

City of Takoma Park -- Façade Advisory Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2016

The City of Takoma Park Façade Advisory Board met on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park Maryland.

Members Present: William Fischer, Lucy Moore, Lorraine Pearsall, Eric Sepler
Members Absent: Darsie Cahall, Nick Corcoran, Jim DiLuigi, Rick Leonard,
Staff Present: Roz Grigsby
Visitors: Taleesha Richardson, 7320 Carroll Avenue, Richardson School of Music
Julie Peltier

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Project Review – 7320 Carroll Avenue: Taleesha Richardson

Taleesha Richardson, of Richardson School of Music, presented the plans for signage for the expanded business at 7320 Carroll Avenue, the former Green Commuter space. The application includes the business name in the wood in the transom area and vinyl decals for the display windows and glass door. The original door will be refurbished and painted.

Board action:

The Board approved placement of the Richard School of Music signage in the existing transom window area since the glass had been replaced and infilled with wood panel and trim. The Board took no exception to the vinyl decal signage on the recessed entrance glass door, provided the image size is limited to 1/3 of the glass panel. This matches their current door signage at 7318 Carrol Avenue. The Board did not approve the placement of any signage, or vinyl decals, on the storefront display glass.

3. Scott Whipple, Montgomery County Historic Preservation Office

Scott Whipple was invited to attend the meeting to discuss the work of the Historic Preservation Office and the scope and tools he uses for preservation. He articulated the difference between the guidelines and limits of the County Historic Preservation Commission and the City Façade Advisory Board. The HPC reviews the entire exterior of the building, not just what is visible from the public right-of-way, and weighs alterations differently if a building is contributing or non-contributing. The tools HPC uses are established in rules of procedure: the Takoma Park Master Plan and the Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation, city ordinances, the Design Guidelines. He supported the FAB role in providing the local perspective and input on project reviews. Whipple also explained the County process of issuing permits. The Department of Permitting Services is not supposed to issue a permit to a property in the historic district before a Historic Area Work Permit has been issued. Then DPS also examines County code impacting the application, such as the sign requirements (number of signs on a façade, area of windows covered, etc.).

Whipple also encouraged the Board to inform business owners about the underutilized Maryland Small Commercial Tax Credit, which is for projects between \$5,000 and \$500,000. He requested that FAB and Main Street Takoma help promote that program.

5. Minutes

The minutes from the board meeting on April 12, 2016 were approved.

6. Adjourn

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Rosalind Grigsby
Community Development Manager

William Fischer
Chair