

**North Park Main Street
Design Committee Minutes
Tuesday, October 2, 2007, 5:30 p.m.
Location: 3076 University Ave.**

Called to order: 5:30 p.m.

Attendance

Sacha Hopstock & John Stewart McGaughy (co-chairs); George Franck (acting secretary), Kevin Farron, Christopher Dye, Roger Lewis, & Lynn Susholtz (members); Mike Shannon, Jim Bowser, Barbara Bowser, John Anderson, & Christine Lee (visitors); Elizabeth Studebaker (Executive Director)

1. Introductions

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2007 MEETING OF THE DESIGN COMMITTEE.

(McGaughy/Dye) Motion Passed Unanimously 7-0-0

3. Announcements and Public Comment

- Lynn Susholtz introduced artist Christine Lee who will be opening a show at Stone, Paper, Scissors gallery in November. The show will feature wood shims supporting North Park items. Christine asked for the loan of appropriate items. Main Street will e-mail this request to its merchant members.
- The Airport District has released a Request for Proposals for artists, with responses due in late October.

4. KFC Remodel

Main Street Board and staff members initiated a meeting with the KFC project developer and City staff, including representatives from the Mayor's office, the Development Services Department and City Attorney. Initial indications are that the project qualifies as a remodel, although a demolition permit was issued. Therefore, the developer and City have probably followed an appropriate legal process. The City Attorney will issue a formal opinion.

Legal action challenging the City process would cost an estimated \$50,000. A local attorney has volunteered to provide legal services, but legal costs of about \$10,000 would need to be covered. Several guests spoke against the process and the scope of the project.

Liz Studebaker is working with the developer to improve project landscaping and its integration into the City-financed sidewalk improvements programmed for the block. City improvements should be built after Christmas.

MOTION: THE DESIGN COMMITTEE REITERATES ITS PREVIOUS REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF THE PERMITTING OF THE KFC PROJECT, TO INSURE THE PROPER INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE. THE COMMITTEE FURTHER REQUESTS A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THIS ISSUE FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY

(Lewis/Dye), Motion Passed Unanimously 7-0-0

5. City Development Services Department (DSD) Demolition Permits

In response to the KFC project, the BID Council supported the Main Street questioning of the permit process. It is also seeking a clear definition of the City's interpretation of an "altercation."

6. Dixie Lumber Building

Marc Shannon requested the Committee's support of his arts-&-culture performance space concept for the Avalon project in the Dixie Building. Sasha Hopstock said that the Committee generally supports Arts and Culture uses, and referred the project to the Economic Restructuring Committee. John McGaughy noted that the Design Committee recommended colors for the storefront improvement last month. A more detailed discussion of the building remodel will be placed on the November agenda.

University Avenue Benches

Panhandling and vagrancy at has reemerged as a problem at the benches on the north side of University, east of 30th Street. Sasha noted that the committee had supported the Police recommendation to remove the benches, relieving the transient problem at that corner. Roger Lewis said that the Committee should be careful in any opposition to street furniture. Benches are a pedestrian amenity, and the location and design of benches in City right-of-way and parks is critical.

7. Historic Walking Tour

Committee members are invited to a preview of the Commercial Area walking tour on Tuesday, October 23rd at 5:30, starting at the Main Street office.

8. Maintenance Assessment District (MAD) Update

No report

9. Conferences

The Interrobang lecture series continues on the second Tuesday of October and November at the downtown Museum of Contemporary Arts.

10. Ray at Night

The next Ray at Night is scheduled for October 12, 2007. Gallery owners continue to look for changes to attract more art buyers.

11. Work Plan – Update as needed

Historic Building Inventory

University Avenue Mobility Plan

Art in Public Places

Pilot Village Implementation

Storefront Improvement Program

Liz announced that the Evoke Dance Studio is working on a storefront improvement; three additional projects are being discussed.

12. Selection of Committee Secretary

Christopher Dye will be asked to act as Secretary in November.

13. Other Issues

- George presented a draft letter to the Metropolitan Transit Service (MTS), asking for an evaluation of consolidating the southbound bus stops on 30th Street on both corners to of University to the far-side (southern) corner. Review of other stops on 30th Street should be considered at the same time. Because this item was not on the agenda, the staff will place the draft on the Main Street Board of Directors October Agenda for possible action. The Design Committee has supported this consolidation at previous meetings.
- John Anderson, representing a partnership that intends to rename and remodel Shooters on 30th Street, asked for Committee assistance in the remodel. George said that the building has been identified as having potential historic and architectural interest.
- In response to a question, Liz said that the SDG&E storage use of the paved lots on the southeast corner of University & 32nd Street should last several more months. Litter on the fenced lot is becoming a problem.
- Kevin said that he is moving to the East Bay area and will miss attending the Design Committee meetings. Committee members thanked him for his participation.

14. Adjourn: 7:20 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 6, 2007