

## **DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE**

### **Astoria City Hall**

December 5, 2013

#### CALL TO ORDER:

President Rickenbach called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL – ITEM 2:

Commissioners Present: Jared Rickenbach, LJ Gunderson, Bill Jablonski (via telephone), and Paul Tuter. One Vacancy

Staff Present: Community Development Director Brett Estes and Planner Rosemary Johnson.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES – ITEM 3:

President Rickenbach called for any changes to the minutes of the August 1, 2013 meeting. There were none. Vice-President Gunderson moved to approve the August 1, 2012 minutes as noted; seconded by Commissioner Tuter. Motion passed unanimously.

#### PUBLIC HEARINGS:

President Rickenbach explained the procedures governing the conduct of public hearings to the audience and advised that the substantive review criteria were available from Staff.

#### ITEM 4(a):

DR13-03      Design Review DR13-03 by Double R Products to install signs on the gas canopy and to install illuminated gas pricing and non-illuminated signs on an existing free-standing sign structure for an existing commercial building at 2264 Marine Drive within the Gateway Area in the LS – Local Service zone.

President Rickenbach asked if anyone objected to the jurisdiction of the Design Review Committee to hear this matter at this time. There were no objections. President Rickenbach asked if any member of the Design Review Committee had any conflicts of interest or ex parte contacts to declare.

President Rickenbach declared that he is working with the owner on this project and stepped down from the dais.

Commissioner Jablonski declared that he had a potential ex parte contact as he is an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) employee who may be asked to review the compliance or the approval of the City's recommendations. He assured he could make an unbiased decision on this matter and stated he would not realize any financial gain.

Planner Johnson noted the City Attorney was not present to confirm that this was appropriate. The Applicant confirmed that he did not have any objections to allowing Commissioner Jablonski to vote on this matter.

Planner Johnson reviewed the Findings and Conditions contained in the Staff report, noting she has been working with the Applicant and sign company to bring the existing freestanding signs closer into compliance with the new Gateway Plan which discourages such signs. She reviewed the changes that were made. The Staff report includes a letter emailed from ODOT regarding ODOT's regulations and it appears that the Applicant met ODOT code. ODOT has advised the sign company that no permit is required. The Applicant received a sign variance from the Planning Commission on December 3, 2013 for exceeding the allowed square footage. Staff recommends approval with conditions.

Vice-President Gunderson called for questions of Staff. Hearing none, she opened the public hearing and called for testimony from the Applicant.

Don Patterson, 1635 SW 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Warrenton, stated he did not have a presentation and would answer any questions. He added that Planner Johnson has been fantastic and he appreciated her help. He did not know what the City would do without her. He had to remove all the signs for the Mini Mart in an effort to be more in compliance with the Gateway area and he believed the proposed signs would work. The building looks a lot better now than it used to and people have thanked him for taking on this project.

Vice-President Gunderson said it was great to see some activity at the building and the colors are beautiful. She could see no alternatives for the sign because she expects to drive down the road and see the prices displayed.

Commissioner Tuter agreed, saying that this project was needed. He was glad that the Applicant was doing something with the business.

Vice-President Gunderson noted that no audience members were present and called for closing remarks from Staff.

Planner Johnson noted the graphic in the Staff report is an earlier version. After the Staff report was sent out, Staff received an updated version from the sign company, which reflects the description of the sign that she discussed during presentation of the Staff report.

Vice-President Gunderson closed the public hearing and called for Commission discussion and deliberation.

Commissioner Jablonski asked for clarification on Section 4(b) of the Staff report, where it stated that the sign would have 6½ feet of clearance. However, the graphic at the back of the Staff report shows the sign with 7½ feet clearance. Planner Johnson reiterated that the graphics in the Staff report were older versions. The current sign has a 5½ foot clearance and the Applicant will raise the sign to have a clearance of 6½ feet. The sign with a 7½-foot clearance was a different type of sign that included the laundry mat. The proposed sign will reduce the sign's height and provide a 6½-foot clearance.

Vice-President Gunderson confirmed the height of the sign would be 19.7 feet, based upon the revised drawings, although the Staff report states 16.6 feet.

Commissioner Tuter moved that the Astoria Design Review Committee adopt the Findings and Conclusions stated in the Staff report and approve Design Review DR13-03 by Double R Products with conditions; seconded by Commissioner Jablonski. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice-President Gunderson read the rules of appeal into the record.

President Rickenbach returned to the dais.

#### REPORTS OF OFFICERS/COMMISSIONERS – ITEM 5:

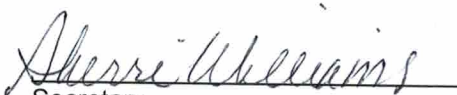
Director Estes stated that this is Commissioner Jablonski's last meeting as his term has ended. He thanked Commissioner Jablonski for his service on the Design Review Committee.

Commissioner Jablonski thanked Director Estes and the Commissioners, noting that the experience has been fun. He looks forward to other volunteer opportunities with the City.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

#### **ATTEST:**

  
Secretary

#### **APPROVED:**

  
Community Development Director /  
Assistant City Manager