

# Design Review meeting 11.13.2025

The Design Review Commission meeting on November 13, 2025, discussed the approval of minutes from October 9, 2025, meeting and the review of changes to 1434. Cliff Soudil praised the wraps on traffic signal boxes on Main Street. The commission debated changes proposed by Cheryl Wood and Larry Silenius, focusing on the economic impact of design regulations. Cynthia Miller argued that current rules hinder business development, while Bob Finney and others defended the importance of maintaining historic integrity. The commission tabled the review until absent members could participate, with Cliff Soudil abstaining from the vote.

## Outline

### Roll Call and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Lou Dudek calls the meeting to order and requests a roll call.
- Julie Ring, Secretary, conducts the roll call, confirming the presence of all members except for three absentees.
- The absent members were Ted Manfrass, Patrick Madonio and Eric Hummel.
- Cliff Soudil motions to excuse the three absent members, which is seconded by Lou Dudek and approved by all present members.
- Lou Dudek asks for corrections or changes to the minutes from the October 9th meeting.
- Cliff Soudil motions to accept the minutes as written, which is seconded by Angie Reedy and approved by all present members.

### Discussion on Main Street Box Wraps

- Cliff Soudil comments on the attractive wraps on traffic signal boxes on Main Street, noting their positive impact on the city.
- Bob Finney confirms that Main Street Ravenna spearheaded the project.
- Bob Finney mentions that there will be more wraps in other areas, reducing the issue of peeling paint on stainless steel boxes.

### Old Business: Review of Changes to 1434

- Lou Dudek introduces the old business item, focusing on changes to 1434.
- Bob Finney explains the history of changes submitted on May 17, 2021, and additional changes proposed by Cheryl Wood and Larry Silenius.
- Bob Finney emphasizes the need for Design Review to review and compare the original proposal and the new proposal.
- Cliff Soudil clarifies the process, stating that the changes will be voted on by Design Review before going to the council.

## **Debate on Specific Changes to 1434**

- Lou Dudek expresses disagreement with a specific change that was presented to make the change in regard to the Certificate of Approval to be approved by Council if the applicant isn't willing to do what the Design Review Commission decides.
- Cynthia Miller supports the new proposal, highlighting the efforts of Cheryl Wood and Larry Silenius.
- Cynthia Miller argues that the current rules are a barrier to economic development and suggests a more progressive approach.
- Lou Dudek clarifies that the Commission is not responsible for Economic Development but acknowledges the impact of their decisions on business owners.

## **Motion to Table the Review**

- Lou Dudek motions to table the review until the absent members can participate.
- Angie Reedy seconds the motion, which is approved by all present members except Cliff Soudil, who abstains.
- Cynthia Miller suggests postponing the meeting to January or a more suitable time to ensure Cliff Soudil's participation.

## **Discussion on Economic Development and Signage**

- Larry Silenius emphasizes the importance of signage for Economic Development and suggests approving the changes without the controversial paragraph.
- Bob Finney and Cliff Soudil discuss specific cases where businesses faced delays due to signage and other regulations.
- Greg Francis supports the need for clear and visible signage to attract customers.
- Cynthia Miller reiterates that the Commission should not take the blame for Economic Development issues and suggests a broader review of the rules.

## **Conclusion and Adjournment**

- Lou Dudek entertains a motion to adjourn, which is seconded by Diana Kane and approved by all members.
- The meeting is adjourned at 10:53 a.m.