

FARRAGUT VISUAL RESOURCES REVIEW BOARD - Minutes

The Farragut Visual Resources Review Board met on Tuesday, October 22, 2013 in the Board Room at the Farragut Town Hall. Marty Layman presided. Members in attendance were Duane Winkler, Linda Johnson, Marty Layman, Cindy Hollyfield, Brittany Moore, and Jeanie Stow. Jerry Benton was absent.

1. Minutes:

The September 24, 2013 minutes were approved as submitted.

2. Ground Mounted Sign Applications:

- a) **Farragut Fellowship** – 416 N. Campbell Station Road
Re-installation of ground mounted sign

The staff reviewed this item. There were a number of deficiencies which created some questions from board members. For example, the support structure was not shown on the rendering. Nor were the size of the letters. There was also some confusion about the style of the sign proposed.

A motion was made by Stow to table this request until additional information could be provided. This would then be re-visited at a subsequent board meeting. The motion was seconded by Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Landscape Plans:

- a) **Cracker Barrel** – 716 N. Campbell Station Road

The staff reviewed this item and noted that representatives from Cracker Barrel agreed to remove the Bradford pears as was requested by the board when this item was originally approved. They are now requesting to expand the scope of their landscape upgrade which includes proposing to remove the river birch trees that are on the ends of the front elevation of the building and replace them with Eastern redbuds. The staff noted that these river birch trees are in decent health but there is a concern that the removal of the sidewalk which surrounds these trees and which is a key element of this exterior renovation would stress the river birch trees and they would likely not survive. Cracker Barrel is also requesting through this tree removal to re-vamp the species of trees along the front so as to have more seasonal color.

The staff indicated that, although very supportive of the overall request from Cracker Barrel, the removal of the river birch trees should be given careful consideration because when a more mature and non-exotic invasive tree is proposed for removal the benefits of such larger trees cannot soon be replicated by newly planted trees. Larger trees provide more shade and typically more air and water quality benefits than smaller trees.

The board agreed that larger trees provide more benefits than newly planted smaller trees. A motion was made by Moore to approve the requested amendment to the landscape plan subject to the river birch trees being replaced with larger trees that would be a minimum of 3 inches in caliper at the time of planting. The motion was seconded by Hollyfield and motion passed unanimously.

4. Sign Ordinance Training Session:

The staff provided a Power Point training session on the Farragut Sign Ordinance.