

VILLAGE OF BALDWINSVILLE
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 7, 2007, 7:00 P.M.
Approved June 4, 2007

PRESENT: David Mott, Chairman
Dean Johnson
Toni Kleist
Don Cronk

NOT PRESENT: Connie Taft, Board Member

ALSO PRESENT: Susan LaQuay, Board Secretary

GUESTS: Jean and Emmet Simpson, regarding Shamballa Café
Dan Schmidt, regarding Jama Realty (18 Oswego Street)

The meeting was opened by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Corrections were noted and upon motion by Chairman Mott and second by T. Kleist that the minutes of the April 2, 2007 meeting of the Architectural Review Board be approved as corrected. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

34 Oswego Street – Shamballa Café – signs (Emmet Simpson)

Mr. and Mrs. Jean and Emmet Simpson are present to address the Board.

Chairman Mott noted the request is for a new sign to be added to the existing metal bracket. He asked the Applicants what size the new sign will be. Mr. Simpson stated it will be the same dimensions as the previous sign, but he is not certain what the actual measurements are. Chairman Mott noted that it will certainly be within the size limitations of the code, but he should submit this to the CEO for the record. He noted that the Board can approve this application based upon this being provided to the CEO. He stated he likes the logo for the café. T. Kleist asked what “Shamballa” means. Mrs. Simpson stated it means a feeling of peace, tranquility and happiness.

Mr. Simpson stated the main part of the sign will be made of wood ¾” in thickness. There will be 3-dimensional moons made of ¾” thick aluminum. Stars will be routed out of the main part of the sign and they will also use a router on the edge.

D. Cronk stated he looked at the wrought iron hardware (bracket) that the sign will be affixed to and it is in great shape.

Mr. Simpson stated that the sign in the back of the café will be same shape, profile, and design except it will be single-sided. Chairman Mott stated that the maximum dimension for that sign is 6’ square. He noted they can deviate from this if they wish to seek a variance. Mr. Simpson stated he does not think this will be necessary and believes the sign will be well within the 6’ square limit.

Mr. Simpson stated he believes this sign will really add to the business and it will stand out and look more professional. The Board agreed and liked the submitted design. Chairman Mott noted it is a perfect

example of the type of design the Board likes to see. Mr. Simpson stated they are pleased to be in Baldwinsville and have felt very welcome here.

Upon motion by Chairman Mott and second by D. Johnson to approve the signs (front and back) for 34 Oswego Street (Shamballa Café) as submitted. Motion passed.

18 Oswego Street – Jama Realty Association – front/rear façade and signage (Dan Schmidt)

Mr. Dan Schmidt is present to address the Board. He stated he owns 16 Oswego Street as well and would like to match the look of 18 Oswego Street to 16 Oswego Street. He stated 16 Oswego Street has stone on the back of the building and he would like to carry that across the back of 18 Oswego Street. He also noted that 16 Oswego Street has bigger, newer windows in the front and he would like to replace the windows on 18 Oswego Street to match them.

T. Kleist asked Mr. Schmidt if he has submitted an application to Community Development as she has not seen one yet. Mr. Schmidt stated he gave it to the Village Clerk 3 weeks ago. T. Kleist stated she will call to check on it.

Mr. Schmidt stated he is here tonight looking for guidance in this process. T. Kleist noted she will get involved in the design for this property through Community Development. Mr. Schmidt stated he would like to make it a uniform building. He would want to get rid of a few entrances so the two buildings (16 and 18 Oswego Street) will appear to be one. He noted there are 2 windows on 16 Oswego that are inset and he would want them to be straight across. The main entrance on at 18 Oswego Street would be widened and the rest of the windows would be made to match those on 16 Oswego Street.

Chairman Mott stated this project sounds like an ideal candidate for Community Development and should be followed up there first. T. Kleist stated they should meet at the building and have Community Development take it from there. She stated she can take the lead with Community Development and keep Chairman Mott informed as to when they are ready to come back to ARB. D. Johnson stated the scope of the storefront renovations is substantial and the Board will need to see drawings. The CEO and Community Development will need these as well.

D. Johnson stated he understand the idea of making the buildings uniform in appearance. However, he would prefer to see the use of different color schemes and thinks it would be a better idea if they did not match. Mr. Schmidt noted that the 2 buildings will be 1 business on the first floor and 2 businesses upstairs. He feels it is important for at least the one business to be uniform; however he agreed it does not have to be. D. Johnson stated he feels this would be an opportunity to get away from a homogenous look and give it some character to add interest to the streetscape. Chairman Mott agreed and felt it would be a good opportunity to bring somewhat of a historical look back to the buildings.

T. Kleist stated she will follow up with the Applicant and will keep Chairman Mott informed. Chairman Mott asked what kind of a timeline Mr. Schmidt is working with. Mr. Schmidt stated he is just looking to get things moving in the right direction and feels these buildings really need to be updated. He feels this is a great opportunity to work with Community Development and they have done some wonderful work in the area.

Mr. Schmidt noted that the span of the 2 buildings in back is quite large. He will have 3 tenants in back and all will have different signs. He stated it would be nice if they all had similar signs, like Keely's and Shamrock Jewelers. T. Kleist noted that once the signs are removed for construction they can deal with this as well. Chairman Mott stated he would like to look at "sign package" for the building as a whole rather than each tenant coming to ARB for their own signs.

Chairman Mott suggested that Mr. Schmidt take a look at the plans for 12 Oswego Street as they are working with Community Development as well and try to coordinate with that. Mr. Schmidt agreed this would be beneficial and feels the changes made to 12 Oswego Street thus far have made a substantial improvement.

Chairman Mott stated the Board will defer this application until Community Development has had the opportunity to address the property. He stated the Board will need more detailed plans in the future. Mr. Schmidt stated he understands this and is excited about this project. Chairman Mott stated the Board is excited about this as well and is pleased he is taking this opportunity.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion/Recommendation to DPW regarding Bridge Lighting

Chairman Mott stated he has been asked by several people (including 2 different mayors) to keep an eye on safety with the bridge lighting, not just the lighting on the girders, but also the lighting going up river. He noted that he and former Trustee Howard Tupper had taken the opportunity to address the up-river lighting previously. This year, he would like to address the girder lighting, specifically the frequency (modulation) and colors of the lights. He asked the Board for opinions regarding this matter.

T. Kleist stated she has heard many times that the red and green colors confuse people as they are too similar to traffic lights.

D. Cronk stated he spoke with Mace in the DPW and was told how the lighting system works. He stated there is a control box on Paper Mill Island with 4 settings, 4 patterns and different colors. However, the vendor that the Village purchased the system from has a software package that has an infinite number of patterns and colors and it can be reprogrammed, so the opportunity to change the lighting exists. T. Kleist asked what the cost of this would be. D. Cronk stated it is free; however, he did not get the impression it is viewed as a priority. Chairman Mott stated he can bring it to the attention of the Village Board and make it a priority.

Chairman Mott stated the lights are LED beam lights with full spectrum range. They are light emitting, not light resonating. D. Cronk stated he is under the impression that the Village is utilizing very little of the capacity of the light system.

Chairman Mott asked what changes the Board would like to see to the bridge lighting. D. Johnson stated he does not think that rapidly flashing should be utilized. He stated he does not like the use of colors and feels it should be natural-colored light, especially on the waterfall. He noted that when the bridge lighting was first discussed, he had envisioned it as outlining the bridge, not a light effects type of situation. He stated he likes the use of the flood lights on the falls, but feels the lights on the bridge itself should emphasize the structure of the bridge. He thinks the lights should be constant and just white light, which he admitted may be a waste of the program that was purchased. He feels the lighting should be subtle and constant and not flash.

Chairman Mott noted that the code book specifically states that the bridge lights are against code. However, he noted that the Village is exempt from the code. D. Johnson noted that the lighting project is also not consistent with the image the ARB is trying to implement. An outline of white lights would be consistent with this vision.

D. Cronk stated he had been to Niagara Falls and they use colored lights on the falls. He thinks the colored lighting looks beautiful and they could take the opportunity to coordinate this with holidays. For example, use red and pink lights on Valentines Day, red, white and blue lights on Memorial Day and the 4th of July, green lights for St. Patrick's Day, etc. They could utilize the software that the vendor can supply to set up a schedule for the lights.

Chairman Mott stated the first step is to make it known that this needs to be done. He does not feel that Mace should have the burden of having to decide on the colors. This Board can address the situation and come up with recommendations for the DPW and have the supervisor task someone with coming up with a program. Chairman Mott noted that safety is a priority. Even since the lighting system was installed, the upriver lights have blinded boat traffic. This is one of the busiest places on the canal. He noted the bridge lighting modulation changes daily and they need to get control of it as it sometimes looks like a carnival. He suggested having the modulation not to exceed 2 full minutes and letting it take that long to change color. He noted that the best intentions went into the lighting system, but it needs to be executed properly.

Mr. Schmidt of Jama Realty noted that he represents the Village from an insurance-standpoint and, if the Village is in violation of code, he envisions a situation where someone may get in an accident due to the lights and now that it has been determined to be in violation of the code, this could create liability for the Village. He stated he too has heard that the red and green lights are too similar to traffic lights and create confusion. He also stated that when the business owners made donations, he thought it would be similar to a Brooklyn Bridge-type of project. He stated he was shocked when he saw the carnival effect of the lighting system.

Chairman Mott stated that the ARB needs to formulate a starting point for a plan and the technical aspect will be handled by the DPW.

After extensive discussion, the ARB recommends that the bridge lighting modulation be changed to a phased color change (rather than a sudden change) from all one color to another over a two-minute minimum time span.

Chairman Mott stated that colors for holidays will be addressed at some point. D. Cronk suggested that charity events be considered as well as holidays. For example, during the Relay for Life, they can utilize purple and white.

Chairman Mott stated he will not be present at the June meeting. D. Johnson will be Acting Chair for this meeting.

D. Cronk stated he spoke with Mayor Saracini, who would like the ARB to address signage for public/municipal parking. Chairman Mott stated he is aware of this. He noted that Mayor Saracini would also like the Board to address the color choices for the southeast trail and work with the DPW on the River Street project regarding the materials for sidewalks. He stated there are plenty of parking areas in Village; however, not everyone knows where they are. Mayor Saracini wants the ARB to help come up with a sign for this, as well as signs for historic value points and trails.

Upon motion by Chairman Mott and second by T. Kleist, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next Architectural Review Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 4, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan A. LaQuay
Architectural Review Board Secretary