

HISTORIC VERMILION DESIGN AND REVIEW BOARD

Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2022

Roll Call: Robbie Brown, Judy Williams, Judy Doll, Brenda Miklos, Marilou Suszko

Present: Pat Stein, Council Representative; Mayor Forthofer, Guest

CALL TO ORDER:

Robbie Brown, Chairwoman called the meeting of August 3, 2022, to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Vermilion Municipal Court Complex.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

J. Doll MOVED; M. Suszko seconded to approve the meeting minutes of July 13, 2022. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

J. Williams presented the board members with a newspaper article, which awarded a \$500 scholarship to William Graves, formerly of Huron and a Vermilion High School graduate. He is a student at the American College of Building Arts in Charleston, South Carolina, where he is studying architecture and carpentry. Each year, the Ohio House Guild of Sandusky encourages applications for this \$500 award to any qualified student working toward a degree in historic preservation-related fields. She thought this is something the Historic Board would like to consider doing at some point. R. Brown said the board can take some time to think about this.

OLD BUSINESS:

(Residential) Applicant: Elizabeth Rodriquez -5769 Ohio Street (Deck/Stairs – like for like)

Elizabeth Rodriquez of 5769 Ohio Street explained that she wants to repair her steps. It is currently 5' x 4' and it has three steps that goes into the house. It is deteriorating, so they want to replace it just slightly larger, so it is easier for her in-laws to go up the steps. They will also include a handrail.

R. Brown MOVED; M. Suszko seconded to approve the project as described. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS:

(Residential) Applicant: Jennifer Meyer – 5645 Liberty Avenue (Roof)

R. Brown noted that this application is tabled at the applicant's request.

(Residential) Applicant: Patricia Towner – 5772 South Street (Exterior Painting)

P. Towner of 5772 South Street explained her home is currently light gray blue with white trim and she would like to repaint the home Powder Blue with the trim done in Needlepoint Navy and White. She noted these are colors from the historic palette at Sherwin Williams. She provided pictures of her color choices. She noted the fascia boards and gutters will remain white.

J. Doll said the inside of the windows gives depth too. J. Williams said she likes the color choices, but the concern is how it will look when she paints it all. M. Suszko reminded the board they are just an advisory board to residential and they do not have a color palette for Vermilion. R. Brown said the board can offer suggestions, but again it would be the applicant's choice. P. Towner said she has thought this process through.

M. Suszko MOVED; B. Miklos seconded to approve the exterior house paint and trim colors as described. Roll Call Vote 4 YEAS; 1 NAY (Doll). **MOTION CARRIED**.

(Commercial) Applicant: Tracy Lockhart – 5512 Liberty Avenue (Windows)

R. Brown explained that Tracy could not attend the meeting, so she was asked to go over and view the front window. She noted the front window is not original and it is in bad shape. She mentioned that Tracy is slowly trying to take the building and put it back to the original with a shake roof. She said the carpenter is ready and this project would be part of a grant, so there is a time limit. M. Suszko thought the grant may be from Lake Erie Shores and Islands. R. Brown said the proposed window matches the windows on the rest of the street, so it will be flat. She is not replacing the curve because it was not original. J. Doll asked if she had any documentation of what it looked like in the past. R. Brown was unsure. M. Suszko said with commercial properties the board has not set a tone for historic preservation. They have moved from that to aesthetics and there is a significant difference in the two. She didn't know if there was a picture of the building as it formerly existed, but from a street perspective, she likes this window better than the one with the grids in it because it will allow them to do a lot of different things to call attention to their store front when it's not obstructed by all the grids. She asked if the window replacement had been done and R. Brown answered no.

B. Miklos asked if someone should be in attendance to represent this project. G. Fisher said Tracy could not make the meeting tonight, so she spoke with R. Brown who is representing what she said. R. Brown said she was hoping to install the window before the weather got bad. M. Suszko thought they could wait until next month to discuss this with the applicant.

M. Suszko MOVED; J. Williams seconded to *table this application* until Tracy Lockhart can attend and speak for this project. Discussion: M. Suszko said the Shores & Islands grant has a two-year life to it, so she has time. R. Brown mentioned the window is leaking around the edges. She thought a clear window to display

their product better would be acceptable because what is there now is not attractive to her personally. J. Doll said she was the Vice President for Visual Merchandising for Lazarus at one point and this window could be done beautifully. She didn't find any problem with its integrity. R. Brown said Tracy had it evaluated, and they are having issues. J. Doll said she would like to see an overall plan for her proposal for what she wants to do with the shake and the window. R. Brown didn't believe she had that plan yet. J. Doll said if the board could get a proposal to give them idea of what was going to happen with the flat window and with the shake – it doesn't have to happen tomorrow or in five years from now, but if they could have some assemblance of potentially what she intends to do, this could be very helpful. J. Williams asked if it would be appropriate to ask her to bring a picture of what the building was originally. She assumed Rich Tarrant would have a picture in his museum. G. Fisher said she would reach out to Tracy to convey the boards remarks and requests. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

R. Brown MOVED; M. Suszko seconded to add 780 Main Street to the agenda as a walk-in as there was a miscommunication in the submittal of his application to the building department and the deadline for submitting for this meeting. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Residential) Applicant: Kody Herchler – 780 Main Street (Driveway)

Kody Herchler explained that he would like to add a concrete two-lane driveway as he feels the gravel looks terrible. He presented pictures of the existing driveway and a proposed two-lane driveway. J. Williams asked if he had repaired the front steps. K. Herchler confirmed he did. R. Brown asked the status on the Carriage House as the board recently approved it. G. Fisher asked if he was able to salvage it. K. Herchler said he was able to salvage it and was able to save the barn doors. He mentioned the house will be listed on Zillow tomorrow. J. Williams said the property looks good and he did a wonderful job.

M. Suszko MOVED; B. Miklos seconded to approve the installation of the two-lane driveway as described above. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

ADJOURNMENT:

R. Brown adjourned the meeting upon no further discussion.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, September 7, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.
@ Vermilion Municipal Complex, 687 Decatur Street, Vermilion