

BEAUFORT COUNTY
DESIGN REVIEW BOARD (DRB) MINUTES
May 6, 2021, Grace Coastal Church, 15 Williams Drive, Okatie, SC

Members Present: James Atkins, J. Michael Brock, Sallie Brach, Peter Brower, Brad Hill, and Roger Jadown

Members Absent: Donald L. Starkey

Staff Present: Nancy Moss, Beaufort County Community Development Department

Guests: Raven Migliaccio (via telephone conference), Bed Bath & Beyond; Michael Johnson, SHAH Architecture; and, Judd Carstens, Witmer, Jones Keefer.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Atkins called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.
2. **FOIA:** Chairman Atkins said that “public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act”.
3. **MINUTES:** Chairman Atkins asked if there were comments on the February 4, 2021 minutes. Mr. Brock motioned to approve the meeting minutes and Mrs. Brock seconded to approve. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** There was no public comment.
5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Bed Bath & Beyond Exterior Painting Project – Final:

Ms. Moss gave the project background. Mr. Atkins asked for public comment, but no comments were made. Raven Migliaccio, the Developer for the project, made the presentation. She stated that the Staff Report summarized the work to be done but that the work would also include removing the signage letters, painting the return edges black and reinstalling the signage letters.

Mrs. Brach stated that she appreciated the before and after images of the building.

Mr. Hill had no comments.

Mr. Brower had no comments other than to say that he liked the changes.

Mr. Brock, Mr. Jadown and Mr. Atkins had no comments.

Mr. Brock made a motion to approve the project as submitted. Mr. Brower seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Atkins read the standard final condition for the Bed Bath & Beyond Exterior Painting project and stated “the structure must be painted according to the plans reviewed and approved by the DRB. The material and color board reviewed and approved by the DRB must be adhered to during

construction. Any changes to the approved plans or submittals must be requested for and submitted to the DRB for formal approval before changes are made”.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Carolina Volvo Facade Improvements - Bluffton – Final:

Ms. Moss gave the project background. Mr. Atkins asked for public comment, but no comments were made. Michael Johnson, the project Architect, made the presentation for the project. He stated that they could provide the Board with rendered views and requested that the 3D views be placed on the screen. Mr. Johnson described where the improvements would be done and focused primarily on the west end at the new parapet wall. He stated that the new stucco wall would be painted white, and the remainder of the building would be painted gray. Mr. Johnson pointed out where the wall mounted trellises would be placed around the building and that the green screens would infill the recessed areas and were a painted coated metal. He stated that the Volvo Corporate design for the parapet wall had a “Volvo” portal which would be finished with Swedish oak wood and that there was a second portal at the front main entry door and that the storefronts would be new at the new entry portals. Mr. Johnson said that the signage was being applied for separately by Corporate and that they would seek a variance.

Mrs. Brach reserved making comments until later in the meeting.

Mr. Brower stated that the additions to the building were good improvements and asked if the big, blue square would be part of the DRB approval. Mr. Johnson said that Corporate is proposing a large rectangular sign with a blue background with letters applied to it and they were not proposing to paint the wall blue as was proposed at conceptual. Mr. Brower said that he would like to see the signage renderings.

Mr. Hill asked where the wood entry portals were located. Michael Johnson pointed them out on the 3D drawings and said that the wood would be on the interior of the portal and 8” on the exterior.

Mr. Jadown asked how the drainage from the existing canopy would be directed to when it meets the new parapet wall. Mr. Johnson stated that internal gutters were being proposed at this connection.

Mr. Brock asked if the wood on the portal was real. Mr. Johnson stated that the product was a purchased veneered wood on a composite panel. Mr. Brock said that the previous blue color proposed on the facade looked like a cobalt blue and too “Franchised” and stated that the Board would like to review the blue color on the sign panel. Mr. Johnson said that the previous submittal proposed blue color stucco but that this submittal only includes white stucco on the parapet wall. He said that Volvo wants to produce a rectangular sign, larger than allowed by right, so that is why they are seeking a variance.

Mrs. Brach said that she would like to see rendered views of the building.

Mr. Atkins said that the current condition of the Volvo building was a tired looking building, and it had a fairly thick buffer and questioned the design approach on the middle and left end of the building because it hardly gets noticed from Highway 278. Mr. Johnson said that they were

squaring up the new parapet wall with the building and building up the column structures. Mr. Atkins asked why the entry portal was on the east end of the parapet wall. Mr. Johnson stated that Volvo has a simple prototype design and Corporate originally wanted the canopy removed and have the parapet wall built across, but based upon the weather conditions in Beaufort County, the owner wanted the canopy to remain to protect his customers. Mr. Atkins stated that there was some odd siting of the building, that he liked the parapet wall, but needed more clarity on the left side of the parapet wall where it turns and cuts off.

Mr. Brower said that the parapet wall looks awkward with the abrupt stop and stated he would have no problem with a full stucco wall on the left side.

Mr. Atkins stated that he struggled with the way the parapet wall returns and would like to see the awkward angle disappear and have the new wall line up with the front facade.

Mr. Brock asked whether the portal entry and white stucco wall could be extended around the left side of the canopy. Mr. Johnson stated that would not be approved by Corporate.

Mr. Atkins requested that staff pursue conditional approval for the sign application because the Board likes the stucco parapet wall.

Mr. Atkins made a motion to issue conditional approval, to have this project come back to the DRB for formal approval and address the following conditions:

- Provide additional renderings in color.
- Explore the extension of the parapet wall on the west side of the canopy for an integrated approach to the architecture.
- Effort made to consider removing the diagonal canopy to get an architectural height & style of wall that is acceptable.

Mr. Brower asked that the following be added to the motion:

- Re-look at the height of the parapet wall in relationship to the rest of the building.

Mr. Jadown asked if the top of the parapet wall was higher than the gable ridge. Mr. Johnson said that the wall was higher because Volvo has specific design proportions that had to be incorporated in the new design.

Mr. Atkins amended his motion to include Mr. Brower's comment.

Mr. Brower seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 7. OTHER BUSINESS:** Mr. Atkins stated that the next scheduled meeting – 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 3, 2021 at Grace Coastal Church, 15 Williams Drive, Okatie, SC 29909

Informal Discussion - KIA of Hilton Head Exterior Color Change:

Ms. Moss requested direction from the Board about how best to review a proposed color change at various locations around the exterior of the building. The Board issued conditional final approval on February 4, 2021 with the building having a white stucco facade above the water table. Slides were presented to the Board showing the approved renderings next to sketches of the proposed change showing the areas where the dark gray color stucco would be applied in place of the white color. The Board liked the gray color and asked that the applicant submit finalized renderings along with the other revised drawings for final approval.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:** Mrs. Brock made a motion to close the meeting and Mr. Brower seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.