

Zionsville Architectural Review Committee

minutes of the June 24, 2009 meeting

Members of the Zionsville Architectural Review Committee met at 7:30 a.m. June 24, 2009 in the Zionsville Town Hall.

In attendance were members of the committee -- Sharon Grebe, Betsy Harris, Drew Kogan, David Rausch and Don Scott. Others attending included Terry Jones, Zionsville town planner, and Joe Ricigliano who with his wife owns the downtown Zionsville property where their business, Nana's Village House/Florist & Gift Shop, is located.

Review committee chairman Rausch presided. The meeting agenda was adopted. Regarding minutes from the two preceding meetings, none was taken at the May 12 meeting where there was no quorum and consequently, no formal business, conducted. The May 26 meeting was a walking tour of downtown Zionsville. Those in attendance included David Rausch, Don Scott, Drew Kogan, Andra Walters and Sharon Grebe. The group walked much of Main and First streets. While no minutes were recorded, Sharon noted that the goal of this meeting was to look at buildings that might be good candidates for our marketing program. Among questions the committee should be asking are: how do buildings contribute to the character of the town? and how do you define character of the village. Facets such as painting were mentioned and how would this, for example, fit into our plan -- maintenance or part of a larger project? Drew would be bringing historic photographs of the town to the June meetings. All paperwork was to be ready for presentation at the next meeting. Next meetings were scheduled for June 23 (changed to June 24) and June 30.

At the June 24 meeting, the paperwork associated with the application process for the grant/loan program was reviewed and noted that the actual application form was missing. Sharon said that it was her understanding that committee member Elizabeth Demaree was working on this, and she would check with her.

Chairman Rausch spoke of the need for an eligibility summary for prospective applicants. It was the consensus that a paragraph in the Zionsville Downtown Façade Rehabilitation Grant/Loan Program Summary document would address this as well as a reference in the actual application. Sharon will work on appropriate wording.

Concerning eligibility this could also be the basis for a flow chart which would facilitate the committee in the initial phase of the acceptance process. Essentially the proposed project must meet three criteria before further debate: 1) the project is in the Zionsville Business District (ZBD); 2) it is visible from a public way, and 3) it contributes to the enhancement and character of the building as well as the ZBD.

It was the consensus of the committee that geographical eligibility would be those structures in the Zionsville Business District and contiguous commercial properties. Terms for repayment in the loan program were discussed with no definitive conclusion.

Terry Jones said that he would talk with Zionsville Town Clerk John Yeo about this facet of the project.

Joe Ricigliano spoke informally about the need of a new roof on Nana's Village House/Florist & Gift Shop. This project could be a candidate for the rehabilitation grant/loan program; however, Mr. Ricigliano has an immediate need which could be temporarily solved by patching the roof. He spoke of the dire circumstances in the ZBD. Using his own business as an example, he said his real estate taxes spiraled this year from \$9,000 in 2008 to \$27,000. His sales in the first quarter were down 24 percent. "Survival is success," he told committee members.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Harris, secretary