

**BELLE PLAINE DESIGN COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 2, 2020**

1. CALL TO ORDER. 1.1. Roll Call.

The Belle Plaine Design Committee conducted a Regular Meeting on Monday, November 2, 2020 at City Hall, 218 North Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, Minnesota. Chair Rick Krant called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM with Commissioners Benjamin Ogata, Hope Lawler and Linda Lawler present. Commissioner Jacky Oldenburg was not present.

Also present were Councilmember Renee LeMieux and Community Development Director Smith Strack.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

MOTION by Commissioner L. Lawler, second by Commissioner Ogata, to approve the agenda as presented. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. 3.1. Regular Session Minutes of September 8, 2020.

MOTION by Commissioner LeMieux, second by Commissioner L. Lawler, to approve the Regular Session Minutes of September 8, 2020. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

4. BUSINESS.

4.1. Signage: 109 Meridian Street North – Belle Plaine Tobacco

Community Development Director Smith Strack explained Yasser Qannita, Owner of Belle Plainie Tobacco requests consideration of a proposed sign at 109 Meridian Street North. Smith Strack explained Qannita is the lessee of the north portion of the subject building, noting property owner Tom Meger has verified he is aware of the proposed sign. Smith Strack presented a brief slideshow to review the proposed two tier wall sign with channel letters and the Design Manual standards. Smith Strack noted staff recommends internally lit channel letters on raceway be discouraged per the Design Manual. Smith Strack explained the applicant was notified of the staff's recommendation not to approve the sign as submitted.

Commissioner L. Lawler noted the sign does not look centered to the opening. Community Development Director Smith Strack explained the applicant's intent is to center the sign and noted the quality of the submittal is difficult to visualize the center. Lawler explained the sign is contemporary compared to the surrounding buildings and opined the proposed sign does not fit.

Council Liaison LeMieux inquired if the bank has an internally lit sign. Community Development Director Smith Strack confirmed and explained it was allowed because on the fringed on the downtown. Smith Strack explained the Design Manual is not a law but rather a recommendation. LeMieux noted the proposed sign would look nice on a strip mall but not in the downtown area.

Commissioner Krant noted he was not in favor of the sign and questioned if a precedent was set on the Remax sign. Commissioner L. Lawler explained the sign on the ReMax building was a replacement signage.

Council Liaison LeMieux inquired if any other samples of colors or fonts were submitted and noted potentially the sign would be more appealing if adjusted. Community Development Director Smith Strack explained each sign is the decision of the applicant and noted the signage is for only half of the building and the other half would need to be similar in design.

Commissioner H. Lawler explained in her opinion the sign would stand out and due to it being a two tenant building it will stick out.

MOTION by Commissioner Ogata, second by Commissioner L. Lawler to deny Belle Plaine Tobacco's signage request. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Community Development Director Smith Strack requested clarification for staff to bring back to the applicant.

It was the consensus of the committee for the applicant to review other signs within the downtown and use as a template for new sign along with reviewing the Design Manual for reference.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

5.1. Commissioner Comments.

No comments were made.

5.2. Upcoming Meetings.

1. Next Regular Meeting: As Needed.

Commissioners were reminded of the next meeting if required.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION by Commissioner LeMieux, second by Commissioner L. Lawler, to adjourn the meeting at 5:41 PM. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Eyrich
Recording Secretary