

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
Tuesday, May 11, 2021  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Alan Mesecher.....Chairman  
Robin Craig-Hunt..... Vice Chair  
Susan Pennington.....Member  
Kenneth Wheeler(arrived at 5:36 p.m.) .....Member

**Members Absent:**

Robert Manning.....Member

**Staff Present:**

Kelvin Knauf, Director of Planning & Community Development  
Wendy Lloyd, Planning Secretary

**City Council Members Present:**

None

Chairman Mesecher called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Mesecher asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2021 meeting

Vice Chair Craig-Hunt motioned to approve  
Member Pennington 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Vote: 3 – 0**

**Motion Carries**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**Consider a Certificate of Appropriateness application from Azmir Islam to install an illuminated sign on the front wall of the building located at 1102 W. Park Avenue**

Mr. Knauf stated this in an application to install a sign on the front wall of Kajun Seafood and Wings located at Park and 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Their building was damaged by Hurricane Laura, and you are in the process of repairing it and bringing it back up and painted it according to historic

district colors.

**Sikandar Hussain – Port Arthur, TX:** Mr. Hussain stated yes I had a meeting about that last year for the colors and the materials we used. So, after that once we were done then the hurricane came, and my roof was damaged so we replaced the whole roof. The only thing is we are stuck on the sign. Before we had just a metal sheet and was like 10 years old, so we took that down and we want to put a new sign. It's the same sign that we used in the Beaumont restaurant that we have called Jingo's Cajun Eatery. It's the same materials and same shape. All the information is on the paper that we sent.

Mr. Knauf stated now it's backlit. Mr. Hussain stated no it's not backlit. Mr. Knauf stated it is not illuminated. Mr. Hussain stated the light itself each letter itself has lights LED. It's inside the sign and there is a cover on it. It is a special one I wanted which is lit at nighttime and in daytime it is just plain black.

Member Pennington stated so just the big letters are lit. Mr. Hussain stated yes the whole thing, the Seafood & Wings is red at nighttime and Kajun is white at nighttime. Member Pennington stated and this is on the north side. Mr. Knauf stated yes that would be the northwest corner.

Vice Chair Craig-Hunt stated according to our appropriateness, we don't allow lit signs other than by the floodlight. Is that correct? Mr. Knauf stated that is what the ordinance says. Vice Chair Craig-Hunt stated I think that the issue always turns out to be if we let you do it, then we have to let Mr. Burger do it. I mean we don't have to, but it becomes this kettle of fish. I mean I don't necessarily have a problem with it. I know where you're located. I don't think it lumines into any residence. Mr. Knauf stated and the commission in the past has allowed illuminated signs. The one at the Tax Pro place on Park. Chairman Mesecher stated isn't that sign illuminated with floodlights. Mr. Knauf stated no, it's internal. Vice Chair Craig-Hunt stated I mean I don't think he faces any residential. Mr. Hussain stated there is a church in front of me and a convenience store.

Member Wheeler stated do you we have to do a variance. Mr. Knauf stated no, if the commission approves it, staff or the city is not going to prosecute him. So, if you guys approve it, then we are good with it. At some point, we probably want to change the ordinance to allow for things like this and write it to where it has more discretion.

Member Pennington stated I'm more concerned with the maintenance of it because if those letters go out, do they get fixed. Mr. Hussain stated yes of course. These are LED lights, so they are really good for long term. They are not the old type lights. We do have warranties on them. It's not like I'm paying them on the side. There is an actual company. They are going to come out here. They are going to pull a permit and everything and then we have a warranty on it and LED lights last a long time. We have a warranty for 5 years if anything goes out they will come out and fix it for us. Vice Chair Craig-Hunt stated, and I think it comes around to like you

said adjusting the ordinance so that it could say that should it be allowed or making sure it is always lit and the maintenance of it that there would always be maintenance. Mr. Knauf stated yes we can write that into the ordinance where signs have to be maintained in a workmanlike manner and well maintained. We can always add that to the ordinance. After a storm, we give people a grace period but at some point we start going time to fix the sign. Mr. Hussain stated and insurance we have separate section that our signs are covered if anything happens like a hurricane or any reason we are covered. We can always replace them right away.

Member Wheeler stated my concern is this going to be letters itself illuminated, correct. Mr. Hussain stated yes. Member Wheeler stated I don't want LEDs all the way around the building like your neighbors down 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Hussain stated no sir. It's just the letters. I can show you guys the one we did in Beaumont. Mr. Knauf stated but you don't want the rope light around the edge or anything like that. Mr. Hussain no. We have just a flood light on the side.

Chairman Mesecher stated and the square footage is 48 and I think the ordinance is 12. How big is that one. Mr. Hussain stated I'm not sure. Vice Chair Craig-Hunt stated it's saying it's 48 square feet according to this. Is that correct right here? It's 12 foot wide this way and 4 foot tall this way. I think it looks proportional to the building if it is what you are showing it. Mr. Hussain stated yes that is right. They came and did the whole measurement on the building, and they put this graphic on it. Vice Chair Craig-Hunt stated do you all think it is too big? Member Pennington stated I never knew the name of it. Mr. Hussain stated there was no sign before. It just had a metal sheet, and it was all worn off. Vice Chair Craig-Hunt stated what about landscaping. You're supposed to have a certain amount of green and then also trash cans. I notice your trash can, you can see those. Mr. Hussain stated we just changed it. We had a smaller one last year and so we got rid of it and we ordered a big one now. Vice Chair Craig-Hunt stated but it's supposed to be behind covered fencing isn't it or a screen of some type. Mr. Knauf stated the dumpster should be screened by a 6 foot opaque fence. Vice Chair Craig-Hunt stated right so you are lacking that. Mr. Hussain stated well it was never there when I bought the building it was never there, and I was never told that when I changed my CO. Mr. Knauf stated and because it is such an old building it is legal non-conforming for the dumpster and for all the landscaping. Now if it was a vacant lot and they were to build a brand new building they would have to.

Member Wheeler stated the spotlights are they currently up. Mr. Hussain stated yes. Chairman Mesecher stated, and the spotlights are on the columns right. Mr. Hussain stated yes. Chairman Mesecher stated on the building. Mr. Hussain stated yes, and they are facing down on the parking lot not on the road just so we have lit parking. Chairman Mesecher stated do you have any idea how many lumens are on that thing because when you come off I-10 coming down 16<sup>th</sup> Street, you can see the bank, or you can see City Hall's sign. I live on 10<sup>th</sup>, and I don't want to come off Green and boom. Mr. Hussain stated no it's really not that bright. We put 2 in the front and a smaller one on the back because we have no lights at all on our property. It's really dark. The only light we have is coming out of our inside through the window glass so we just put these 2 and just enough for our parking. It's not like on the road or

covering the roads but if you guys want to inspect it at nighttime and you want me to take out 1 and just leave 1 up there, I can do that. Chairman Mesecher I'm more concerned about the red in the sign itself Cajun Seafood & Wings. Vice Chair Craig-Hunt stated why don't you pull up the one that it looks like so we can see it if you have it. Mr. Hussain stated I have a picture of one. Vice Chair Craig-Hunt stated so if you turn your phone and it blinds us, it might be too bright. Mr. Hussain stated now this one is really big so it's not the same size as this one. Member Wheeler stated so is that one white and this one is darker. Mr. Hussain stated so at nighttime it turns white and then in daytime it's black. If the light is on during daytime it will look dark gray. Member Wheeler stated I think it will make an improvement. Vice Chair Craig-Hunt stated I think it will light up that area at night.

Member Wheeler stated one color concern is the red going to match the red on the columns. Mr. Knauf stated the red that is on the columns now, that's a preapproved historic district color so is the red here going to match that. Mr. Hussain stated no it's a different red I think. Member Wheeler stated the red on your lights, the way they light up the columns. Mr. Hussain stated so the plastic, the vinyl in front is red. The light is just regular white. Member Wheeler stated well you got 2 different reds going on there because that red on your columns is really kind of a cherry red. Mr. Knauf stated are you suggesting to maybe repaint the columns a different color. Mr. Hussain stated are you talking about the building. Member Wheeler stated yes the building columns, the illumination that you have on your columns at night, almost purple. I don't know if you can kind of try to tweak that to match the red on your sign. What I'm recalling, it's almost a deep purple on your columns. Mr. Hussain stated that's red. Member Wheeler stated well you might try to coordinate because you don't want to kinds of red. Mr. Hussain stated okay. Once I get the signs up, I will replace them. I have 1 light working right now and we can put that up and see if there is a big difference. I can always change my light outside. I can just go with the regular yellow lights. Vice Chair Craig-Hunt stated I think you should stay with the red. Mr. Hussain stated it's just there is a very limited option. It's just red, blue and other colors. They don't have any different type of red, just 1 red. The thing is these columns are going to be painted too. Right now, they are pinkish. We are going to paint them to match my building. I think the color we picked was beige and then we will put the lights on. So, I can wait on those lights and once I have the sign up I can replace them to match it. Vice Chair Craig-Hunt stated I don't know if you know this but those lights that you're doing, if you go with red and they don't match, they have a film that you can buy that goes on top of the existing light and it can alter the red for you. You don't have to buy new bulbs. Mr. Hussain stated the whole thing is sealed. You can't change the bulbs. You have to change the whole thing and throw it away. Vice Chair Craig-Hunt stated ok but it's a vinyl and photographers use them. One of our board member's wife is a photographer and she even knows where to get that kind of stuff so you can always come and ask us but it's going to be fine.

Chairman Mesecher asked for a motion

Member Pennington motioned to approve sign

Vice Chair Craig-Hunt 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Vote: 3 – 0**

**Motion Carries**

Member Pennington motioned to adjourn  
Vice Chair Craig-Hunt 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Chairman Mesecher adjourned the meeting at 5:58 p.m.**