

Beautification Meeting

April 11, 2022

Present: Bill Swalwell, Michelle Bunkowske, Christina Tuminero, Jeanie Mayer

Remote Attendance: Lynn O'Shea

Call to Order at 7:06pm.

Review of Minutes from July 12, 2021.

Motion to accept: Jeanie, Seconded by Lynn, Motion carried

Façade application from Brandon Roberts and Chris Jones for 124 S State Street, AKA Hampshire Social

Please see submitted app for complete reference. Bill met with applicants 4 times to talk about scope. The morning coffee shop/afternoon & evening wine and beer establishment proposes to sell locally sourced craft beers and wines, and coffee.

Improvements include an outdoor seating area, brick recoloring to complement existing buildings nearby, Chimney removal in back, reconfigured west elevation, new double glass doors on front, collapsible side windows, new transom, 450 sqft patio with stamped concrete, privacy fencing with gate, among other improvements.

The work can be seen from the right of way both in front and in back making the proposal eligible for the grant.

Color treatment necessary to match brick on rear elevation due to repairs to existing masonry and the new door and window.

The committee discussed the awning that is proposed. Beneficial to block the sun for outdoor diners, but concern was raised about the high winds and how it will hold up in the long run.

Bill noted there was a change in flatwork from \$7360 to \$9817.50, bringing the total cost to \$76,541.50.

Josh Wray shared that the board approved \$100,000 for 2122-23 FY for the façade program.

Bill mentioned two additional grant applicants he spoke with who may also have requests coming in this year: Rose Garden and Blocks Fresh Market.

The Rose Garden project is awaiting quotes for masonry work to replace the lower third along the length of the restaurant on Jefferson Ave. with limestone-type product and also repair/replace broken parapet wall along the top of the building.

Block's may be proposing replacement of their awnings with ne metal ones along two sides of their building at Maple and Jefferson to help cover sidewalks along the building.

The beautification committee discussed the importance of the current proposal and Lynn noted that funding it at the maximum of 75% would still allow over \$40,000 for other projects should they come in.

Michelle made a motion to recommend to the BDC approval for the grant and proposed funding the project at 75% due to the scope of the improvements, and the impact they will have for the downtown.

Motion seconded by Christina.

Roll call vote: 5 ayes, no nays. Motion carried.

The Committee discussed the wayfinding sign project. Bill recalled the guideline offered by Dave Pizzolatto that the signs needed to be much bigger than the current ones with less writing on them – a minimum of 6" capital letters and 4" lower case lettering needed in order to be read by people in cars traveling at 25mph or less.

Bill appointed Michelle and Christina to resume discussions with Mike Armato from Signarama, who made our sample signs, and see about new quotes.

No additional business or discussion.

Motion to adjourn at 8:05pm made by Michelle, Seconded by Christina, Approved by all.

Submitted by Jeanie Mayer