

**CITY OF KENT
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
August 7, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Saxe
 David Basista
 Bridget Tipton
 Howard Boyle

STAFF PRESENT: Bridget Susel, Community Development Director
 Kailyn Cyrus, Development Planner
 Kim Brown, Administrative Assistant

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Boyle at 2:58 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Howard, Boyle, Dennis Saxe, Bridget Tipton, and David Basista were present.

III. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

Ms. Susel instructed members of the audience wishing to be heard on any of the cases presented at this meeting, to raise their right hand. Ms. Susel administered the oath, "Do you swear or affirm that the testimony that you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? Please say "I do". The participants responded, "I do".

IV. PROJECT REVIEW

**A. ARB23-006 OVIYA BLACKERBY
 124 E. MAIN STREET**

Review of proposed signage.

Oviya Blackerby, 314 Riverside Ct., stated that she understands that there was concern regarding the black background of her proposed sign, which is the same size as the previous sign. She stated that this is the branding for her business. She added that there are other signs on the building with white backgrounds, but the white is dirty and streaked from the weather.

Mr. Boyle stated his frustration with the lack of a Comprehensive Sign Plan for the building, which would make sign designing more simplified for the tenants. He stated that he is looking at the building as a whole and not just one sign and feels that the white background makes the building more uniform. He stated that he would prefer the sign to match the Last Exit Books with the white background with red letters.

Mr. Saxe agreed with the white background but stated that the applicant will need to have a mock-up done to ensure that her colors would work with a white background.

Ms. Tipton stated that she is fine with the sign as presented. She stated that she feels that it is okay that they don't all match.

Ms. Blackerby shared a photo taken today of the sign band of the building that included a TransOhio sign with a black background and white letters to the left of the "books, movies, music" sign that is shown in the applicant's submission. She stated that with this sign included, the sign band would have 2 signs with black backgrounds and 2 with white background signs in between.

Mr. Basista suggested the possibility of adding a small white frame around the proposed sign.

Mr. Boyle stated that he doesn't feel that it really matters at this point due to the building's current condition.

Public Comment

None.

MOTION: *In case ARB23-006, Oviya Blackerby, 124 E. Main St., Ms. Tipton moved to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness for the sign as presented.*

Mr. Saxe seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-1.

**B. ARB23-008 KENT SPORTSWEAR
125 S. WATER STREET**

Review of proposed Comprehensive Sign Plan.

Justin Heiser, co-owner, 125 S. Water St., stated that the proposed sign is a 26" round sign that will be approximately 9'10" off the ground that will be mounted on a white bracket. He stated that it will be MDL wood that will be painted blue with gold applied vinyl.

Mr. Boyle suggested making the bracket blue like the sign so as not to add another color to a vibrant building front.

Mr. Heiser stated that the available colors were white or black for the bracket, but he is not opposed to it.

Mr. Saxe questioned the bracket material.

Mr. Heiser stated that it is aluminum.

Mr. Saxe agreed that the bracket should either be black or dark blue.

Public Comment

None.

MOTION: *In case ARB23-008, Kent Sportswear, 125 S. Water St., Ms. Tipton moved to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness for the proposed blade sign as presented with a black bracket instead of white.*

Mr. Basista seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

V. MEETING SUMMARIES

MOTION: *Ms. Tipton moved to approve the July 18, 2023 Meeting Summary as presented. Mr. Saxe seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0-1. Mr. Boyle abstained.*

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *Mr. Basista moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Saxe seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.*