



**SYRACUSE
LANDMARK
PRESERVATION
BOARD**

**Landmark Preservation Board
Thursday, January 21, 2010**

Meeting Minutes

8:30 am Common Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Don Radke called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Louise Birkhead, Kelly Colabello, Bob Haley, Dan Leary, Julia Marshall, Don Radke, Jeff Romano

Absent: Tim Bonaparte, Fouad Dietz

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

J. Marshall moved to accept the minutes of the January 7, 2009 meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by B. Haley and approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

CA-09-35 703 Walnut Avenue. The applicant was not present and no additional information had been received. The board agreed to hold the application open.

CA-09-37 Assumption Church. The applicant was not present and no additional information had been received. The board agreed to hold the application open.

Sign Waiver: 201 S. Salina Street. *The White Memorial Building is listed on the National Register.* K. Auwaerter noted that at the January 21 LPB meeting the board had requested information regarding the existing encroachment of the large canopy over the sidewalk, and the number of signs and maximum area of signage permissible on the building. Melissa Sanfilippo from the Zoning Office attended the meeting in order to answer the board's questions regarding the application. She noted that the encroachment of the large canopy over the sidewalk was approved in 1995 and that the encroachment goes with the property, not with the tenant. She confirmed that the work had been completed prior to approval and that the tenant had been cited by the Division of Code Enforcement. She also clarified that by law the tenant was allowed a single sign and the maximum permissible area is one square foot of signage for each linear square foot of street frontage. The application exceeds both the number of signs and in total permissible signage area.

The board had an extensive discussion of the signage and agreed that the applicant should come into compliance with the sign ordinance. The board noted the secondary awning over the doorway to the south of the main entrance and questioned whether this was an additional encroachment that would need approval. (*Note: M. Sanfilippo referred this question back to the Zoning Administrator. The additional awning is not an encroachment as there is no physical structure that in the public right of way, unlike the large canopy that has a framework with posts bolted to the sidewalk.*) D. Leary noted that the doorway was recessed and so the little awning appeared to serve no other purpose than as a sign. The box signs on the northwest corner of the building predate the current owner, and the board agreed that they were compatible with the building. The board also discussed the appearance of the large canopy. It was noted

that the previous tenant, *Traditions*, had utilized the canopy for its signage. However the color of the canopy and the size and design of the restaurant's logo blended in well with the historic property. The current signage and canopy color and material appears to have been installed with no attempt to consider the character of the property or surrounding area.

In conclusion, the board recommended that the application be denied. It also recommended strongly that the applicant comply with the existing sign ordinance bringing the total number and signage area within the parameters allowed by the sign ordinance. It requested that in addition to those findings, that the following comments be directed to the Zoning department:

- The small, secondary awning to the south of the large canopy obscures historic features of the building entrance and serves no function other than as a sign. The small awning should be removed.
- The board supports the sign boxes remaining in place, but recommends that the total area of the sign boxes be included in the calculation of the total square footage of signage allowed.
- The banners hanging from the large canopy should be removed immediately.
- The color of the large canopy and the size of the signage on the canopy are incompatible with the historic landmark building. It was noted that the application would not have been approved had the applicant come before the board prior to the installation.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

DISCUSSION

Meeting with Mayor Miner. D. Radke met with the Mayor Miner and it had gone well. They had spoken about the issues facing the board, including compliance and enforcement, communications with departments, the ordinance revisions, etc. She had recommended that Andy Maxwell be brought up to speed on these issues, as the new Director of Planning and Sustainability for the city.

Staff K. Auwaerter noted that she will be moving into the new Department of Planning and was looking forward to the opportunity to integrate historic preservation into the planning structure of the city. The board thanked staff for her work; L. Birkhead noted in particular the staff reports as being very helpful.

ADJOURN

J. Marshall made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by J. Romano. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.