

**Design Review Committee**  
**June 14, 2010**  
**Meeting Record**

**Members Present**

Susan Berry, Committee Member  
David Lawrence, Committee Member  
Becky Smith, Chair  
Peter Russell, Acting, Secretary

**Members of the public present**

Nancy Cliff  
Kathy Anderson  
Harry Browne, Applicant  
Rick Van Ness, Applicant

**Members Absent**

Luan Mitchell, Secretary

Becky Smith called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

**New Business**

The first item was an Application for a Certificate of Compliance for the installation of a canvas awning in front of an art studio at 110 W. Yankie Street. The applicant is Rick Van Ness. Mr. Van Ness explained that he wanted to shade the front of the studio for temperature control. Susan Berry moved to approve the Certificate of Compliance, David Lawrence seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The next item was an application for a Certificate of Compliance for a six-foot garden wall at 210 N. Cooper Street. The applicants are Harry Browne and Chris Jepson. Mr. Brown explained that they wanted to construct a wall on the west side of the property to enhance privacy, provide shade, and reduce noise. A stem wall one foot high is to be constructed using blocks of concrete rubble stacked in a flat manner with a smooth street side face, and a stuccoed wall of bottles and mortar five feet high is to be constructed on top of the stem wall. The wall will include some coves to accommodate plantings. Mr. Russell asked if the project were to be phased, and if so whether the work could be stuccoed as it progressed rather than waiting until the bottle wall was complete. Mr. Browne responded that a scratch stucco coat could in fact be applied as the project progressed and a final color coat when the project was complete. David Lawrence moved to approve a Certificate of Compliance with the condition that the scratch stucco coat be applied as the wall project progressed in phases. Susan Berry seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Community/Public Input**

Susan Berry asked to move the Community/Public Input item ahead of approval of the minutes to accommodate the interests of the public in attendance. The Committee concurred.

Nancy Cliff and Kathy Anderson addressed the committee on the topic of billboards in general and in two specific instances. Ms. Cliff raised the issue of the billboard immediately south of College Street and immediately west of Texas Street, noting Section 151.051E(9) that limits signs in the Silver City Historic District to 40 sq. ft. She also noted that the sunset period for pre-existing (and now non-conforming) billboards had expired, and suggested that the sign could be

removed. Ms. Anderson also addressed the committee on the subject of billboards in general and the billboard at the southwest corner of the intersection of Hwy180 and 14<sup>th</sup> Street. She noted that Silver City had recently been named by the Governor of New Mexico as one of two communities in the state as a pilot project for developing eco-tourism and economic development strategies and that the continued presence of non-conforming billboards undercut the initiative, and suggested that the sign could be removed.

Both Ms. Cliff and Ms. Anderson noted additional Town planning initiatives (including the Downtown Action Plan and the Arts and Culture District Designation) that might support the elimination of billboards as authorized by the sunset clause in the Land Use Code.

There was some discussion about state statutes on the issue of billboards and possible compensation issues triggered by the sunset clause, as well as on the issue of lease agreements issued by the New Mexico Department of Transportation for the use of state right-of-way.

Mr. Russell suggested that these kind of policy issues could best be addressed by the Town Council, and that the Council was meeting on June 30 from 9 am to 11 am to begin a series of workshops on the topic of amendments to the Land Use Code. He suggested that they attend that meeting to make their issues known to the council.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Susan Berry moved that the minutes be adopted. David Lawrence seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion**

Becky Smith asked if regularly scheduled meetings of the Design Review Committee could be moved to Wednesdays, beginning with the meeting after the next. Becky Smith asked that the applications be scanned and forwarded to committee members before meetings. There was a general discussion of finding a new person to fill the committee seat set aside for an architect and the possibility of Susan Berry continuing in her committee seat after her retirement from the Town.

### **Adjournment**

Susan Berry moved to adjourn. David Lawrence seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Peter Russell, Acting Secretary

-Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_