

City of Takoma Park -- Façade Advisory Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2017

The City of Takoma Park Façade Advisory Board met on Monday, December 4, 2017 at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park Maryland.

Members Present: Jim DiLuigi, William Fischer, Anne Fothergill, Lucy Moore, Lorraine Pearsall,
Members Absent: Eric Sepler, Malcolm Williams
Staff Present: Roz Grigsby
Visitors: Manjit and Guru Singh

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Concept Review: 7212 Carroll Avenue – Montessori School addition

The property owners, Manjit and Guru Singh, presented their proposal for an expansion to the house at 7206 Carroll Avenue. The application will go to the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission for a preliminary review on December 6th. The proposed expansion is an addition on the side the house in order to enable the Montessori School to enroll more children next year. According to the applicant, the addition was designed to emulate the style of the house in regards to windows and finish, and to locate the extension to avoid impacting the character of Carroll Avenue.

The Board expressed concerns over notification of the adjacent property owners, since the application listed the current school address, of 7212 Carroll Avenue, rather than the house address of 7206 Carroll Avenue. The Board also discussed the style of the addition, which seemed to blur residential and commercial designs with the flat roofline and stucco finish looking like the commercial buildings. The addition needs to be in proportion and character with the residential look of the area and the house next door, and consider setback lines.

Side additions are not generally allowed in historic preservation. The Board discussed the possibility of moving the addition to the rear of the house, where it would not be visible from the street or impact the adjacent house. The applicant would lose 2 parking spaces for teachers if the addition was moved to the rear. The applicant will need to return to the Board with updated plans before getting HPC approval.

3. Concept Review: 7212 Carroll Avenue – Montessori School signage

The property owners, Manjit and Guru Singh, presented the proposal for new signage for the Montessori School at 7212 Carroll Avenue. The proposed work includes a Backlit Sign, 3'H x 8'W x 5"D; Black Finish; LED; 3/16" Acrylic w/ Digital Print. The sign will be centered on the front façade.

The Board discussed the sign and advised the applicant that they cannot do a backlit sign, even though the older sign on the adjacent commercial space is a backlit sign. The Board recommended goose neck lamps or something similar for lighting, and consideration of a different material than the plastic proposed for the backlit sign. The Board also discussed the

painting on the interior of the glass, which the applicant clarified is temporary water color paint. The Board opted not to include a position on the painted glass in their resolution.

Takoma Park Façade Advisory Board passed the following resolution:

The Board voted to approve the sign proposal regarding size and location of the sign, with the following conditions:

- **The sign cannot be backlit;**
- **The sign must have lighting similar to gooseneck lamps that are compatible with the period;**
- **The Board recommends the use of material compatible with the Historic District.**

Moved by Fischer, seconded by Moore, the Board voted unanimously.

4. Approve minutes of November 14, 2017 meeting

Staff had prepared a more detailed draft of the minutes that usual for the November meeting and asked for Board feedback. The Board generally didn't support identifying Board members with their comments, but would rather see the minutes be more general about the concepts of the discussion. Staff will update and circulate a revised draft of the minutes.

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.

Rosalind Grigsby, staff

Lucy Moore, Chair