



Design Review Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 20, 2024
7:30 p.m.

Board Members:

Mark Gluesing, Board Chair (P)
Susan Opton, Board Member (P)
Felix Zemel, Board Member (P)
Steve Dornbusch, Board Member (P)
Elisa Litchman, Administrative Specialist, Planning & Community Development (P)

Mark Gluesing, Chair, called the meeting to order on May 20, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. He reviewed the remote meeting procedures.

Applicants & Attendees:

1. Charly Nanda, Needham Council for Arts & Culture
2. Joe Foley, Dorchester Awnings representing Learning Express
3. Steve Schwede, FastSigns representing WAVE Medical Aesthetics

Agenda Item 1:

Charly Nanda, Needham Council for Arts & Culture applying for Mosaic Public Art Project to be located at Haddock & McCloud Plaza, 20 & 30 Chestnut Street.

Charly Nanda, representing the Needham Community Action Network, explained that the proposal is for mosaics on eight panels, 2'x3' each. These will be installed on existing planters in an alleyway known as the Haddock & McCloud Plaza. The public design workshop was led by mosaic artists for local high school students. Planters will be painted, and the panels will be installed. The artwork transitions around the side and deals with mental health work. Two professional mosaic artists are involved with the project and have stated that the mosaics should last indefinitely.

Mr. Zemel noted that mosaics, if maintained, do last forever. He asked about the maintenance and upkeep of the panels. Ms. Nanda stated that maintenance would be on an as-needed basis and will require the artist to take care of the work. The appropriate materials have been selected for the outdoor panels. There is not a scheduled maintenance plan, per say. There is not currently a public art plan for Needham, but the Economic Development Director for the Town is currently trying to write one. There are 184 cultural assets in Needham and approximately 15 public art pieces.

Chair Gluesing stated that he believes that the Arts Council and Town will be able to do any maintenance needed on these items. He asked about a plaque or dedication for this artwork. Ms. Nanda stated that nothing is planned at this time, but this could be considered.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Dornbusch and seconded by Ms. Zemel, it was voted to approve the application as submitted. Steve Dornbusch – aye; Felix Zemel – aye; Susan Opton – aye; Mark Gluesing – aye. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Agenda Item 2:

Joe Foley, Dorchester Awnings representing Learning Express located at 1029 Great Plain Avenue and applying for awnings with signage.

It was noted that the applicant was not available at this time, and the hearing would be moved to the next meeting.

Agenda Item 3:

Steve Schwede, FastSigns representing WAVE Medical Aesthetics located at 941 Great Plain Avenue and applying for signage.

Steve Schwede, FastSigns, explained that the proposal is for a ½” thick solid aluminum sign, painted white, and attached flush to the wall. WAVE Medical Aesthetics has a nice logo that will be included. Two existing gooseneck lights above the sign are planned to be utilized. The WAVE letters on the sign are proposed to be 13 ¼” tall. A separate blade sign currently hangs from the façade over the sidewalk and between this storefront and 2nd Hand Rose storefront, and the proposal is to place the businesses’ logo on both sides of this as well.

Mr. Zemel noted that there was previous concern regarding the bracket of a sign in this location during storm events. Mr. Schwede stated that there is a chain proposed on the bottom corner near the wall, and it is believed that securing the sign at three corners should be sufficient.

Mr. Dornbusch noted that the proposed sign should be in line with the baseline or the sign next to it. Mr. Schwede stated that the top of the “Wave” letters on the sign are lined up with the top of the sign next door. Mr. Dornbusch asked about the height of the sign hanging over the sidewalk. Mr. Schwede stated that this will be at least 8’ off the ground. Chair Gluesing stated that he believes it will be high enough in this location.

Ms. Opton asked if the lettering will be easily readable. Mr. Schwede stated that the bottom letters of the sign are approximately 2 ¾” tall. Chair Gluesing stated that these will likely not be noticed from far away but will still be readable.

Chair Gluesing stated that the round logo element will be located higher than the sign next to it in this proposal. He suggested that the sign center be aligned with the 2nd Hand Rose sign next to it, in order to keep all of the signs on these buildings aligned.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Dornbusch and seconded by Ms. Zemel, it was voted to approve the application, with the condition that the center line of the wall sign align with the center line of the 2nd Hand Rose sign adjacent. Steve Dornbusch – aye; Felix Zemel – aye; Susan Opton – aye; Mark Gluesing – aye. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Minutes:

Minutes from the 04/08/2024 meeting

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Zemel and seconded by Mr. Dornbusch, it was voted to approve the meeting minutes of April 08, 2024, as presented. Felix Zemel – aye; Steve Dornbusch - aye; Susan Opton – aye; Mark Gluesing – aye. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Dornbusch and seconded by Ms. Opton, it was voted to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Felix Zemel – aye; Steve Dornbusch - aye; Susan Opton – aye; Mark Gluesing – aye. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Next Public Meeting – June 10, 2024 at 7:30pm via Zoom Webinar