COURTHOUSE SQUARE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Be it remembered that the Courthouse Square Preservation Commission did meet in regular session on Monday, August 1, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. on the second floor in the courtroom of City Hall with the following members present:

Andy Phillips, Chairman
Phil Bailey
Mike Bridge
Donna Gottshall
Will Lewis
Mike Overstreet
Jim Pryor

Katrina Hourin, Assistant City Planner
Lynn Conerly, Office Manager

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Andy Phillips.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Phillips added the amended Design Guidelines and discussion and approval there of to the agenda. Motion was made by Commissioner Overstreet and seconded by Commissioner Bailey to approve the agenda.

All present voting aye.

The motion was approved

Approval of Minutes from the June 6, 2011 Regular Meeting

Chairman Phillips asked for the minutes be approved at the August meeting due to confusion with the new digital package.

Public Hearing for Case #075 – 308 South Lamar *(Prior to the hearing, Commissioner Bridge recused himself).* Steven Ash, General Manager of Soulshine, came before the Commission seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for property located at 308 South Lamar Blvd. Mr. Ash asked the Commission for permission to install 4- (48 inch) tv's in between the windows on the exterior south wall, under the awning and install 4, 1' x 12' signs. Mr. Ash presented pictures of what the tv's and awning would look like. Discussion was made regarding the applicant's request and Commissioner Lewis asked if anyone else in the area had outside tv's. Mr. Ash informed the Commission that Roundtable did have one outdoor tv at one time on their back patio, but Mr. Ash is uncertain if the tv is still there. Commissioner Lewis also asked if the tv's will be visible from the street. Mr. Ash informed the Commission that the tv's will be visible from the street. Commissioner Phillips reminded the board that Virginia Pence, a local architect and a consultant to the Commission, is in attendance this afternoon. Ms. Pence's opinion about this case is that is the tv's are not a precedent in Oxford right now. If one establishment gets this approved, Ms Pence is certain the Commission will be flooded with other

businesses wanting to install tv's on their patio. Commissioner Phillips asked Ms. Pence her opinion of the signage that is being requested and she thinks it is appropriate. Commissioner Phillips indicates his understanding from the board is that the Commission isn't ready for the tv's on patio's in Oxford. If one business is allowed to do this, then others will want to also. Commissioner Phillips suggested that Mr. Ash amend the Certificate of Appropriateness to approve the signage and lighting. Mr. Ash agreed to the Certificate of Appropriateness for the awning and lighting. Discussion was made regarding the signage request. It was suggested the sign be painted on the building and all agreed. Mr. Ash was in agreement to paint the signs on the building. Commissioner Phillips amended the Certificate of Appropriateness to delete the tv's, amend the signs to be painted on the building and lighting to be under the awning on the deck.

There being no questions or comments from the public or the Commission motion was made by Commissioner Pryor and seconded by Commissioner Gottshall to the amended Certificate of Appropriateness for property located at 308 South Lamar.

All present voting aye.

The motion was approved.

Public Hearing for Case #076 – 1111 West Jackson Avenue Jeff Couser, Branch President, of Merchants and Farmers Bank, and Betsy Huggins of Mitchell signs come before the Commission seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness to install 2 signs located at 1111 West Jackson Avenue. Commissioner Phillips announced that he has in the past and continues to represent M & F Bank and wants discussion if anyone has an issue with this. No one had an issue and this case proceeded. Ms. Huggins asked the Commission permission to install 2 LED illumining lighting from the back of the letters. One set of lettering will go on the back of the building and one set on a brick monument to be erected where the existing sign is now. Ms. Huggins informed the Commission that Randy Barber approved the sign. There was discussion from the Commission about the lighting of the letters. Mr. Couser informed the Commission the letters will be back lit . Ms. Huggins presented pictures of what is proposed. Discussion from the Commission about the brick monument proposed and the iron post that is currently there now. There is a general concern from the board that the monument doesn't look historical. Commissioner Pryor is concerned about the flowerbed that is around current sign. Ms. Huggins instructed the Commission the monument will have flowers on both sides of it. Commissioner Phillips asked Ms. Pence her opinion of the signage and she stated she worked on the signage while working at Howorth & Associates. The signage is appropriate for the rear of the building and her opinion is neutral about the brick monument.

Commissioner Phillips stated that he is hearing no concern with rear signage. He asked Mr. Couser if Merchants & Farmers would be willing to submit an alternative design next month. Mr. Couser agreed to submit new drawings. Commissioner Phillips suggested the front sign be tabled until next month.

There being no further questions or comments from the public or the Commission, motion was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner Pryor to approve the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to install signage on the rear of the building at a property located at 1111 West Jackson Avenue.

All present voting aye.

The motion was approved.

Public Hearing for Case #077- 400 South Lamar, Suite D Due to a representative for Dovetail, LLC absent, this case has been moved to the back of the agenda.

Public Hearing for Case #078-1110 Van Buren Avenue Chuck Crawford of Williams Sign Company came before the Commission representing Lee Cauthen seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign (77 x 30) for the property located at 1110 Van Buren Avenue(McEwen's). Mr. Crawford is seeking permission to install a metal sign. The sign will have the appearance of being painted on the building. The sign would also have mounted lighting. There was discussion among the Commission concerning the lighting. Mrs. Hourin advised approving the lighting is not a good idea without seeing the plans first. Commissioner Phillips asked Ms. Pence's opinion on this case and she commented the proposed signage is more appropriate to the (clerestory) windows as a painted decal with a exterior spotlight or backlit for evenings. Also, the scale is a little anemic for the massive brick façade.

There being no further questions or comments from the public or the Commission, motion was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Gottshall to approve the request for a sign for the property located at 1110 Van Buren Avenue.

All present voting aye.

The motion was approved.

Public Hearing for Case #079 -138 Courthouse Square - Caysie Lagrone came before the Commission representing Susan Vance, owner of My favorite Shoes, seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness for a new door, a hanging sign in front of the store and signage above the business. Ms. Lagrone presented the Commission with pictures of the door, hanging sign and the sign above the business. Ms. Lagrone explained the hanging will be smaller than the Roundtable sign. The sign above the building will be 3 dimensional and longer than the previous sign (La Sheas) and the door will be a wooden with 6 glass panes. There was discussion among the Commission concerning the door. The pictures given included a door knocker. Ms. Lagrone indicated the door knocker will not be on the door. Commissioner Pryor questioned if a business can have more than one sign and Ms. Hourin indicated they can.

There being no further questions or comments from the public or the Commission, motion was made by Commissioner Pryor and seconded by Commissioner Overstreet to approve the request for a hanging sign, new door(without a door knocker) and sign above the business for the property located at 138 Courthouse Square.

Public Hearing for Case #077- 400 South Lamar, Suite D – No one came to represent Dovetail LLC so Commissioner Lewis made a motion to table until the next meeting and Commissioner Bridge seconded.

Commissioner Phillips instructed the Commission the June minutes and Case #77 will be placed on at the September meeting agenda.

The Re-Organized Design Guidelines- Mrs. Katrina Hourin, Assistant City Planner and Edye Conkerton, of ECO Architecture, presented the re-organized guidelines to the Commission. Ms. Conkerton explained the guidelines have not been changed, just reorganized.

Included in the re-organization: a table of contents, index, table of figures and appendix to be "user friendly". New construction has been moved to the front, demolition by neglect has also been included.

Discussion from the Commission about the new guidelines took place. There was a little confusion about things being deleted, but Ms. Conkerton assured the board these guidelines are like as the previous, just updated. She also reminded the Commission these are **guidelines**, not rules.

Commissioner Phillips asked that a notation be added there was a split among the Commission with the demolition by neglect. This is policy, not rules.

Commissioner Pryor made the motion to approve the amended guidelines with the understanding these are not new guidelines, just a re-configuration of the prior guidelines. Commissioner Bridge seconded to approve the amended guidelines.

All present voting aye.

The motion was approved.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, motion was made by Commissioner Gottshall and seconded by Commissioner Bailey to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.