

**Meeting Minutes  
State College Borough  
Design Review Board  
February 18, 2020**

The State College Borough Design Review Board (DRB) met on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 in the State College Municipal Building, 243 S. Allen Street. Chairman Laird Jones called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

Laird Jones, Chairman; Michael Sanzotti, Vice-Chairman; Eric Boeldt; Richard Devon; and Veronica Iacobazzo

**Others Present**

Greg Garthe, Senior Planner – Planning & Community Development; Alan Sam, Arborist; Isabel Storey, Planner; Joe Corvaia, Crawford Architects; Marv Bevan, Jr., the Pennsylvania State University (PSU); Mark Haefner, Stahl Sheaffer Engineering; Kurt Beamer, Leonard S. Fiore; John Sepp, PennTerra Engineering; and Esther Matthews, Administrative Assistant

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Chairman Jones and seconded by Ms. Iacobazzo to approve the February 4, 2020 minutes. Mr. Boeldt noted an editorial change in the introductory paragraph of the minutes under the subheading “Signs,” asking for the second sentence to read “The applicant requested the sign to be 28 feet above the ground due to...” to avoid misinterpretation. 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 Plans**

Final Land Development Plan - Penn State Field Hockey Stadium; UPD Zoning District; Pennsylvania State University, Owner; Stahl Sheaffer Engineering, Engineer; Crawford Architects, Architect

Mr. Corvaia's presentation included:

- They would be demolishing the existing structure to make a better, higher capacity stadium with at least 1,200 seats.
- The lower level would contain locker rooms, concessions for patrons and bathrooms.
- The upper level would consist of an open space to act as a viewing room for teams and/or spectators along with a press box which includes broadcasting camera locations and two exterior flanking patios.
- There would be accessibility throughout the stadium that fully complies with all accessibility codes.

DRB's comments:

- Dr. Devon asked if there would be anything preventing a stray ball from ending up in the front rows. Mr. Corvaia replied yes, there will be a low-lying fence about 18 – 24 inches high which should prevent most stray balls.
- Vice-Chairman Sanzotti asked when construction would begin, and Mr. Corvaia responded July 2020.
- Mr. Sam inquired about the more open landscaping plan behind the stadium, if it would be for visiting alumni to put up tents and items of that nature. Mr. Corvaia said the area would be updated because the area was highly underutilized and overgrown. As part of the new construction, they would also need to provide pedestrian and emergency vehicle access to the existing parking lot behind the Wagner Building.

### **2019 Focus on Appearance Award**

At the January 7 and February 4, 2020 meetings, the DRB members proposed the following projects as potential award nominees:

- The State College Area School District
- Mural at the Graduate Hotel

DRB's Comments:

- Dr. Devon liked the school and said the mural at the Graduate Hotel was a nice improvement, but noted he preferred the mural on the side of Webster's Bookstore Cafe.
- Mr. Boeldt suggested nominating Webster's mural.
- Ms. Iacobazzo commented she thought the school district was deserving of recognition due to the large investment the community put into it and the great job they did overall with the resources available to them.

Mr. Boeldt made a motion and was seconded by Ms. Iacobazzo to nominate the State College Area School District. The vote was unanimously in favor.

## **2020 Work Program**

### Design Review Board Mission Statement

Mr. Garthe reviewed changes made since the last meeting, including omitting the vague fourth bullet point and adding in “enhance urban landscape” to replace “enhance community.”

DRB’s Comments:

- Dr. Devon asked about the last bullet, which had to do with off-premise directional signs, stating he didn’t think of the signs they review as necessarily directional.
- Mr. Sanzotti suggested taking out “off-premise” since the signs they review are mostly on-premise. Mr. Garthe explained it is stated in the code that way.

Mr. Boeldt made a motion and was seconded by Dr. Devon to approve the Mission Statement as rewritten. The vote was unanimously approved.

## **Official Reports and Correspondence**

### Borough Council

No report given.

### Planning Commission

No report given.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chairman Jones adjourned the meeting at 2:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Matthews, Administrative Assistant