.

3. Approval of the agenda:

No changes or additions.

4. Presentation of minutes from August 7, 2013 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Bobowiec and seconded by Mr. Withey with a unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes as presented.

5. COA: 100 S. 1st St. (sign).

Mr. Colby stated the proposed sign is for the Hauser Group, an office tenant in the First St. building. The letters are aluminum attached to a white aluminum background panel.

The Commission asked about the other Hauser Group sign on the building. Mr. Colby passed around a photo showing the sign at the corner of Illinois and First Street, which is individual letters attached to the building with no background panel.

Mr. Bobowiec commented that the style of the sign with the background panel didn't appear to fit with the sign for the retail tenant below. Chairman Smunt said the Commission can consider the uniformity of the sign and request they match their existing sign and not use a background panel.

Kim Malay mentioned that the business may be concerned about the individual letters disappearing in the darker brick color on this façade of the building.

Mr. Colby suggested the Commission approve the sign with a condition to eliminate the background panel, and the applicant can return with a revised proposal at the next meeting, if desired.

A motion was made by Mr. Withey and seconded by Mr. Pretz with a unanimous voice vote to approve the COA with a condition that no background panel be used and that the lettering match the existing sign at the southeast corner of the building.

6. COA: 210 Cedar St. (signs)

Isacco Vitaci, applicant, was present. The proposal is to replace both wall signs to reflect a change in the name of the restaurant.

Mr. Norris asked about the material. Mr. Vitaci stated the sign panels are vinyl.

Chairman Smunt said as long as the signs are within the zoning requirements, he sees no issues with the proposal.

A motion was made by Mr. Norris and seconded by Mr. Withey with a unanimous voice vote to approve the COA.

7. COA: 108 S. 2nd St. (window)

Chairman Smunt stated this proposal was regarding a window repair at the Doc Morgan building, but the applicant was not here to present the proposal, so it would be appropriate to table the item.

A motion was made by Mr. Norris and seconded by Mr. Pretz with a unanimous voice vote to table the COA.

8. Façade Improvement Grant: 221 W. Main St. and 5 S. 2nd Ave./119 E. Main St.

Chairman Smunt noted the applicants again are not present and he stated that this project is holding up funding for other potential projects. The Commission discussed they are supportive of the project in concept but the applicant has not demonstrated they intend to move forward in a timely manner.

A motion was made by Mr. Pretz and seconded by Mr. Withey with a unanimous voice vote to recommend not funding this grant application this year and making the funds available for other projects. Mr. Colby will communicate this back to the applicant.

9. Additional Business

Chairman Smunt noted that Mr. Prestidge intends to resign from the Commission as soon as a replacement is chosen. Also, Ms. Weals has indicated she cannot attend for the foreseeable future and Chairman Smunt has requested she resign.

Chairman Smunt stated Kim Malay has expressed an interest to himself and the Mayor to join the Commission. He would like Ms. Malay to replace Ms. Weals, and then if Ms. Weals has the ability to return in the future, she could replace Mr. Prestidge.

The Commission discussed that Mr. Prestidge would like to resign from the Commission as soon as possible, so they might want to consider other options for his replacement.

Chairman Smunt stated he talked to architects Dan Marshall and Tom Mahaffey and neither felt they had the time to commit. He also suggested individuals who have presented renovation projects to the Commission, such as Steven Kolanowski and John Hunecke, although both are still working on their projects and may not be interested in serving at this time.

Other suggested potential members included Carol Scholl, Wendy Mosier and Phil Kessler. Ms. Malay suggested reaching out the landmark owners to see if any have an interest.

Chairman Smunt stated he will obtain contact information from Mr. Colby and see if there is any interest. Mr. Colby will follow up with Ms. Weals regarding her resignation.

10. Announcements: Historic Preservation Commission meeting Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 7:00pm in the Committee Room.

11. Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Steven Smunt, Chairman
St. Charles Historic Preservation Commission