

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 5, 2023**

**ATTENDANCE:** Guy Horvath, Chairman; Kristen Alvanson; Susan Tabachnick; Rachel Rockwell; Stuart Sachs

**OTHER:** Reverend Sara Smith; Nicholas Sampieri, Zoning Staff

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Horvath called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M. There was a quorum present.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

There was no Public Hearing at this time.

**DEFERRED BUSINESS**

There was no Deferred Business at this time.

**CONTINUED BUSINESS**

There was no Continued Business at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**APPLICATION #2023-13**

**OF GODWIN CHOW TO ERECT A PLASTIC VINYL FENCE IN THE FRONT YARD, REPLACE MOLDING ON FRONT OF HOUSE AND REPLACE 2ND FLOOR FRONT DOOR AT THE HOUSE OF 2450 NORTH AVENUE.**

This item was not discussed at this time.

**APPLICATION #2023-14**

**OF NORMA DUARTE TO REPLACE THE SIDING AND REPAIR THE FRONT DECK AT THE HOUSE OF 461 LAUREL AVENUE.**

This item was not discussed at this time.

**APPLICATION #2023-15**

**OF UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BRIDGEPORT TO ERECT A NEW WALL SIGN AND GROUND SIGN FOR THE CHURCH LOCATED AT 2200 NORTH AVENUE.**

Rev. Smith came forward to discuss this item. She reviewed the history of the congregation and their ownership of the property for those present. She reviewed the improvements and repairs they have done on the building. She recounted their prior interaction with the Commission to take down a gate.

Rev. Smith said that they needed some signage in order to inform people that they were there. She reviewed the details of the sign that they were proposing including the following details:

- Reverse LED channel letters.
- The address will be included on the sign.
- Names of the church, center, and tenants will be included.
- Current proposed design and materials.
- The height of the sign is 9.76 feet and is within the parameters of the Zoning Board of Requirements.

Further discussion followed regarding the details of the sign. Ms. Rockwell asked if the backlit cross had gone through the commission before and raised questions about the masonry. Ms. Tabachnick said that the cross didn't require a permit because it was a church. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the details of the building and sign. It was suggested that they go back to do another mock-up for future presentation.

No one wished to speak in favor of this application.

No one wished to speak in opposition to this application.

#### **TABLED BUSINESS**

There was no Tabled Business at this time.

#### **DECISION SESSION**

##### **#2023-13**

There was no decision made at this time.

##### **#2023-14**

There was no decision made at this time.

##### **#2023-15**

Mr. Sachs suggested that they continue the item and provide a sketch depicting what they desired to endorse. Chairman Horvath said he desired to walk the site before approving anything. Further discussion followed regarding the details of the proposed sign and their viability. Ms. Rockwell described her desires for what the sign should have for those present including that it should be clean and simple. Further discussion followed regarding the illumination options for the sign. The question of if Commissioners could interact prior to meetings or not was raised. Mr. Sachs said that the prohibition on

talking with applicants started the day they filed the application. Further discussion followed. The possibility of sending in a concept sketch was raised. Chairman Horvath suggested that they deny without prejudice to allow for changes.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER SACHS MOVED TO DENY APPLICATION #2023-15 WITHOUT PREJUDICE.  
\*\* COMMISSIONER ROCKWELL SECONDED THE MOTION.**

*Commissioner Tabachnick recused herself at 7:26 P.M.*

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Commissioner Tabachnick returned to the meeting at 7:27 P.M.*

Further discussion followed regarding the proposed sketch for the sign and how to create it.

### **MINUTES**

#### **JUNE 2023**

Chairman Horvath noted that the conditions were not listed in the decision.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER TABACHNICK MOVED TO DENY THE MINUTES.  
\*\* COMMISSIONER ROCKWELL SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Chairman Horvath said he had seen typos in the minutes. It was noted that there may be a discrepancy for item 2023-11 in who made the motion. Chairman Horvath listed further grievances with the minutes.

### **OTHER BOARD BUSINESS**

Ms. Tabachnick asked about changes that had been done on the district maps on the City website. Mr. Sampieri answered the question to her satisfaction. Ms. Tabachnick asked what would happen with the applicants who did not show up. She was informed they would remain on the agenda for now but would get an automatic denial if they did not show up.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER TABACHNICK MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.  
\*\* MR. SACHS SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*The meeting adjourned at 7:43 P.M.*