

Town of Elkton
Elkton Historic District Commission
June 28, 2023

PRESENT: Paula Newton, Chair; Christine A. Brimm Hurschman; David Beste, Esq.; Jeanne D. Minner, Director of Planning; Quinn Krenzel, Planner I

ABSENT: Mickey Thompson

Ms. Newton called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. and stated that this is a meeting of the Historic District Commission and that a quorum was present. She stated that the Commission operates under the authority granted to it by the Town of Elkton. She further stated that the qualifications of the Commission members are on file with the Town of Elkton. The basis of the decisions of the Commission to be consistent with the Town's Ordinances, they are on file with the Town of Elkton and are hereby made a part of the record of each and every action of the Commission at today's meeting. Each application heard today is considered on its own merits and is not to be considered as establishing a precedent for any other application.

Ms. Newton stated the first item on the agenda is approval of the minutes from the May 31, 2023 meeting. Ms. Newton asked if the commission had any corrections. There were none. She stated that she had a few corrections. She then called for a motion.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the minutes of May 31, 2023 subject to the noted corrections. Ms. Newton seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Newton introduced the next item on the agenda, which was the request of Mana Shi, applicant for Kyoku Teriyaki at 112 West Main Street.

Request of Mana Shi applicant for Kyoku Teriyaki at 112 West Main Street, Elkton, MD. The request includes installation of a double sided light box projection sign.

Ms. Shi introduced herself and explained what Kyoku Teriyaki is and that it is a fast casual restaurant with Japanese food and sushi. Ms. Newton asked her to explain what she was proposing. Ms. Shi changed the original plan from a lighted sign on the front façade of the building to a round projecting sign that is smaller.

Ms. Newton asked if there were any questions Ms. Hurschman had. Ms. Hurschman clarified where the sign was proposed to go and if the sign would turn off at night. Ms. Shi explained that the sign will have an automatic timer for dusk to dawn.

Ms. Newton explained that she appreciated the new sign and that it fit the Historical District's standards better than the last proposal.

Ms. Shi then explained that she talked to someone about the electric boxes that are covering a portion of the mural on the building. That person said it was safe if the artist wanted to cover the boxes to make them blend into the mural.

Ms. Hurschman brought the conversation back to the lighted sign and asked about brightness of the sign during the night. After some deliberation it was concluded that the sign should be timed to turn off within a couple hours after closing.

MOTION: Motion was made by Ms. Hurschman to approve the request of Mana Shi for the installation of a double sided light box projection sign with the condition that it is timed lighted from dusk to soon after closing and is not illuminated throughout the entire night.

Ms. Newton moved on to Old Business.

Old/New Business – Ms. Minner gave an update on Holly Hall saying that John Downs sent Mr. Cordish the contract for the agreement of sale. She said that she was sending in a grant for acquisition of the building and stabilization. Ms. Newton asked Ms. Minner if there was anything she wanted her to tell Preservation Maryland regarding the Holly Hall building. Ms. Minner said that she could tell them that it was one of the first six to fix properties and there is a glimmer of hope. Discussion ensued about possible uses for the building.

Ms. Minner moved on to talk about the possible train station that has been in discussion. She explained that she wasn't allowed to submit for a grant for it because the grant doesn't allow you to purchase land in advance and hold onto it in order not to influence the NEPA process.

Ms. Newton asked about possible uses for the Armory once the lead abatement is completed. Ms. Minner stated that Mary at Elkton Parks and Rec could use it for expanding sports teams like basketball. She also stated that it could be used for dances or something like they once had years ago.

The Semiquincentennial was brought up and meetings are beginning regarding plans for that.

MOTION: Motion was made by Ms. Hurschman to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Newton. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn Krenzel