



MEMORANDUM

TO: HARB MEMBERS
FROM: AMY WOLDT JOHNSON
DATE: APRIL 19, 2021
SUBJECT: APRIL 20, 2021 MEETING AGENDA

The scheduled meeting of the Reading Historical Architectural Review Board will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at **6:30p.m.** in City Hall using a virtual meeting application of which will be recorded and posted on the City's Website.

Due to the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration, the public is prohibited from attending the regular HARB meetings. Public comment for the HARB meetings will only be accepted in writing through an email to amy.johnson@readingpa.gov. All public comment must be submitted by 5:00 pm on the day of the meeting to allow the distribution of the comment submitted to HARB members prior to the start of the meeting. The comment received will be read into the record at the Regular Meeting.

AGENDA

6:30 p.m. Call to order. Reading of the minutes of previous meetings.

6:35 p.m. ITEM #1 **1023 Walnut St.**
Maria A. Gomez, Owner
Composite Index Rating: 88
Review request for the construction of a roof canopy at the first floor front porch.

6:50 p.m. ITEM #2 **136 S. 5th St.**
Juan Carlos Oleas, Owner
Composite Index Rating: 66
Review request for the installation of a mechanical parking gate, consisting of one single 14' long arm, at the entrance to the rear parking lot adjacent to Wood Street. The gate is to replicate the parking gate approved for 138 S. 5th St. on 2/16/21.



- 7:05 p.m. ITEM #3** **544 S. 6th St.**
BCRRA, Owner
Composite Index Rating: 40
Review request for the restoration of the exterior of the property to include the removal of aluminum capping from exterior wood features, installation of Pella Architect Series wood double-hung replacement windows throughout the building, installation of a Pella paneled wood entrance door.
- 7:20 p.m. ITEM #4** **55 S. 6th St.**
Luis Cintron, Owner
Composite Index Rating: 72
Review proposal for the installation of recessed lighting above the first floor storefront window, restoration of the front entrance door to a previous condition.
- 7:35 p.m. ITEM #5** **350 S. 5th St.**
Julia & Angel Domena, Owners
Composite Index Rating: 94
Review proposal for the replacement of the existing metal multi-lite front entrance door, installed in violation, with a full glass and wood entrance door.
- 7:50 p.m. ITEM #6** **City Park**
City of Reading, Owner
Composite Index Rating: N/A
Review proposal for the relocation and reconfiguration of the previously approved 20,000 square foot ADA specific play area adjacent to the existing play area within City Park at the northeast corner of 11th and Washington Streets, to include the relocation of the playground, the relocation of the secondary access to the playground, the removal of the previously approved seating walls and the addition of benches, and the addition of light standards around the play area.
- 8:05 p.m. ITEM #7** **918 N. 4th St.**
Brian Dietrich, Owner
Composite Index Rating: 90
Review proposal for the reconfiguration of the existing chimney mount and installation of additional cellular antennas at the main roof of the building.

8:20 p.m. ITEM #8

1711 Hampden Blvd.

Most Holy Trinity, Owner

Composite Index Rating: 116

Review proposal for the enclosure of open porches at the northern and southern facades.

8:35 p.m. ITEM #9

Review applications approved by Staff:

- a. 544 S. 6th St., Berks County Non Profit Development Corporation, Owner
Painting of exterior surfaces.
- b. 55 S. 6th St., Luis Cintron, Owner
Painting of exterior surfaces, repair/replacement of deteriorated wood at the front façade in kind, and repair of the limestone water table at the lower first floor storefront in kind.
- c. 350 S. 5th St., Julia & Angel Domena, Owners
Painting of exterior surfaces.
- d. 401 Douglass St., Sean DeVine, Owner
Replacement of wood trim at the first floor northern and western façade in kind.
- e. 338 Windsor St., Josue Morales, Owner
Painting of exterior surfaces, removal of aluminum capping installed in violation at the wood main roof cornice and repair of the wood main roof cornice in kind.
- f. 1014 N. 5th St., Mary Ann Ciarlone, Owner
Repair of the deteriorated wood column base at the first floor front porch in kind.
- g. 343 Windsor St., Robert Wertz, Owner
Repair or replacement of the front entrance steps in kind.

8:40 p.m.

Other Business

- Preservation Officer's Report on Action Items:
 - 108 S. 6th St. – Vinyl window installed incorrectly in the bay window at the southern façade. Staff has sent a compliance letter.
 - 253 N. 5th St. – Demolition by Neglect, Property Maintenance Violation. The City Codes Office has installed black painted plywood in the window openings to help protect the building. Plans for interior renovations

were approved by the Building and Trades Office on December 10, 2015.

- 34 N. 11th St. – Standing seam roof approved by HARB but has ridges. Staff to investigate whether what was installed was approved by the HARB.
- 306 S. 5th St. – City Council denied the owner’s appeal on November 24th and the restoration of the front façade was to be completed within 180 days from Nov. 24, 2014 as per Council Res. No. 127-2014. Work has not been completed to date. Staff sent a compliance letter. As of 2017 there is a new owner. Staff has contacted a representative of the new owner regarding the ongoing violation.
- 927 N. 4th St. – A temporary repair of the original terra cotta tiled roof was approved by the HARB for 100 days remains in place. Staff is to contact the roofing contractor to determine status.
- 941 N. 4th St. – The original cedar shake shingles on the bay window were to be replaced in kind but instead were replaced with 3” vinyl siding in a cypress color which was not approved by the HARB. Staff is to send a violation letter.
- 407 S. 6th St. – Work was not completed to HARB specifications. The Board concurred that the undertaken work may be approved if slightly modified. Staff is to discuss the removal of the installed medallions below the storefront window with the contractor.
- 412 Windsor St. – Front entrance door remains in violation. Owner has submitted a proposed door that is appropriate. Staff is to work with owner to obtain compliance.
- 837 Rose St. – Entrance steps constructed in violation, work has not been completed as per HARB Res. No. 74-15. Staff sent a compliance letter but to date there has been no response. There is a new owner of the building. Staff is to send a new compliance letter.
- 21 S. 5th St. – The 90 day extension period for the temporary plywood covering of the dormer windows has expired and the plywood remains. This building has a new owner as of 2020.
- 547 Bingaman St. – The HARB approved a half lite wood entrance door to replace the door installed in violation. The existing door has not been installed in compliance with HARB Resolution 25-16. Staff is to send a compliance letter.
- 200 N. 5th St. – The green marble trim below the storefront window on the southern façade has been altered inappropriately and is not compliant with Resolution 91-14.

- HARB Discussed ongoing violations at the October 17, 2017 HARB meeting and has given the owner 6 months to present a proposal to address the violation and other proposed work. Staff met with the property owner on March 9th to discuss the replacement of windows and proposed repairs as per HARB Resolution No. 67-17. Staff has been in contact with the representative of the building in August 2018 regarding the revised Window Policy.
- 821 N. 5th St. – Replacement of wood windows on the front façade with aluminum clad wood windows and the installation of vinyl windows on the southern façade were completed in violation and denied. The owner has not replaced the windows according to HARB Res. No. 67-16. Staff is to send a compliance letter.
 - 737 Madison Ave. – Modifications to the first floor front porch to install a vertical platform lift were not completed according to HARB Res. No. 03-17. Staff spoke with the representative of the owner regarding the work as completed. The representative of the owner stated that he will look into the matter and will discuss the work with the contractor.
 - 1023 N. 5th St. – Replacement of existing wood lattice at the first floor front porch has not been completed as per HARB Res. No. 23-17. Staff is to investigate and send a compliance letter.
 - 422 Douglass St. – A black wrought iron door has been installed in violation at the basement level entrance at the eastern façade and was denied by the HARB as per Res. No. 18-17. Staff has sent a compliance letter and the owner has replied requesting to be able to appeal the HARB's decision. The appeal period is over and Staff is working with the owner to rectify the matter.
 - 914 Madison Ave. – The rear fence installed in violation has not been modified as per HARB Res. 30-17. Staff is to send a compliance letter.
 - 551 Penn St. – The internally illuminated individually lettered sign installed in violation at the storefront has not been removed as per HARB Res. No. 29-17. Staff is to send a compliance letter.
 - 53 S. 6th St. – Signage has not been modified as per HARB Resolution No. 82-17 as made on 12/19/17. Staff has sent a compliance letter.
 - 321 N. 5th St. – The lower portion of the front façade was painted in violation and remains painted. Staff will investigate whether or not they are in compliance with Res. No. 09-18.

- 817 N. 4th St. – Several proposed alterations have not been completed according to HARB Resolution 08-18. In March 2021, Staff worked with a local roofing contractor and the representative of the owner to make sure they are compliant with Res. No. 08-18 regarding the restoration of wood trim and roofing and the work will be approved at Staff level. As of April 2021 Staff continues to work with a representative of the owner regarding other outstanding issues that will be presented to the Board at a later date.
- 647 Bingaman St. – Staff is to investigate the installation of the first floor front window.
- 513 S. 5th St. – Front entrance door was not replaced as per the resolution (elective work) and was painted in a color that was not approved. Staff is to investigate.
- 55 S. 6th St. – Third floor windows installed in violation remain on the building and installed signage has not been completed according to HARB Resolution No. 39-18. As of April 2021 the building has a new owner. The signage has been removed and the two third floor windows that are in violation will be replaced with two double hung wood windows to match the original windows. Work has been approved at Staff level as noted on the April 2021 HARB agenda.
- 1164 Perkiomen Ave. – The paint color scheme denied by the HARB in HARB Res. No. 14-19 remains at the first floor storefront. Staff is working with the owner and tenant to determine appropriate paint colors for the building and new paint color samples have been submitted.
- 1334 Good St. – All of the work has not been completed as per Resolution No. 29-19. The owner was to return with a request for Financial Hardship for various items that are in violation. Staff is to send a compliance letter.
- 354 Penn St. – Approved signage was installed as per HARB Resolution No. 38-19 however additional signage may have been installed on the eastern façade. Staff made a site visit in May 2020 and found additional signage had been installed on the eastern façade that was not approved by the HARB. Staff is to contact the business owner.
- 1049 N. 5th St. – The entrance door installed in violation has been replaced with historically appropriate double entrance doors as per HARB Resolution No. 32-19. Painting of the doors requires review. The railing at the first floor front porch installed in violation remains in violation. Staff is to send a compliance letter.

- 331 Greenwich St. – Staff met with the owner on 4/6/21 to discuss proposed work to a rear porch and determined that HARB Res. No. 51-19 has not been complied with – the tile installed on the first floor front porch has not been removed. The owner informed Staff that due to COVID, they do not have the funds to bring the porch into compliance but are working on rectifying the issue.
- 146 S. 5th St. – The review of the front entrance steps was tabled (HARB Res. No. 58-19) but the applicant has not proceeded with researching the appropriate material for the partially completed entrance steps. Staff is to reach out to the applicant.

- Staff reported on the October 2020 HARB Resolutions at the March 2021 meeting. November 2020 HARB resolutions will be distributed to HARB members at the April 2021 HARB meeting.
- Education and Outreach Committee Report.
- Policy Committee Report.
- Preservation Commendations.

9:00 p.m.

Adjournment

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