

**Meeting Minutes
State College Borough
Design Review Board
January 7, 2020**

The State College Borough Design Review Board (DRB) met on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 in the State College Municipal Building, 243 S. Allen Street. Chairman Laird Jones called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Members Present

Laird Jones, Chairman; Richard Devon; and Eric Boeldt

Members Absent

Veronica Iacobazzo; and Michael Sanzotti, Vice-Chairman

Others Present

Greg Garthe, Senior Planner – Planning & Community Development; Alan Sam, Arborist; Isabel Storey, Planner; and Esther Matthews, Administrative Assistant

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

A motion was made by Mr. Devon and seconded by Mr. Boeldt to have the Board remain as is with Mr. Jones as Chairman and Mr. Sanzotti as Vice-Chairman. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Boeldt and seconded by Chairman Jones to approve the December 3, 2019 minutes. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Chair Report

No report was given.

Public Hour - Hearing of Citizens

No comments or concerns were offered during the public hour.

Land Development Plan(s)

None

2020 Work Program

Mr. Garthe presented the 2020 DRB work program draft and asked the DRB for any comments or revisions.

DRB comments included:

- Dr. Devon inquired if the Borough staff handles website changes and updates.
- The DRB discussed revisiting/revising the mission statement for the next meeting and requested that a discussion item be placed on the agenda.

Staff comments:

- Mr. Sam mentioned he had met with various Penn State professors about lighting studies they plan to do with their undergraduate students in the coming semesters and suggested requesting a presentation for the board later this year.

2019 Design Awards

2019 Holtzman Award Nominations

2019 Focus on Appearance Award Nomination(s)

Mr. Garthe reviewed an email from Ms. Iacobazzo with her nomination of the State College Area School District (SCASD), specifically the High School and Corl Street Elementary, for the Holtzman Award and/or the Focus on Appearance Award due to SCASD's emphasis on aesthetics.

Comments included:

- Mr. Boeldt suggested nominating the SCASD as a whole instead of individual schools from the district.
- Dr. Devon commented the elementary school was not as particularly note-worthy as the high school.
- Chairman Jones noted some of the interior features of Corl Elementary were nice.
- Mr. Boeldt suggested The Graduate (previously the Atherton Hotel) and its new mural as a nomination for either award.
- Mr. Garthe brought up a property on Robin Road which Mr. Boeldt had mentioned previously as a potential nomination and inquired which award he would like to nominate it for.
- Mr. Boeldt responded to Mr. Garthe, specifying the residential property was at 915 Robin Road and that the property owners did a really good job of incorporating historical elements to blend with the surrounding neighborhood.

- Chairman Jones moved to accept nominations over the next month, which would afford time for Board members to visit locations, walk around and talk to residents.

Official Reports and Correspondence

Borough Council (BC)

Mr. Garthe noted that the conditional use permit hearing for The Core Signature Development project that was reviewed by the DRB at the last meeting will be conducted by BC on Monday, January 13, 2020.

At this time, Chairman Jones acutely emphasized the lack of detail and information given in several preliminary plan reviews over the past year or two, especially for projects requiring and/or applying for special permits or conditions such as the conditional use permit. He continued to say this leaves the DRB as well as the public & Borough inadequate time to review the final, more detailed plans and gives up some negotiating leverage.

Planning Commission (PC)

Mr. Garthe stated that the PC would meet the following day at noon to discuss some reorganizational items and a new potential Certified Redevelopment Area, which has been tentatively called the Glennland/McAllister District.

2020 Conflict of Interest Memorandum

The DRB members received the memorandum, and there was no discussion.

Adjournment

There being no further business, at 2:31 p.m. Chairman Jones moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Boeldt.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Matthews, Administrative Assistant