

VILLAGE OF FRANKFORT 1890s THEME COMMITTEE
December 10, 2009

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Holland called the Village of Frankfort 1890s Theme Committee to order on December 10, 2009 at 5:12 p.m., at the Village Administration Building, 432 W. Nebraska Street.

Members in attendance were Mayor Holland, Judy Herder and Chris Rosolowski. Others in attendance included Community Development Director Jeff Cook, Building & Zoning Director Craig Eyer and Manager of Community Relations Mary Canino.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (August 24, 2009)

Member Rosolowski made a motion (#1), seconded by Member Herder, to approve the minutes of August 24, 2009 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

15 S. ASH STREET 6 AWNING AND SIGN APPROVAL

Jeff Cook presented the staff report.

Members discussed the existing uncovered outdoor stairway, limiting the use of the side-curtains, the color of nearby awnings in relation to the proposed awning and signage, and limitations on the number of wall signs permitted in the H-1 District. Members thought specific dates should be identified to limit the use of side curtains, noting that the Village should use common sense if winter weather conditions exist outside of these specific dates.

Members expressed the awning would be an improvement but raised concerns for maintenance and drainage, particularly in the winter months. Members thought the slope of the awning could encourage the build-up of snow and ice near the base of the stairs and public walk. It was noted Village ordinance requires the property owner to properly maintain these areas. Members recommended informing the property owner and the bowling alley operator of the issue of snow and ice removal. If the owner permits the accumulation of snow and ice, members thought the awning would not be appropriate and must be taken down and the stairway restored to its original condition. Members noted the installation of the awning is expected to improve safety conditions over the entire existing stairway, but stressed the need for maintenance to avoid relocating the problem. Director Eyer discussed snow and wind loads with the committee, noting the awning must meet code requirements. Lighting will be provided to illuminate the stairs.

Member Herder made a motion (#2), seconded by Member Rosolowski, to approve the proposed awning, seasonal side curtains and signage, in accordance with the reviewed plans and conditioned upon limiting the use of side curtains from December 1 through March 31, removal of the existing wall sign facing Kansas Street, provision of adequate stairway lighting for safety, proper engineering of the awning to address snow-loads and avoid snow sliding, proper drainage of the awning, routine property maintenance is required to prevent hazards, and the awning must be removed if it creates a hazard or contributes to the creation of a hazard. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

14 S. HICKORY STREET 6 SIGN APPROVAL

Jeff Cook presented the staff report, noting the applicant confirmed their decision to use a sandblasted wood sign rather than the alternative metal sign. The applicant cited the desire to be consistent with the existing hanging signs downtown. Mr. Cook passed around a cut-sheet from Ciccotelli Signs, Inc. showing the decorative scroll bracket that will be installed for the proposed sign.

Members questioned the location of the sign and recommended it not block views of the easterly-facing museum wall sign.

Member Rosolowski made a motion (#3), seconded by Member Herder, to approve the proposed sandblasted cedar projecting sign in accordance with the reviewed plans. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee discussed signs in the downtown and said projecting signs at the Dog Barkery and Jenny's Hoffbrau were mounted too high. Mr. Cook noted Village ordinance does not prevent the signs from being lower and more visible.

Mayor Holland asked members to consider signs in the downtown and how they might be improved. He stated the Downtown Frankfort Partnership plans to propose new directional signs and other modifications to enhance the appearance and functionality of signage in the downtown area. Members discussed the issue of visitors that might not be aware of where to go once they arrive downtown. Members also desired to see a coordinated signage and façade improvement plan implemented on the south side of the Grainery shops, facing the OPRT and Breidert's Green. They felt trail-users were an important, but sometimes overlooked, segment of downtown's visitors. Mayor Holland agreed and noted the challenge was that the property owner has not been willing to make such an improvement. Mr. Cook stated that staff received direction to look at the issue of signage in the downtown at the previous evening's Land Use and Policy meeting. Mr. Cook asked members to forward comments or concerns for consideration in the process.

ADJOURNMENTS

Member Herder made a motion (#4), seconded by Member Rosolowski, to adjourn the 1890's Theme Committee meeting of December 10, 2009 at 5:46 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Cook, Director of Community Development.