



# EAST PROVIDENCE WATERFRONT SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT COMMISSION

## Design Review Committee (DRC) Public Workshop Minutes- May 30, 2013

*DRC* John Gregory, DRC Chairman  
*Members:* John Pesce  
Jeanne Boyle, Executive Director

*Consultants:* Glen Fontecchio, Architect

*Staff:* Roberta Groch, AICP- Planner

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Chairman Gregory called the workshop to order at 5:37PM.

### 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

VOTE: A motion was made to approve the minutes May 7, 2013 DRC hearing: the motion was seconded and was approved unanimously, without discussion.

### 2. New Business-

#### A. DRC public hearing- Cory Brailsford/Comedy Connection (39 Warren Ave): pole sign request

Mr. Cory Brailsford, representing the Comedy Connection and Mr. Raymond Messore, a sign manufacturer, gave a brief presentation to the Committee. Mr. Brailsford stated that the current sign on the building is not visible due to a large street tree in the park area across the street and two trees in the front of the building. The existing sign is also not visible from the highway. He does not want to further prune the trees (they have already been extensively pruned to allow for the power lines).

He is proposing a pole sign that is 35' to the top of the sign and would be located in a parking space to the west side of the building. It would be on a 6' x 6' concrete pad located approximately nine to ten feet from the side of the building, in an existing parking space. The building is approximately 20' tall. He would remove the existing sign on top of the building, which is non-functional. The sign would be rectangular and internally lit and would not be visible from the surrounding homes. Pole signs are not allowed in the Waterfront District. He wants the sign to be attractive.

Mr. Fontecchio stated that an externally lit sign would be preferable: a sign made of steel with the letter cut out would look more attractive. The lights would be more traditional, like the lights that are currently in use on the front of the building, which are like barn lights. A more traditional sign would be more in keeping with the style and history of the building, which is a former bank. Mr. Pesce suggested a sign in the style of the Rumford Center sign. A small tree planted at the base of the tree would mask the pole, something like a crabapple tree that would grow 10'-15' tall.

Mr. Brailsford and Mr. Messore will send several draft designs to Mr. Fontecchio before the DRC public hearing for his comments. The DRC agreed that they had consensus for a pole sign

for the Comedy Connection. Ms. Boyle suggested the City's 2+2 business façade program and the Waterfront Commission's SBA Green Loan program for funding the sign: a solar-powered sign would cost more upfront but would save money in the long run. Ms. Boyle encouraged Mr. Brailsford to further investigate this option.

There were no members of the public present.

VOTE: A motion was made to end the DRC workshop: the motion was seconded and unanimously approved, without discussion. The workshop was adjourned at 6:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

JEANNE M. BOYLE  
*Executive Director*

JMB/RG