

**CITY OF SAINT PETER
HERITAGE & PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, May 25, 2020
VIRTUAL MEETING UNDER M.S. 13D.021**

The regular meeting of the Heritage Preservation Commission was called to order by Community Development Director Russ Wille at 5:34 pm. Commissioner's Larry Potts, Sharon Litynski, Terry Bergemann, Emily Bruflat, and Brian Oviatt were in attendance. Absent were Commissioners Joe Metzen and Judy Douglas. Community Development Director Russ Wille and Administrative Secretary Cindy Moulton were also in attendance. Visitor Don Neiman, owner of Arrow Hardware, was also present.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Potts, seconded by Bruflat to approve the meeting agenda as presented. All voting in favor, the agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Litynski, seconded by Oviatt to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2020 with the correction of a typo. All members voting in favor, the minutes were approved as amended.

Arrow Hardware (201 South Minnesota Avenue) Awning Signage & Wall Sign Sign Repainting

Wille stated that Neiman has submitted a request to obtain HPC approval for the alteration of his awning signage as well as a small wall sign on the façade of the building. The requested alterations are due to the store ending its relationship with the Ace Hardware enterprise.

Wille explained the proposed changes, to the awning and small vinyl sign. The planned change to the awning includes the removal of "Ace" and replaced with "Paint". The existing red colored awning would remain the same and the text would remain white. The font and scale would also remain the same.

The alteration to the small vinyl sign would once again remove the word "Ace" and be replaced with "Paint". The sign would remain at the same location and of a similar scale.

A motion was made by Potts, seconded by Oviatt to approve the proposed changes as presented. All members voting aye, the motion carried.

Arrow Hardware (Painted Sign)

At the April 28, 2020 HPC meeting, the Commission considered a wall sign application submitted by Neiman. The wall sign was approved with the understanding that the five vendor logos be relocated to the bottom of the sign.

Neiman has requested that the decision made on April 28, 2020 regarding the painted sign be reconsidered and approved as it was originally submitted.

Wille informed the Commission that logos of major vendors are considered approved by default and suggested they be allowed to be displayed on the sign.

Neiman stated that the signage was created around the column on the building. He indicated that the letters would be distorted should the logos be placed at the bottom of the sign. He also added that it would be a difficult job for the painter to work around the column and make the letters legible.

Potts said that he understood the difficulty with the column and was okay with the logos stacked on the left hand of the sign.

Bruflat, Litynski, and Bergemann agreed.

Oviatt expressed his concern with the stacked logos. He didn't feel that it was keeping within the existing history and heritage of downtown.

He stated that he has compared the proposed sign with other signs in St. Peter and none have ever had all logos. He indicated that his interpretation of the City Code only allows one logo from a major manufacturer be displayed. In this case it would be Arrow Hardware. He again stated that this is not staying within the context of the downtown.

A motion was made by Potts, seconded by Bruflat to approve the wall sign as originally submitted by Neiman. Members Bergemann, Litynski, Potts and Bruflat voting aye, Member Oviatt voting nay, the motion carried.

Reports

Brandt Law Office (Roof Repair & Tuck Pointing) 219 Nassau - Wille reported that Mary Brandt, owner of 219 Nassau, is intending to repair the roof and tuck point a portion of the facade. Wille stated that as long as the existing mortar matches, he is authorized to approve the roof and tuck pointing as a repair without HPC review.

Wille also mentioned that Brandt intends to apply for HPC funds, which is a partial forgivable loan. He stated that the loans are available to the buildings in the National Historic District as well as the St. Peter Commercial District.

CBD/Accessibility Grants – Grants have been awarded to Kind Vet Clinic, Riley-Tanis Law Office and the Swedish Kontur. Each business plans to install an automatic door with a push pad. Wille stated that the HPC will not have to review the projects because they are not changing the exterior of the building.

COVID-19 – Wille stated that because of COVID-19, the City has given leeway to plastic sandwich board signs and banners. He indicated that the City is in the process of developing a policy in regards to temporary Sidewalk Use Permits during the pandemic.

Bergemann inquired if Erbert & Gerberts (224 South Minnesota) has restored the steps leading into the front of the store. Wille said that the steps have been repaired.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Bruflat, seconded by Bergemann to adjourn. All members voting aye, the meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.