

Zionsville Architectural Review Committee

minutes of Jan. 26, 2009 meeting

Members of the Zionsville Architectural Review Committee met at 7:30 a.m. January 26, 2009 in the Zionsville Town Hall.

In attendance were members of the committee -- Elizabeth Demaree, Sharon Grebe, Betsy Harris, Drew Kogan, David Rausch, Don Scott and Andra Walters. Also attending were Michelle Barrett, vice president and member of the Zionsville Town Council; Ed Mitro, Zionsville town manager; Terry Jones, Zionsville town planner; Libby Clements and Tammy Kelly, members of the Greater Zionsville Progress Committee; Jack Brummett, owner of a commercial property on Main Street, and Eric Smith, a reporter for the *Zionsville Time Sentinel*.

Barrett opened the meeting, thanking committee members for agreeing to serve and volunteering their time on this newly formed entity of the Greater Zionsville Progress Committee.

Mitro explained the reason behind the formation of this committee and its immediate role:

In 2008, the Zionsville Town Council established the Downtown Façade Restoration Program with an appropriation of \$50,000. The purpose of the program is to offer monies to downtown commercial property owners as an incentive to rehabilitate the facades of their buildings. The funds, allocated from the Food and Beverage Tax funds, are intended for significant renovation -- not simple upkeep.

The façade restoration program is two-fold and includes a grant program and a loan program. The former is a matching grant program (with the property owner) providing up to \$10,000 for improvements of a specific building's exterior elevation. The loan program also has a \$10,000 cap with a two percent interest rate, seven-year term and annual repayment schedule. To ensure repayment, the town of Zionsville will place a mortgage on the property for the monies borrowed. A property owner may apply for both a grant and loan.

Applications for a grant or loan will be examined and studied by the seven-member Zionsville Architectural Review Committee established by the Zionsville Town Council. The intention is for the committee to forward its recommendations to the council for its consideration.

Mitro stressed that just as the façade restoration program is evolving so is the role of the review committee. An overriding purpose of the review committee is assistance and at times, advice as opposed to adversarial.

Committee member David Rausch was asked by colleagues to chair the committee.

Committee member Betsy Harris volunteered to serve as secretary.

Chairman Rausch set a possible agenda for the next meeting:

1. Review updates to the overall program -- Ed Mitro
2. Review and discussion on the standards and suggested updates -- committee
3. Define process of administering application
4. Discuss any possibility for first case and promotional plan.

The next meeting will be held at 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 24, 2009, in the Zionsville Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Harris
Secretary