

**ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY HEARINGS BOARD**

**MINUTES**

**March 12, 2014**

The Athens-Clarke County Hearings Board met and considered the following items at a public meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2014, at 120 W. Dougherty Street, Athens, Georgia:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ricky Boggs, Beverly King, Adrian Pritchett, Pat Shearer, Ed Simpson (Vice-Chair), and Laura Wiese

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** David Ellison (Chair)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Rick Cowick and Jane Erwin (ACCUG Planning); Jim Davis (ACCUG Attorney)

**CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. **Introduction of Staff reports and all other documents submitted to the Hearings Board at the meeting into the official record.** Mr. Pritchett made a motion to introduce all reports and documents into the official record. Mr. Boggs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
2. **Adoption of Minutes from the January 13, 2014 Hearings Board meeting.** Mr. Shearer made a motion to approve. Ms. King seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **2045 W. BROAD STREET**

**VAR-2014-01-50**

Petitioner: David Matheny for Magdalena Williams

Zoning: C-G (Commercial-General)

Tax ID: 122C2 F001A

Request: A. Variance to eliminate all setbacks from front and side property lines for a ground sign

**Ms. Erwin gave the staff report with the recommendation of approval with condition.**

Ms. King asked staff if the recommended approval condition concerned both projecting signs. Ms. Erwin replied that it did because there is not a record of either one having been permitted.

**In Favor:** David Matheny, agent for the owner, Magdalena Williams, spoke indicating agreement with the staff report. He said that it is extremely important that the sign be located at the corner to direct traffic onto Magnolia Street so the vehicles will not travel past the business. The sign will meet all other requirements. He said that he is in agreement with removal of the projecting sign at the front building corner, but requested that the other projecting sign be allowed to remain for visibility for the traffic approaching from the south on Magnolia Street.

**In Opposition:** None

**Board Discussion:** Ms. King asked Mr. Matheny about the sign advertising the property behind the business being for sale. Mr. Matheny replied that he was unaware that the property is for sale.

Mr. Simpson asked staff if both projecting signs are required to be removed. Ms. Erwin replied that both need to be brought into compliance.

Mr. Pritchett said that he agreed with the staff findings. With the limited area in which to place the sign, it would not be visible without the variance. However, he is not in support of the staff-recommended approval condition since he is not interested in the Hearings Board enforcing the sign ordinance. Mr. Simpson said that he agreed that enforcement of the illegal signs is moot in this matter. Ms. King agreed that the proposed sign is needed.

Discussion followed about the matter of bringing the projecting signs into compliance.

**Motion:** Mr. Pritchett made a motion for approval of the variance. Ms. Wiese seconded.

Ms. King asked for clarification that the variance would apply to any ground sign. Ms. Erwin replied that it would.

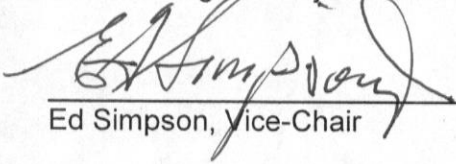
The motion for approval passed unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

*Directors Report:* Mr. Cowick announced that the Planning staff is working on zoning text amendments to allow sheep and goat grazing as a temporary use and studying the issue of required minimum floor area ratios along designated corridors.

Ms. Erwin announced that one application had been received for the April 9, 2014 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.



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Ed Simpson, Vice-Chair



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Brad Griffin, Director/Secretary