

City of South Portland
Arts and Historic Preservation Committee
Meeting
November 10, 2015, 8:00-9:15am
Planning Department, Sawyer & Ocean Sts.
MINUTES

Present: Jane Batzell, Kathy DiPhilippo, Adrian Dowling, Tex Hauser, Amanda Larson, Jessica Routhier, Rob Schreiber, Aimée Turner. Josh Reny (Assistant City Manager), David Latulippe (representing Priority Real Estate Group)

Absent: Scott Whitaker.

Jessica Routhier called the meeting to order at 8:05am.

Minutes of October meeting accepted.

Armory Project

David: The design has been modified to allow the front doors (doors facing Broadway) to be operable, better facilitating pedestrian traffic. Ornamental medallions from the Drill Hall will be preserved and re-used as much as possible. Signage will be attached to the building but not an Irving sign.

Kathy asks if the windows & doors would have the same look as the old windows & doors.

The major concern of the group is the pylon sign to be installed in front of the building.

Scott sent remarks to be shared with group: the signage needs to pick up elements from the building (cast stone).

Amanda: I understand that they need a sign and are permitted a sign, but can't the design be better? Cites North Conway Irving signage. Irving could be a leader in paving the way of the new Millcreek Plan.

Aimée: What about a period-appropriate sign, a design in keeping with the era of the building?

Rob: what about a historic font on the sign?

Adrian: the rendering doesn't have the cast concrete elements on the building, but the intent is to have that.

Tex: Keep it simple.

Kathy: Perhaps the sign should be wrapped in brick to match the building.

Jessica: revisit the siting of the sign so it's not an impediment to the appearance of the building

Kathy: the sign should not be too far in front of the building

David clarifies that the architectural renderings do not accurately portray how the sign is sited and scaled in comparison to the building.

Rob: we're asking Irving to take a leadership position on choosing a new & better appearance.

Note: Scott's company is bidding on a portion of the work to be done on this property, in which case he will abstain from conversation and votes pertaining to that aspect of the project.

Planning Board Meeting Preparation

1. Design of the sign should harmonize with the building's period & materials.
2. Eliminate some of the advertising, us that space for community announcements or company mission, etc
3. Re-evaluate the distance of the sign from the building
4. Historic brick and concrete restoration on the building
5. Proposed signage is not changing the building itself.

Jessica will appear at the Planning Board Meeting on behalf of the AHPC.

Public Outreach strategy will move to December meeting.

Meeting adjourned 9:15am. Next meeting: December 9, 2015, 8:00am.