



Board of Zoning Appeals

March 15, 2017

Board Meeting

Minutes

5:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Michael Percy	Vice-Chairman	Excused
Christopher Menapace	Chairman	Present
Mary-Anne Pomputius	Member	Excused
Steve Rhoades	Member	Excused
Todd Burson	Alt. Member	Present
Phil Herald	Member	Present
Jim Sulzer	Board Member	Present

Others present: Sam Barone; Lacie Blankenhorn, Development Services Manager; P. Robert Broeren, Law Director; Carrie Haver; Chuck Martin, Mount Vernon News

SWEARING IN

Law Director, P. Robert Broeren swore new member, Jim Salzer in with the Oath of Office. Mr. Salzer was appointed as an alternate member, to fill the term of Charles Brenneman expiring August 31, 2019.

MINUTES APPROVAL

- Board of Zoning Appeals - Board Meeting - Mar 1, 2017 5:30 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Herald, Member
SECONDER:	Todd Burson, Alt. Member
AYES:	Menapace, Burson, Herald, Sulzer
EXCUSED:	Percy, Pomputius, Rhoades

PUBLIC PORTION

Mr. Menapace - in light of the budget cuts that will eliminate the @MountVernonOhio.org email accounts that were recently established for the members of the BZA, he would like to have free email accounts set up for each of the members whether they are gmail, Hotmail or another host. His recommendation is for the members' last name and BZA to be used such as MenapaceBZA@gmail.com. He will assist in setting these up if that is needed. His concern is correspondence via email about BZA business will subject their personal accounts to public records

requests.

BZA FILES

- 2017-BZA-05 : Main Street, 501 S. - Changeable Copy Sign & Variance for Sign Height

Sam Barone (sworn in) – explained the Foundation Park Conservancy is appearing as an agent for the City of Mount Vernon Park’s Department. The Foundation Park Conservancy improved and donated the park to the City. A management lease was immediately negotiated. The Park Conservancy is responsible for doing programming in the park and renting its various facilities as well as promoting the park and expanding its use. 2016 was the first full year of events at the park. Promotion of the events at the park was done using vinyl banners. The single use banners proved to be costly and time consuming for the mostly volunteer organization. The Park Conservancy resolved to find a more professional appearing and cost effect method to promote activities within and sponsors of the park. They resolved the best way to accomplish those objectives is with an electronic messaging system in a very visible location. The most visible location for the park is the front yard of the CA&C Depot, between the Depot and the sidewalk by the viaduct. The zoning code does allow for electronic message signs in a P-1 zoned district, when approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Barone shared pictures with the Board of the neighboring properties and their signage. All adjoining properties are zoned General Business. The second piece to the Conservancy’s request involves the maximum height. Due to an obstruction by the railing of the viaduct, they are requesting a 2 foot increase from 6 feet to 8 feet to improve visibility, matching the General Business limit of all the neighboring properties.

Carrie Haver (sworn in) – Executive Director of the Foundation Park Conservancy will be the designer and operator of the proposed sign. The Conservancy is looking to get a medium to high resolution sign with animation and video capability. The technology available allows control from a mobile phone.

Mr. Barone added, events that aren’t sponsored by the Conservancy will also be promoted on the proposed signage. Michael Percy has identified a source of stone that matches the foundation stones of the depot to be used for the base of the sign to make it blend very well.

Phil Herald asked if the sign is double sided. **Mr. Barone** affirmed that it is and added the siting is being carefully considered so there will be visibility of it approaching the intersection from Columbus Road, from South Main Street, from the viaduct and also across the river from South Mulberry Street. The sizing is based on what is allowed by code, 24 square feet. He added the sign will be turned off through the middle of the night to extend the life of the LED’s.

Mr. Menapace called for anyone in the audience to speak and for any written submissions. There were none.

Mr. Herald made a motion to approve the request as submitted including the electronic sign and variance for the increased height by 2 feet.

Discussion – **Mr. Menapace** said in the last year or two the BZA approved a messaging sign across the street with an 8 feet maximum height. They installed the sign in a 1 to 2 feet high flower bed. He said the proposed structure is beautiful, basically artwork, especially with the matching stone. **Mr. Herald** added, it’s great because people are going to be able to see what’s going on at the park. He loves the concept.

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Herald, Member
SECONDER:	Todd Burson, Alt. Member
AYES:	Menapace, Burson, Herald, Sulzer
EXCUSED:	Percy, Pomputius, Rhoades

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