

# NASHUA HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Monday, 25 June 2007, 6:30 p.m. - Room 208, City Hall

## *Members:*

Roberta Woitkowski, Chair  
Michael Findley  
Frank Mellen  
Bill Slivinski

## *Also present:*

Carter Falk, Planning Department

*8-12 Franklin Street – Sheet 78, Lots 38 and 39, Property Account #7314 – D-1/MU Zone – Grace Fellowship of Nashua, Inc. (owner) – Requesting approval to install a 9' x 48' open deck on the southern (riverside) part of the building for outdoor seating*

*Jill Gosselin, Grace Fellowship Church*

*Main Street at the Riverwalk adjacent to 48 Main Street – Requesting approval to install a kinetic art wind sculpture for the boardwalk – D-1/MU Zone*

*Kathy Hersh, Community Development Division Director*

## **Minutes**

With a motion by Mr. Slivinski and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Findley, the 21 May 2007 minutes were approved unanimously.

## **8-12 Franklin Street – Grace Fellowship**

The church would like to install a 9' x 48' open deck ramp on the southern (riverside) part of Bonhoeffer's Café for outdoor seating. A picture of the proposed plan was presented. The black steel railing would mimic the railing that Peddler's Daughter (48 Main Street) has on their building. Pictures of the Peddler's Daughter railing and table and deck area were submitted. Flower hangers would also be included for the café. Lighting would come from the existing light. The deck and stairway would be made of composite material. Main access to the deck would be through the café. The members brought up the issue of the closeness of the railroad tracks and safety. Ms. Gosselin said only one train comes by daily and it runs very slow. The stairs would be used as an egress and eventually connect with the proposed Riverwalk. Mr. Slivinski recommended one of the stairways be eliminated, but as further discussion evolved, the members felt it appropriate to only rope off the stairway to discourage people from coming onto the deck. No signs would be added to the backside of the building.

*With Mr. Slivinski making the motion and Mr. Mellen seconding, the members unanimously approved the plan as represented. Note: Mr. Sampson reviewed the above application and told Mr. Falk he had no objection to the project.*

The café has been open for business for about one month. Food will be prepared at the church next door as they do not have a food preparation license for the café. The catalog page for the 'N3' black anodized finish steel door with a side light was submitted. Pictures were presented of the handicap area and the sidewalk on the front of the building. Pastor Berube wants to modify the plan for the door which would eliminate the need for the black iron fence. The door into the café would remain in the same place as presented at the last meeting, but an additional outside door would be at the end of the ramp. As you are facing the ramp from the street, you would now go into the new outside door. After you entered that door, you would then turn right into the new café door, or left to the church door. Both the café and church door areas would now be protected from the weather. Brick would surround the new door opening and blend in with the

existing brick and the door would match the existing door in that area. The side of the ramp would be covered with black metal. The shed would still be demolished and the dumpster eliminated. The existing halogen light near the proposed ramp will remain and not be replaced with a gooseneck light.

*The members liked the changes to the door area and the ramp change. Mr. Findley reminded Ms. Gosselin to let them know he still needs more detail on the plans. With Mr. Slivinski making the motion and Mr. Mellen seconding, the members approved the information supporting the information submitted at last month's May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting and the revisions included tonight.*

### **Main Street at the Riverwalk adjacent to 48 Main Street**

The City of Nashua would like to install a kinetic art wind piece on the triangle area at southern part of the boardwalk next to the Main Street sidewalk. It has been part of the site plan for the boardwalk. The sculpture, which would be made by Whitaker Studio in New Mexico, is called double helix horizontal. Mrs. Hersh submitted a brochure from the Studio. This copper sculpture met the criteria in the RFQ with its overall height of 21'4". It would be on a steel pole, with the bottom of the sculpture at 11'8" from the ground. Normally the sculpture would have a steel spike that is imbedded into concrete to give it stability. Since the piece would be over the river, DPW will help design something to hold the piece and it may go into the concrete bridge abutment. Mrs. Hersh said the intent is not to have a lot of this type of sculpture and thought they should be unique.

Ms. Woitkowski asked about a sign for the Riverwalk. Ms. Hersh said that each part of the walk connects to other parts. She didn't necessarily think of signage specifically for the Riverwalk, but for all of the pedestrian ways, the river, the neighborhoods and downtown.

The members really do not have jurisdiction over the sculpture, but planning staff felt they should have the HDC's blessing. Mr. Slivinski felt it would make the statement of where the Riverwalk is located. From a historical point of view, he would prefer to have the entire walkway part of Nashua's history. Other cities have historical photographs along the areas. Mrs. Hersh said the city has a number of historic artifacts that may be put in different places downtown. Mr. Falk said a lot of cities have public art and items from that city's past which present uniqueness to that city. He cited Chicago as an example. Mrs. Hersh said the proposed Rotary Common Park on Main Street next to Salmon Brook will be the city's first historic park.

The members felt the sculpture has a lightweight appearance and the copper would blend with a number of different items in the HD/downtown area. Mr. Findley felt it was whimsical and similar to a flag pole. Mrs. Hersh felt it was important to get people beyond (north of) the river.

*With Mr. Findley making the motion and Mr. Mellen seconding, the members unanimously approved the plan as presented. Note: Mr. Sampson reviewed the above application and told Mr. Falk he had no objection to the project.*

### **Miscellaneous**

Currently Renee Reder, an intern for the Community Development Division, has been working on relocating the old city bell onto Main Street. She is also working on a façade program of what downtown buildings could look like. Ms. Reder will come to the next HDC to discuss these items.

The members and Mrs. Hersh discussed about extending the HD and what the HDC can do to stop the possibility of people demolishing existing HD buildings.

The meeting ended at 8:25 p.m.