

Docket Item # 3
BAR CASE #2005-0286

BAR Meeting
February 15, 2006

ISSUE: Sign

APPLICANT: Nancy Twomey

LOCATION: 616 South Washington Street

ZONE: CL/Commercial

BOARD ACTION, FEBRUARY 1, 2006: On a motion by Mr. Smeallie, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, the Board deferred the application because the applicant was not present. The vote on the motion was 7-0.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the application as submitted.

I. ISSUE:

The applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for signs at 616 South Washington Street. Two signs are proposed to be installed on the front of the building. This sign, "Children's Furniture," measures 1'6" in height x 7' in length and will be installed between the first and second floors. The second sign on the front will be installed on the handrail and will read "Finnian's Moon, children's furnishings and custom interiors." This sign will measure 30" square.

Another sign is proposed to be installed on the south face of the buildings. This sign, "Finnian's Moon, furniture.linens.gifts.window treatments" and will be 2'4" in height and 7' in length. All of the signs are proposed to be wood with black lettering on a light/blue/white striped background.

II. HISTORY:

616 South Washington Street is a two story, three bay frame building dating from the late 19th century. Originally built as a residence, it has been used as an office for many years and is currently proposed to be converted to retail use.

III. ANALYSIS:

The proposed signs comply with Zoning Ordinance requirements.

The Boards are particularly concerned with the maintenance of the memorial character of the George Washington Memorial Parkway which passes through Alexandria as Washington Street. Therefore, requests for certificates of appropriateness for signs on Washington Street must be compatible with the memorial nature of the Parkway.

The *Design Guidelines* recommend generally only one sign per business is appropriate (Signs - Page 3).

This is a revised proposal which responds to Staff concerns about signs for a retail business along the Parkway. It is the opinion of Staff that the current sign proposal meets recommendations of the *Design Guidelines* and is appropriate on the Parkway. The signs address both the pedestrian traffic along the 600 and 700 blocks of South Washington Street as well as the automobile traffic heading north on Washington Street. Therefore, Staff recommends approval of the application as submitted.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the application as submitted.

CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

Legend: C - code requirement R - recommendation S - suggestion F - finding

Code Enforcement:

C-1 A construction permit is required for the proposed project.

C-2 Wall signs must comply with USBC [H103-H111].

Historic Alexandria

No comment.