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**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN  
DESIGN REVIEW & PRESERVATION BOARD**

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**MINUTES**

*November-10-2004*

**Present**

J. BIANCO, CHAIRMAN  
P. EVANS  
B. SHOEMAKER  
J. FORTUNA  
N. STAMLER  
J. FRAZER  
B. KRONENBERGER

**Absent**

B. PLUMLEY  
D. BROWN

**Also Present**

M. WACKERS  
P. PROKOP  
T. GOMES

The meeting commenced at 5:30 PM.

J. Bianco moved the review of minutes until the regularly scheduled Design Review and Preservation Board meeting.

First, Jeremy Waycott presented the new signage for Bank of America who had acquired the First Union Bank locations in Middletown. The existing signs would be refaced. There would be no increase in the square footage of signage at any of the locations. The Dekoven Drive location has a freestanding sign where the support would need to be replaced, since this is being done, the sign would lose its grandfather status of being above 10 feet. The presenter agreed to lowering that sign to a height of 10 feet. P. Evans moved to approve the proposal so long as they met with the zoning regulations. B. Shoemaker seconded and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

Second, Toyota presented their proposed new signage project for their location on Newfield Street. The Toyota representative proposed new freestanding signage along Newfield Street and a new sign on the building advertising the Scion brand. The freestanding sign proposed was 24 feet high. B. Shoemaker commented on how large the freestanding sign even though it was an improvement over the existing one. P. Evans commented that the Scion sign on the building conflicted with the existing signage on the building and ways to make them more compatible need to be investigated. J. Bianco commented that there was not a good feeling about how this proposal looks all together, since only drawing of each separate sign has been presented. The Board determined that more information was required and the proposal was tabled until a completed proposal was submitted.

Third, Marshall's presented their freestanding signage proposal for Marshall's new location at 400 East Main Street. J. Bianco commented that the Board would favor an externally illuminated or stencil cut sign. B. Shoemaker moved to approve the proposal as presented and that it not be internally illuminated. P. Evans seconded and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

Fourth, Fiore's Restaurant presented their new façade renovation and signage project for their Main Street location. The proposed project would reskin the façade with irregular fieldstones and install goose-neck lighting and a cut out metal sign. The Board determined that more information was required and the proposal was tabled until a completed proposal was submitted.

Fifth, Michael Oliveras presented the new façade renovation and signage project for Middletown Framing that was moving into 500 Main Street. The façade would become black with a gold colored canvas and goldleaf molding and lettering. B. Kronenberger moved to approve as submitted. B. Shoemaker seconded and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

Sixth, Star A-1 Family Restaurant presented their new signage proposal for their 324 Main Street location. The owner presented a internally illuminated sign box. The Board determined that more information was required and the proposal was tabled until a completed proposal was submitted.

Fifth, Alan Rubacha from Wesleyan University presented the final changes to the new University Center. Alan Rubacha presented various views of the building that the Board had requested and presented samples of the materials to be used. One change since the previous presentation has been the removal of the stepping window where a stairwell was on the south side of the building. P. Evans moved to accept all the materials as presented. B. Shoemaker seconded and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

Sixth, Alan Rubacha from Wesleyan University presented the proposed new Teaching Museum. The Squash Courts building needs a useful purpose and one idea is to create a museum to house Wesleyan's vast collection of art and material culture that currently have no home. The concept of the new museum will provide students the opportunities to learn from original objects. The museum will provide a unique combination of state-of-the-art study classrooms, open storage of selected objects, closed storage, and exhibition spaces for in-house and traveling exhibits. Laboratories, a print reference library, and rooms for personal and group study of the collections are interspersed among the public spaces of the museum. Glimpses into these traditionally back-of-house spaces will provide visitors with a greater sense of both the aesthetic merit and scholarly investigation of the collections. The project will maintain the McKim mead and White brick façade on College Row, while completely transforming the west elevation. Currently, the west wall of the Squash Courts Building is also the east wall of the Cage. When the Cage is demolished for construction of the University Center, this wall will remain. When construction begins on the teaching Museum, the wall and existing interior structure of the Squash Courts Building will be demolished. A new structure will be within the three remaining walls and project above an open portico towards the new campus walkway. The façade of the addition will be clad in translucent glass and stainless steel, which will contrast, enhance, and subtly reflect the surrounding masonry buildings. This will be the major entrance to the building and will transform the Squash Courts building into the new Wesleyan Teaching Museum. Daylight will filter through the new roof monitors and the west façade will provide a lively connection to the outside. P. Evans moved to conceptually approve proposed project, but a study of the relationship between the new and old roof and the monitors should be conducted. B. Shoemaker seconded and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michiel Wackers, Community Development Specialist