

RIVER DISTRICT DESIGN COMMISSION

MEETING OF

JUNE 10, 2021

Members Present

Courtney Nicholas
Andrew Hessler
R.J. Lackey
John Ranson
George Davis

Members Absent

Peyton Keesee
Adam Jones

Staff

Lisa Jones
Doug Plachcinski
Ryan Dodson

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ITEMS FOR PUBLIC HEARING

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. *Certificate of Appropriateness Request PLRDD2021-202 by Truly Blessed Outreach Center at 528 Loyal Street to install a 5' by 2.3' window sign.*

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing.

Ms. Nicholas made a motion that a Certificate of Appropriateness to be granted to PLRDD 2021-202 at 528 Loyal Street not to exceed the maximum size allowed under RDDC guidelines. Mr. Ranson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

2. *Certificate of Appropriateness Request PLRDD2021-203 by Temptations Gourmet at 208 N Union Street to install a window sign.*

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Plachcinski stated the signage needs to be about 20 inches wide and 10 inches tall.

Ms. Nicholas stated that is well within the guidelines.

Mr. Plachcinski stated I may suggest that she make it a little bigger and wider.

Mr. Ranson stated it is a cool sign. She should make it as big as she can.

Ms. Nicholas stated it is a window sign, so the actual window shows if you look? Are they set up to wrap it?

Mr. Ranson stated is that white going to be part of the sign?

Mr. Plachcinski stated it will be a decal on the window, but I think it may have a white boundary and just a border around it. I would probably suggest that to make it pop.

Ms. Nicholas stated it is a technical term of art.

Mr. Hessler stated is this the same building that the RDA is in now?

Mr. Plachcinski stated I believe that it is right next to it.

Mr. Hessler stated is this the one with the curved glass that was expensive to replace?

Mr. Plachcinski stated I think so.

Mr. Hessler stated does the building have any historic significance of having the gallery on it or is that just something from the early teens or last 2000's that was there? It's not like it is set the gallery forever and there is no significance or anything?

Mr. Plachcinski stated I don't know the answer to that question.

Mr. Lackey stated I don't think it has been the gallery until a gallery moved in there about 15 years ago.

Ms. Nicholas made a motion that a Certificate of Appropriateness be granted for PLRDD 2021-203 at 208 N. Union Street to install a window sign if the proposed sign does not exceed the maximum size allowed under the RDDC guidelines. Mr. Hessler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

3. *Certificate of Appropriateness Request PLRDD2021-203 Danville Public Schools at 230 S Ridge Street to install 2- 24' by 24' metal carports for student picnic shelters.*

Mr. Davis opened the Public Hearing.

Present on behalf of this request was Walter Lucas, who stated I am with the Danville Public Schools. What we are looking at doing is the Galileo School Principal would like to install some picnic shelters for students to either have outside study time or eat their lunches or whatever. I proposed getting 2-24' by 24' metal carports like you would find at your house and like the picture that I showed you. I would like to put them back to back and the reason that I was going with the 24' by 24' range plan of the city for Galileo School to eventually relocate. We want to be able to take those carports with us

wherever they go to relocate and reassemble them wherever that is. It would be a lot easier and cheaper than fabricating permanent picnic shelters.

Ms. Nicholas stated so you say 24' by 24' of this would it be squarer than this is?

Mr. Lucas stated it would almost look like that because when I put the 24' by 24' it would be 24' by 48'.

Ms. Nicholas stated so it would one long way.

Mr. Lucas stated yes. That was just dimension that I came up with for the principal. That is one that I have at my maintenance building that we use, and she wants to put roughly twelve picnic tables under there. I figured 24' by 24' two of those would allow them to still maintain social distancing picnic table, because the school system is still under the 6' distancing. That is why I wanted to go like that.

Mr. Hessler stated will it be where the arrow is pointing or on that map?

Mr. Lucas stated on that map there where I have it shaded in yellow it would be over on the Patton Street side.

Mr. Plachcinski stated I want to apologize I totally put that arrow on the wrong spot.

Mr. Lucas stated if you know anything about that area there is a concrete retaining wall that actually goes in as you can see up near the right hand side of the yellow area so the majority of the shelter will actually be out of the parking lot area.

Mr. Hessler stated ideally this will be some what of a River District temporary installation and is there a date yet on the move? Is it set in stone at all?

Mr. Lucas stated no it's not. There are a lot of things riding on it mainly the one cent sale tax.

Mr. Hessler stated sometimes with these temporary installations like signage we put like a renewal period on it. It would be there forever especially since it might not really be something that we would ideally want in the River District. Although, I know we have approved something similar out of view for the appliance place on river side. I know we did that already just for consistency.

Mr. Lucas stated if you want it out of view, I could have my landscapers plant some lily pines outside around it.

Mr. Davis stated how tall is that retaining wall?

Mr. Lucas stated it is about 3 ½ foot tall.

Mr. Ranson stated I think some landscaping in that area would be good.

Mr. Lucas stated I don't know how much prettier you could get the old sears building and I could do some landscaping around it.

Ms. Nicholas stated you are planning to affix it permanently in the meantime?

Mr. Lucas stated yes, it would be anchored to the asphalt. I don't want it blowing down the road.

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Lackey stated many years ago we had a problem with one of these aluminum shelters behind the funeral home. I think we turned that down.

Ms. Nicholas stated I thought we approved it.

Mr. Lackey stated I'll say this I am not a big fan. It looks like a carport shed that I would find behind my house that I would see every day. I totally respect the school district desire to save money knowing that they may need it. I don't know that the 1% taxes will pass. The other side of it is in the meantime I think at least my opinion I need to protect the other business owners there because I don't think really the is what we want in the River District. I'm going to vote no.

Mr. Davis stated if you are talking about the funeral home on Wilson Street it was a blue shed that they wanted to put in the back of the parking lot, and we did approve it.

Mr. Lackey stated that is what I'm talking about.

Mr. Hessler stated I remember a separate structure that was either Elliott Electric or something that we did recently or Womack where they were going to have something abutting up against their building and we were debating or not whether it was an accessory structure or how far it had to be apart for fire reasons or something.

Mr. Davis stated it had to be connected to the building.

Mr. Ranson stated RJ, I certainly understand where you are coming from and when I thought it was where the arrow was, I was really concerned. I really think this location is sort out of the way and it's not very attractive and adding landscaping will soften the blow. I respect where you are coming from.

Mr. Lackey stated I agree, and I think our city has many decisions turning into large ones. I was riding by the airport getting some mulch and realized that in the business park all the electrical wires were buried. Then I drive through the other parts of our city and they are all running around, and they look like hell. I just can't bring myself to add to

that chaos. I'm not mad about it and I'm not going to get mad if you guys don't agree with me.

Mr. Davis stated I guess the big question is if we want to allow them to do this. What other options do they have? If you have a covered area that allows the air to flow through it and you want it temporary this is probably one of your best bets.

Mr. Lackey stated I think that is my issue and that's their issue regarding temporary. If Ballou park has all those nice picnic shelters and I know they are permanent, I understand that they are trying to save money and as a taxpayer I appreciate them trying to save money.

Mr. Lucas stated, and I agree with what you are saying and if it was a place like Johnson or GW, I wouldn't go this route. I know those schools are permanent, but being that Galileo is leased from the city and the way that our long-range goals are I wanted to go this route. That way it would still help the principal do what she is trying to do to enhance the students learning capability. I understand what you are saying too.

Mr. Lackey stated I was on the schoolboard for seven years and I also know that some long-range plans don't always come to fruition. Sometimes long-range plans turn into long time plans. I would like to ask the commission to at least put a time frame on it.

Mr. Nicholas stated even if the vote passes it still might be 3 or 4 years.

Mr. Ranson stated if it were another type of structure of different material?

Mr. Lackey stated I just can't.

Ms. Nicholas stated the metal bothers you?

Mr. Lackey stated yes. I totally understand everything, being temporary and the need but you made a very good point that temporary might be 3 to 4 years. If I was going to vote yes, I would like to see something different.

Mr. Ranson stated the problem is that I agree with you.

Mr. Hessler stated to be more modern is there a way we could do another color like charcoal black and would it look any better?

Mr. Davis stated we can recommend anything.

Mr. Lucas stated the picture that I showed you was one that we have and that we use. Some people think a carport includes metal sides all the way down to the ground and I didn't want that because it defeats the purpose of it being a picnic shelter to allow air

flow through it. I can always look and see if they have more appealing looking designs of shelters like this.

Ms. Nicholas stated would you reconsider coming back in July making this request again with that picture for us to be able to show like here is specifically what I am thinking.

Mr. Lucas stated I could but the issue that I had is that I needed to get this approved, because I need to spend the money before the end of June. We are using the money to do this under our carry over budget which expires the end of June like everybody else's. I could always do more and am looking to see what we can do.

Mr. Davis stated what constrictions could we put on you that would make it helpful in finding a design that would be agreeable to everybody on the commission. And it would allow you to also be able to get it done in the time frame.

Mr. Lucas stated you could put color restrictions on it and the landscaping, I have no problem doing that. I could landscape the two grassy sides of the area. I could even go with a smaller size and the principal will just have to cut back on the number of picnic tables that she wanted to put.

Commissioners discussed amongst themselves various designs and aesthetics of temporary carports.

Ms. Nicholas made a motion that a Certificate of Appropriateness be granted for PLRDD2021-203 at 208 N. Union Street to install metal carports for students picnic shelters as subject to final design approval by the Zoning Administrator and appropriate landscaping to help screen. Mr. Ranson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-1 vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The May 13, 2021 minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Approved By: