



ABERDEEN ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION

Public Hearing Minutes

Boston City Hall, Piemonte Room
Boston, MA, 02201

May 14, 2020

Commissioners Present: John Bligh, Nakeeda Burns, Helen Pillsbury, Kirsten Hoffman, Sharon Cayley

Staff Present: Nicholas Armata, Senior Preservation Planner, Joseph Cornish, Director of Design Review.

4:00 PM Commissioner Pillsbury called the public hearing to order.

I. DESIGN

APP # 18.1162 AB 1962 Beacon Street

Applicant: Beth McDougal

Proposed Work: Update original storefront plan after remnants of original storefront have been discovered under non-historic storefront.

The applicant returned to the commission to discuss the alternate storefront design after the original first floor configuration had been discovered. The new proposal is designed to react more to the original architecture. The updated storefront has been designed so that the glass blends in with the masonry and allows for the original architecture is visible from the street.

The Commission reviewed the proposal and asked what was changed since the applicant last visited the Commission. There was some concern over the reflectivity of the glass, the color of the metal frame and the party wall between the new storefront and the convenience store next door. There were also questions as to how the storefront frame will be attached to the side of the structure.

During public comment a member of the public questioned why we needed another mattress store in the neighborhood. *The Commission does not regulate use.

In conclusion, the application was approved with the provisos that a mockup of the glass and metal samples are set up with final approval delegated to staff. Shop drawings are also to be submitted to staff for final approval.

S. Cayley motioned to approve the application, K. Hoffman seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 (JB, NB, HP, and KH, SC).



APP # 20.1005 AB 2000 Commonwealth Avenue

Applicant: Edward Pare; New Singular Wireless PCS LLC

Proposed Work: At roof level of a non-contributing building, raise antennas by three feet; remove mounting frame from the penthouse and install a new ballast mount frame on the roof of the building; transfer the existing antennas to the new frame; and collocate three (3) new panel antennas. The new panel antennas will be painted to match the color of the surface to which they are attached.

The Applicant provided details of the proposal which involve replacing several existing cell antennas with new ones that are situated in a position that is more visible to the public on the roof of the building. The applicant indicated that the antennas can be shielded and/or painted to blend better into the background. The applicant provided several renderings at the hearing that simulated what the new antennas would look like from several neighborhood viewpoints.

The Commission discussed whether the view of the antennas was significant and how they could be minimized. It was decided that there are no significant views that are blocked, and there is really only one vantage point inside the district that they were noticeable. The Commissioners did decide that a fiberglass shield painted a neutral color. Details of these changes are to be submitted to staff. In conclusion, the application was approved with provisos that the antennas will be shielded with a fiberglass shield painted a neutral color to be chosen by staff.

There was no public comment.

H. Pillsbury motioned to approve the application, S Cayley seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 (JB, NB, HP, and KH, SC).

APP # 20.1006 AB 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990 Commonwealth Avenue

Applicant: Noel Noonan

Proposed Work: Replace asphalt walkway with flagstone pavers and cobblestone edging, rebuild steps at four different entrances. Install new hand rails, replace existing landscape flood lighting, and install 6 new lighting bollards.

The applicant provided the details of their project. The proposal as submitted involved replacing the non-original pavement in the courtyard of the complex that is visible from Commonwealth Avenue. The applicant indicated that the original pavement was likely made from concrete. The applicant presented details on the



changes to the entryways of the structure, but it was later determined that they were not in the purview of the Commission because they are not visible from a public street or avenue. Additionally, the applicant was proposing several simple light fixtures and handrails.

The Commission discussed the details of the project, specifically the appropriateness of the pavers that were selected. It was thought that the pavers would be better for the courtyard because concrete has a tendency of cracking and buckling under Boston weather. The Commission did ask that the pavers are made from a lighter color that would match better to the cast stone seen on the building. Additionally, the Commissioners questioned whether the granite block pavers would replace the concrete edging around the front gardens facing the street. They would not. In conclusion, the Commission voted to approve the application with the provisos that a different color paver will be selected by staff for final approval.

There was no public comment.

H. Pillsbury motioned to approve the application, S Cayley seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 (JB, NB, HP, and KH, SC).

II. RATIFICATION OF 3/12/2020 PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

S. Cayley motioned to approve the minutes, K. Hoffman seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0-1 (NB, HP, KH, and SC). JB Abstained.

III. Staff Updates

IV. Adjourn – 5:38 PM

H. Pillsbury motioned to adjourn the hearing. N. Burns seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 (JB, NB, HP, KH, and SC).