

## CITY OF FRANKLIN HERITAGE COMMISSION

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### FRANKLIN HERITAGE COMMISSION

**Wednesday December 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.**

**City Hall**  
**City Council Chambers**

#### **Minutes**

- ❑ **Call to Order: 6:03 PM**
- ❑ **Salute to the Flag**
- ❑ **Roll Call: Present - Bob Lucas, Jeff Whitney, Mike Mullavey, Paul Trudel, Leigh Webb, Chair Glen Feener, and Planning Director Richard Lewis**
  - ❖ **Seat Alternates: Chairman Feener joined the discussion as an alternate.**
- ❑ **Approval of Minutes of the 3/29/18 Public Hearing Meeting of the Board. Member Webb / Member Whitney moved/seconded approval of the minutes as written. The motion passed by a 5-0-0 vote.**

#### **New Business:**

- ❑ **H 18-02: Application for the installation of a mural to be located on the easterly wall [facing Trestle View Park] of the Grevior's Furniture Store [446 Central Street; tax map 117-161-00].**

City Manager Judie Milner presented the application saying that the project idea originated under the previous City Manager. "The council is coming up with their vision and mission statements and bringing these projects for downtown improvements together to present to the public in the February 2019 meeting. One aspect of that is how to rebrand the city. In conjunction with the Mill City Park and the White-Water Park (the first in New England which is expected to bring in 161,000 visitors per year, spending about 6.8 million dollars in our community), we need to 'sell' our outdoor recreational activities. One way to do that is with a mural

on the easterly facing wall of the Grevior's Furniture store." The Greviors have already given their okay to the mural concept. The wall would be visible as you enter the downtown area when coming west on Central Street. Unfortunately, this project has a higher price tag on it than expected. Of the four to five artists that expressed interest in the project only one is willing to engage in the mural under the \$10,000 budget. The rendering before the commission is from that artist who lives and works here in Franklin and is dedicated in doing community projects. The rendering features the river down the middle with the kayak, surrounded by the four seasons highlighting the recreational activities available in the city. The white-water park will be the anchor. The newer concept is to make the kayak a bit more prominent, but City Manager Milner is asking for approval to move forward with the project before asking the artist for another rendering. She will be looking for funding since the Mayor's Alcohol and Drug Task Force is no longer going to partner with this.

Leigh Webb asked the following questions: how would the boarded over windows be treated; is the process reversible without damaging the brick; where did the \$10,000 figure come from; what about putting the project out for other bids; and lastly what about the style of the rendering, will it look more polished in the final version and would it be possible to have a computer generated overlay so that the Commission could get a better idea of what the final results would look like.

Manager Milner answered that the paint is oil but cleans up with water; that the bricks are coated prior to painting so the process is reversible; the \$10,000 was originally to come from the Mayor's Alcohol and Drug Task Force and the artists were informed of the budget at the time they were asked to submit their rendering; the idea of a computer generated overlay is nice but she didn't know if doing that was possible; and finally, that every artist has their own style and she feels that the artist in this case is more laid back, as is Franklin. In order to highlight the kayaks, the artist kept the figures non-descript.

Member Trudel too felt that having a flat surface would be more striking. He also asked about maintenance. Member Lucas confirmed the size as thirty feet high and 60 feet long and asked if it wouldn't be less expensive to install a weather resistant panel and paint that instead of the bricks. Chairman Feener added that the rendering had a portrait orientation, and asked how would that be adjusted for the landscape configuration of the wall. All were concerned about maintenance and vandalism.

The City Manager answered that the city is insured against vandalism, that the finished design would be coated with a product that makes the removal of graffiti easy and that maintenance would be done by Mill City Park. Maintenance would probably be done every five years or so.

Member Lucas felt that the bends in the river should be incorporated in the mural, so it won't look so geometrical. Several members expressed concern about the 'professionalism' of the painting and the City Manager said that this would be a community project with the high schoolers doing some of the painting. There was

also concern about shadows cast from the window frames distorting the image. Member Webb was in favor of making a motion to delay the decision until the Commission has a more accurate template to judge. Member Lucas suggested exploring the idea of having the mural placed on a panel instead of the building. Everyone was in favor of rebranding with an emphasis on the outdoors and felt that vibrant colors would be suitable for the mural. Member Lucas asked about lighting at night and was told that Mill City Park would be in charge of that.

Based on what was discussed, Member Webb made a motion to continue the discussion when more specifics and alternatives to application could be researched. That motion was seconded by Member Mullavey. **By a vote of 5-0-0 the motion passed** and Chairman Feener said that the Commission is very flexible with setting up a follow-up meeting.

**Other Business:** Introduction / Discussion on signage guideline/ policies [as time allows]

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Planning Director Lewis spoke of the signage packet given to the commission members. It included a review of downtown signs generated by Bob Lucas along with some examples of signage in different communities, in particular Claremont and Portsmouth. He added that he passed along those suggestions to the owner of the proposed restaurant on the eastern end of the Syndicate Block. Finally, he brought the commission's attention to the letter of support for the White-Water Park in the Winnepesaukee River. Member Lucas / Member Whitney motioned/seconded the signing of the letter so that it might be included in the submission package for the White-Water park. **The motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.**

Planner Lewis suggested setting up a meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup> to continue the discussion of signage and the possibility of coming up with some ordinance-based guidelines.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Trudel and seconded by Bob Lucas. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 6:49 pm.

Minutes recorded by Cheryl Y. Fisher, Administrative Assistant, Planning & Zoning