

**MINUTES
DERRY TOWNSHIP DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
NOVEMBER 1, 2011**

The meeting of the Derry Township Design Review Board was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chairman Phil Guarino.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Phil Guarino, Chairman; Cindy Farkas, Vice Chairwoman; Sandy Ballard, Secretary; Pam Moore; Joyce St. John

Members Absent: Ed Buchan; Dan Sheffey

Also Present: Chuck Emerick, Assistant Director of Community Development; Jenelle Stumpf, Community Development Secretary

Public Attendance: Glenn Rowe, 431 East Chocolate Avenue

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Ms. Moore, second by Ms. Ballard, and a majority vote, the minutes of June 27, 2011 were approved as presented. Mr. Guarino recused himself.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Consideration of exterior modifications to create an outdoor photography area on the property located at 431 West Chocolate Avenue, Hershey (Everlasting Images, DRB #310)

Glenn Rowe represented the proposal. He stated that his wife, Teresa, runs Everlasting Images which has been operating in Derry Township since 2003. To stay competitive in their business, the Rows are proposing to create different backdrops and scenery in the rear of the property. Mr. Rowe explained that they did not want to affect the aesthetics of the front of the building. One of the proposed modifications involves adding a wall and doors to the bottom of the fire staircase, and Mr. Emerick commented that this may require building code approval.

Ms. Ballard asked if the backdrops will be changeable screens. Mr. Rowe responded that the backdrops will be constructed so that they are sturdy enough to last a few years before they are changed. They will not be changed on a weekly or monthly basis. Ms. Ballard asked if the improvements can be seen from the east side as vehicles pass by the property. Mr. Rowe stated that one would have to look very closely as they are driving by to be able see the improvements.

Mr. Emerick questioned whether any new exterior lighting will be added. Mr. Rowe responded that the backdrops will mostly be used during the day and will not require additional permanent lighting.

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Mr. Rowe stated that bushes will be added in the area of the southeast and northwest corners of the building.

The motion to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the proposal as presented was made by Ms. Farkas, seconded by Ms. Ballard, and passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Rowe expressed concern regarding other businesses placing sidewalk signs in the downtown area. When he and his wife tried to do the same thing, they received a violation notice from the Township that the sidewalk sign was not permissible. He asked if the Township could take another look at the restriction on signs. Being able to advertise more along the Chocolate Avenue corridor would have a positive impact on the businesses there. Mr. Rowe volunteered to assist in forming a proposal.

Ms. Ballard stated that she is interested in such a proposal, and that there is even a question in the Comprehensive Plan survey to gather the Township residents' opinions on the amount of signage that should be allowed.

- Mr. Guarino suggested that the Design Review Board schedule a 2-hour window of time to walk the area which is under their jurisdiction to view the sign violations that are occurring. The Board tentatively scheduled this tour for November 29, 2011 at 4:00 p.m., meeting in the Rite Aid parking lot.

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.



Chairman