

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE CITY OF FLORENCE DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
VIA ZOOM REMOTE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021 – 2:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Julia Buyck (in person); Jamie Carsten, Scott Collins, Mike Padgett, and David Tedder (via Zoom)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pierce Campbell, Jay Ham, Erik Healy, and Nathaniel Mitchell

STAFF PRESENT: Jerry Dudley, Alfred Cassidy, Derek Johnston, and Alane Zlotnicki; Danny Young for IT

APPLICANTS PRESENT: Pastor Alfonso Porter and Russell Godbolt with Majority Missionary Baptist Church

CALL TO ORDER: Co-Chairman Buyck called the January 13, 2021 regular meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. and thanked everyone in attendance via Zoom.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Co-Chairman Buyck introduced the minutes from the November 11, 2020 regular meeting and asked if there were any corrections. Being none, she called for a vote. Mr. Collins moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Padgett seconded the motion. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous (5-0).

APPROVAL OF 2021 MEETING CALENDAR: Co-Chairman Buyck introduced the 2021 meeting calendar, and called for a motion to approve of the meeting schedule. Mr. Collins moved to approve the schedule; Mr. Tedder seconded. The vote to approve the meeting calendar was unanimous (5-0).

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND MATTERS IN POSITION FOR ACTION:

DRB-2021-01 Request to amend the Certificate of Appropriateness for landscaping for the building at 414 N. Coit Street, Tax Map Number 90085-01-013; D-1 Redevelopment Overlay District.

Co-Chairman Buyck read the introduction of DRB-2021-01 and asked staff for their report. Ms. Zlotnicki gave the staff report as submitted to the Design Review Board.

Mr. Collins asked if the Design Review Board possessed the power to circumvent the design guidelines of the *Unified Development Ordinance*. Ms. Zlotnicki stated she believed the Board could modify the requirements of the Certificate of Appropriateness. Mr. Dudley stated under the current ordinance the landscaping requirements are harsher towards the applicant but the buffer is more lenient.

Mr. Padgett asked for clarification of whether-or-not the request was for a time extension or a waiver on the landscaping requirements. Mr. Dudley stated the applicant is present for questions but in the past the intentions have been ambiguous, but in this case he believes they want a little of both.

There being no further questions of staff, Co-Chairman Buyck opened the public hearing.

Dr. Alonzo Porter, pastor of Majority Missionary Baptist, rose to speak in favor of the request. He stated the reasoning for the time extension is due to the loss of tithing from COVID-19. He stated the church has lost close to 60% of the congregants and with it much of the tithes and offerings. He stated the drop in attendance/tithing is the reason they are seeking a postponement of the landscaping requirement to stay solvent. He stated the church is fully committed to upholding the Certificate of Appropriateness' requirements in the near future.

Mr. Padgett asked Dr. Porter how much time was requested, Dr. Porter stated no more than a year.

Mr. Collins expressed his sympathies for the church's situation and expressed support for the request. He added that this case would be setting a precedent for time extensions to required conditions, forcing the board to issue those in the future.

Co-Chairman Buyck stated that in this case the request is due to COVID-19, which hopefully will be a temporary phenomenon.

There being no one else to speak either for or against the request, Co-Chairman Buyck closed the public hearing and called for a motion to approve the request.

Mr. Collins moved to approve the request to extend the requirements as originally mandated by an additional 18 months. Mr. Padgett seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (7-0).

ADJOURNMENT: Co-Chairman Buyck thanked everyone for their patience and participation, and adjourned the meeting at 2:31 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2020.

Respectfully submitted:

Austin Cherry, Office Assistant III;
Alane Zlotnicki AICP, Senior Planner