



SAVANNAH HISTORIC DISTRICT
BOARD OF REVIEW

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
March 21, 2012 12:00 Noon
Meeting Minutes

MARCH 21, 2012 HISTORIC DISTRICT BOARD OF REVIEW SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

HDRB Members Present: Linda Ramsay, Chair
Ned Gay, Vice Chair
Dr. Nicholas Henry
Keith Howington
Brian Judson
Stephen Merriman, Jr.
Ebony Simpson
Robin Williams, Ph.D

HDRB Members Not Present: Reed Engle
Sidney J. Johnson
Zena McClain, Esq.

MPC Staff Present: Tom Thomson, Executive Director
Sarah Ward, Historic Preservation Director
Brittany Bryant, Historic Preservation Planner
Mary E. Mitchell, Administrative Assistant

City of Savannah Staff Present: Tiras Petrea, Zoning Inspector

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

1. [Call to Order and Welcome](#)

Chair Ramsay called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon and welcomed everyone in attendance to this Special Called Meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

III. ITEM(S) REQUESTED TO BE REMOVED FROM THE FINAL AGENDA

IV. SIGN POSTING

V. CONTINUED AGENDA

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

2. [Petition of Timothy Bright and Christian Sottile | H-12-4603-2 | 22 Barnard Street, 151 W. Bryan Street, and 110-150 W. St. Julian Street | Signs](#)

Attachment: [Staff Report.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Submittal Packet - Application.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Submittal Packet - Photos.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Submittal Packet - Elevations.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Submittal Packet - Proposed Sign Guidelines.pdf](#)

NOTE: Dr. Williams disclosed that the petitioner (Mr. Christian Sottile) works for SCAD as he, but the petitioner is not representing SCAD in this project. Therefore, there is no reason for him to recuse from participating in this petition.

Ms. Ramsay apologized to Mr. Sottile for having to come back today. She thanked him for returning.

Mr. Christian Sottile was present on behalf of the petition.

Ms. Sarah Ward gave the staff report. The petitioner is requesting approval for a sign master plan with guidelines for the newly constructed building at 22 Barnard Street. The building is to be a mixed-use with retail on the ground floor. Specific tenants are unknown at this time and it is requested that individual signs be resubmitted to staff for final approval that are in accordance with the sign guidelines and Historic Sign district ordinance (Sec. 8-3121).

Ms. Ward reported that staff recommends approval of the sign and guidelines with the following conditions:

1. Individual signs for the businesses must be submitted to staff for a COA prior to installation and sign permit. Staff is not responsible for reviewing those aspects of the sign guidelines that are outside of the purview of the Preservation Officer or sign ordinance (Sec. 8-3121). This review does not preclude a sign permit, building permit, or encroachment agreement that may also be required by the City of Savannah;
2. Individual businesses must maintain the minimum amount of linear frontage per square feet of sign area as required by the Historic sign district ordinance (Sec. 8-3121).
3. Only one principal use sign is permitted per business as per the historic sign district ordinance (Sec. 8-3121) and interpreted by the Zoning Administrator.

Mr. Judson asked Ms. Ward that in summarizing the staff's recommendation, was the 10 foot vertical clearance included.

Ms. Ward stated this was an oversight. The 10 foot clearance above the sidewalk needs to be included.

PETITIONER COMMENTS

Mr. Sottile thanked the Board for having the Special Called Meeting today. He explained that they constructed the guidelines using the ordinance as their core framework. There are a lot of architectural elements on the building that limit the sign opportunity. Mr. Sottile said specifically the awnings, as an architectural element, are a major part of the structure and really suggests what is appropriate in terms of the signs that will be here.

Mr. Sottile said they noted the staff's comment about the projecting sign being required by ordinance to have a 10 foot minimum clearance. While this is outside of the purview of what the Historic Review Board can change, they certainly can accept making this change to the document to amend 3.3 projecting signs to require that the sign not be less than 10 feet above the established sidewalk so that it conforms with the overall ordinance.

Ms. Simpson asked if canopies will be installed prior to occupancy by tenants.

Mr. Sottile answered that canopies will be installed on all four corners of the building as a part of the initial development of the structure. The canopies are a part of the architecture. They are different than a fabric awning. They are a part of the building which caused them to think hard about the appropriate sign placement, given the fact that the canopies will be forever as a part of the structure.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

Board Action:

Approval of the sign plan and guidelines with the following conditions:

1. Individual signs for the businesses must be submitted to staff for a COA prior to installation and sign permit. Staff is not responsible for reviewing those aspects of the sign guidelines that are outside of the purview of the Preservation Officer or sign ordinance (Sec. 8-3121). This review does not preclude a sign permit, building permit, or encroachment agreement that may also be

- required by the City of Savannah.
2. Individual businesses must maintain the minimum amount of linear frontage per square feet of sign area as required by the Historic sign district ordinance (Sec. 8-3121). - PASS
 3. Only one principal use sign is permitted per business as per the Historic sign district ordinance (Sec. 8-3121) and interpreted by the Zoning Administrator.
 4. Maintain a 10 foot vertical clearance above public sidewalks for all projecting signs as required by the Historic sign district ordinance (Sec. 8-3121).

Vote Results

Motion: Brian Judson

Second: Ned Gay

Ned Gay	- Aye
Nicholas Henry	- Aye
Keith Howington	- Aye
Sidney J. Johnson	- Not Present
Brian Judson	- Aye
Stephen Glenn Merriman, Jr.	- Aye
Linda Ramsay	- Abstain
Ebony Simpson	- Aye
Robin Williams	- Aye

VIII. REQUEST FOR EXTENSIONS

IX. APPROVED STAFF REVIEWS

X. WORK PERFORMED WITHOUT A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

XI. REPORT ON ITEMS DEFERRED TO STAFF

XII. NOTICES, PROCLAMATIONS, and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

3. [Adjourned](#)

There being no further business before the Board, Chair Ramsay adjourned the Special

Called Meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah P. Ward
Preservation Director

SPW:mem

The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission provides meeting summary minutes which are adopted by the respective Board. Verbatim transcripts of minutes are the responsibility of the interested party.