

PIQUA DOWNTOWN DISTRICT DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
Meeting Minutes - Tuesday, March 24, 2009 - 6:00 P.M.
Board Room - Piqua Area Chamber of Commerce

Members Present: Jim Oda, Brad Bubp, Ann DeBrosse Comer & Ruth Koon.

Staff Member: Lorna Swisher

Mr. Oda called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

ITEM NO. 1: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

It was moved by Mrs. Ann DeBrosse Comer and seconded by Mrs. Ruth Koon to maintain the present slate of officers through the end of 2009. The motion passed. The president will remain Mr. Jim Oda and the vice President will be Mr. Brad Bubp.

ITEM NO. 2: MEETING MINUTES

Mrs. Ann DeBrosse Comer noted the minutes from the February 24, 2009 meeting do not reflect the period of time that Unity National Bank said it would take to demolish the building at 204 N. Main Street. They also do not record how long it Unity Bank said it would take to convert the site to the condition that the Board Members agreed to as a condition of the permission to proceed with the demolition. Mr. Oda requested that the secretary revise the minutes and bring them back before the Board at the next regular meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

ITEM NO. 3: RESOLUTION DRB 03-09

A resolution requesting a certificate of appropriateness for a sidewalk sign at 122 W. High Street.

Lorna Swisher gave the staff report. This request calls for a sidewalk sign to be used in front of the new Winans at 122 W. High Street. The sign is an A-frame type sign that has a chalkboard type surface on both sides. The sign will be used to advertise store specials and promotions and will be placed on the curb in front of the main store entrance.

Mrs. DeBrosse Comer moved to approve Resolution 03-09 for the sidewalk sign and Mr. Brad Bubp seconded the motion. Role Call AYE: Mr. Brad Bubp, Mrs. Ann DeBrosse Comer, Mr. Jim Oda and Mrs. Ruth Koon.

ITEM NO. 4: VECTREN GAS METERS

Lorna Swisher shared pictures of the new Vectren gas meters that have been installed on the side of Fifth Third Bank and Knobby's Shop in the 100 block of E. Ash Street. Mrs. Swisher informed the Board that Vectren was planning on installing similar looking gas meters on the historic buildings on Wayne Street including the former Piqua Daily Call building that currently houses Eagle Printing and Graphics and Fashionette Beauty Salon.

The Board members discussed how very inappropriate the gas meters were for the historic district and expressed concern about not only the lack of aesthetic value to the new meters but also expressed concern about the health and safety aspect of having the large meter and the accompanying "protection" protruding from the sidewalk.

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Mrs. Swisher informed that board that she and City Planning director Chris Schmiesing had met with Vectren to express concern about the new meters and that Vectren said they would investigate other options to the present gas meters.

Mrs. Swisher stated that Mr. Schmiesing had requested that no further gas meters be installed until an alternative had been approved by the city. The Board Members said they felt that the gas meters were a 'permanent' change in the way the downtown looked and that they should also be allowed to weigh in on the appearance of the meters.

Mrs. Swisher was instructed to contact the City of Piqua and request that they be allowed to approve the new meters prior to their installation in the downtown area. Mrs. Swisher said she would forward a copy of the minutes to Mr. Schmiesing, the City of Piqua Planning Director.

OTHER BUSINESS

OUTSTANDING CODE VIOLATIONS

Board Members expressed concern about the appearance of Canal Place now that the large tree on the south side of the block has been removed. As a result of the removal of the tree the rear of the Zender's area is even more unsightly and there appears to be an inappropriate storage of materials and debris in the rear of the business. Mrs. Swisher was asked to communicate the Board's concerns to the Health Department and the Planning Department.

Mrs. Swisher was also asked to inquire as to whether additional trees will be planted in Canal Place or if the city had any other plans for the beautification of the area.

James Oda, Chairman

Brad Bulp, Vice-Chairman