

## **BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW MINUTES**

The Board of Architectural Review held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, November 15, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at Rouss City Hall, 15 North Cameron Street.

### **POINTS OF ORDER**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Tom Rockwood, Tim Bandyke, Don Crigler, Patricia Jackson, Kevin Walker, Bob Pinner.

**ABSENT:** Peter Serafin.

**STAFF:** Aaron Grisdale and Irene Terrill

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Minutes from November 1, 2012  
First motion Mr. Crigler; second Mr. Bandyke,  
Motion passed by voice vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **2. Public Hearing**

#### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **4. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **5. OTHER DISCUSSION**

Conceptual discussion – Discovery Museum

Mr. Chuck Swartz stated that the old Schewel's furniture building was constructed in 1940. He said the goal is to make the Discovery Museum an exciting place for kids to visit.

Mr. Swartz stated they want to modify the front façade, and also put live trees and other plants on the roof to create a park-like setting which children can enjoy. He explained that they are exploring the possibility of putting a stronger roof on the structure and considering those price comparisons. For that reason, on the elevation drawings everything at the roof level is shown as dashed lines, to be determined later.

He stated the structure has four floors, has a shared driveway and there are several parking spaces. He stated the front windows on the second level will provide a street view of children inside enjoying the Discovery Museum. The sides of the structure have steel sash windows, and the parking near the back is at a higher level than the first level main entrance at the front of the building due to the slope.

The first level space will be designated for temporary exhibits. A replica of the actual-size skeleton of a Triceratops dinosaur will be brought in. Mr. Swartz said that due to the fact that buses and trucks cannot move along Indian Alley or Clifford Street, anything which needs to be unloaded for the museum could be brought in from Cork Street. Mr. Swartz stated that the front will be modified so that the main entrance will be nearer to Sweet Caroline's, the adjacent business. He stated there will be big doors, comparing them to those of a fire hall, which can be raised and lowered for the entry and removal of large exhibit pieces. Those doors would be rarely used, and would typically remain closed.

Mr. Swartz stated the sides of the building would get very little renovation. The steel-sash windows will be cleaned and painted, and the exterior walls will display casually located art work.

Mr. Swartz stated there will be an elevator for access to the roof, the existing staircase will have another level above added to it, and a second staircase will be added. A small structure on the roof will be built to provide shade for special events. The green areas on the roof can be used for "story time" for the children and other events.

The freight elevator adjoining the alley will still be used by the museum. The old steel fire escape will be removed to eliminate any danger of it falling. A new fire escape will be added, and the building will have a new sprinkler system installed.

Mr. Swartz stated it is their intention to leave all the existing doors in place.

Mr. Swartz described the signage planned for the exterior. A sign identifying the Discovery Museum will be hanging on the Cork Street side of the building. He described other proposed signage, such as temporary signs for changing exhibits and a temporary banner on the building exterior.

Mr. Swartz pointed out that the BAR has no existing standards on public art. He explained that it is the intent of the Discovery Museum applicants to have no controversial or permanent public art sign displays. The public art signs will be 3' X 3' cement board and painted a solid background color by the contractor. Then the boards will be creatively painted by the children. Finally, the art boards will be temporarily mounted on the building by aluminum channels which are permanently attached to the building's exterior. The stated purpose of the public art signs is to show what events are going on inside the museum. Mr. Swartz presented this as a flexible plan that he favors instead of having a very large mural painted by an environmental artist which would be expensive. He stated that type of project would be difficult to control.

Chairman Rockwood and Mr. Swartz discussed how the public art boards would be arranged on the wall, whether they should be randomly located or have a more organized design scheme. Mr. Swartz maintained that the arrangement is a subjective choice which is not yet defined, and that he believes the background color scheme of all the painted boards will create the design cohesiveness that Chairman Rockwood wants to see.

Mr. Bandyke stated his concern that if the Discovery Museum is permitted to have public art mounted on the exterior building, that will set a precedent which could potentially bring applications from other property owners also seeking mounted public art displays. Mr. Swartz stated that the approval process remains under the control of the BAR. Mr. Swartz also stated that the public art displays which the Discovery Museum plans to have are temporary and removable. He proposed that only four art boards could be mounted initially so that there would be opportunity to review how it looks before all of them are mounted.

Mr. Swartz described how the Discovery Museum logo would be applied to the front glass window so that children could have their photos taken near it whether inside or outside the building.

Mr. Swartz stated that at the bottom of the elevator and stairwell located on the south side of the building, an exit is planned so that visitors can either exit the building to the outside, or the visitors can return to the inside exhibits by leaving the elevator/stairs in the opposite direction to access the inside of the building.

Mr. Swartz stated that on the roof, a semi-solid wall of square-mesh wire would line the perimeter of the roof-line at a height which would protect visitors from accidental fall. He stated the wire mesh would not look like chain link, but instead would have a more sophisticated or attractive appearance.

Mr. Swartz explained that certain sections of that wall would be solid where small events, such as music performances, would not require visibility through the wall. The solid wall panel would serve as a backdrop for the musicians. He stated that a completely solid wall system would be too expensive. Having certain sections where visitors could see through the wire mesh would also allow visitors to enjoy the view of the City from the rooftop. The wall would not require cleaning as a glass wall might, and children would not be able to throw objects through it.

Ms. Jackson asked about water drainage from the roof. Mr. Swartz stated that the new roof would be constructed as a complete system by the contractor, and the design would provide for appropriate drainage.

Mr. Swartz stated that more complete elevation plans with action items will be brought to the BAR as plans progress. Mr. Bandyke commented that he has seen similar projects in Asheville, North Carolina where warehouses have artistic signage on both sides of the building. Mr. Gridale stated that this type of project proposal needs some decisions from the BAR. Mr. Gridale stated that some distinctions would be needed in the ordinances to differentiate between advertising signage and artistic signage and other possible clarifications.

4:54:30 Mr. Crigler made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. Chairman Rockwood adjourned the meeting.

## **6. ADJOURN**

**\*\*\*APPLICANT OR REPRESENTATIVE MUST BE PRESENT  
AT THE MEETING**