

Docket Item # 10
BAR CASE # 2009-0119

BAR Meeting
July 8, 2009

ISSUE: Signage / Awning Installation

APPLICANT: Knit-a-GoGo Inc.

LOCATION: 102 North Fayette Street

ZONE: CD / Commercial

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness with the condition that the proposed window lettering be removed.

****EXPIRATION OF APPROVALS NOTE:** In accordance with Sections 10-106(B) and 10-206(B) of the Zoning Ordinance, any official Board of Architectural Review approval will expire 12 months from the date of issuance if the work is not commenced and diligently and substantially pursued by the end of that 12-month period.

****BUILDING PERMIT NOTE:** Most projects approved by the Board of Architectural Review require the issuance of one or more construction permits by Building and Fire Code Administration (including signs). The applicant is responsible for obtaining all necessary construction permits after receiving Board of Architectural Review approval. Contact Code Administration, Room 4200, City Hall, 703-838-4360 for further information.



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7/8/2009



I. ISSUE:

The applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a new shed-style awning on the commercial building located at 102 North Fayette Street. The proposed awning will measure 28 inches in height by 14 feet in width and will project approximately two feet (in line with the projecting show windows). The awning will be located above the entrance and between two show windows. The awning will be made of Sunbrella Awning Fabric and will be attached to an aluminum square stock tig-welded frame. The proposed color scheme for the awning is blue-green lettering “fibre space” with white lettering “a knit and crochet universe” and a white and orange yarn logo on a brown background. The awning will be attached with anchors through the mortar joints.

The applicant also proposes window lettering on one show window. The proposed window sign will measure 5 feet in width by 6 inches in height. The color scheme will be brown lettering “community, classes, parties, events & YARN” on a blue-green background, an inversion of the awning color scheme.

II. HISTORY:

102 North Fayette Street is a two-story brick building with show windows at the first story that first appears in its current configuration on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from 1921, where it is described as a furniture store. It is possible that portions of the building date from at least 1891 when the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map describes the building as a three-story boardinghouse with a similar footprint.

In 1987 the Board approved an application for signage and an awning on this building (BAR Case # 87-129).

III. ANALYSIS:

The proposed projecting awning complies with zoning ordinance requirements. Not more than 20 percent of each window may be used for allowable window signs. The proposed window sign is approximately 4 percent of the window area. However, the text of the window lettering “community, classes, parties, events & YARN” is considered special advertising and not permitted by the zoning ordinance.

The *Design Guidelines* state that “awnings should be appropriate and sympathetic to the historical style of the building to which they are attached.” Furthermore, “shed or sloped awnings are more appropriate” and “awnings should be made of a canvas type fabric.” The proposed design of the awning is generally consistent with the *Design Guidelines* and is appropriate for this building. In addition, the framing will be mounted to the building by anchors the mortar joints, to prevent damage to historic fabric.

Staff finds that the proposed window lettering is not appropriate to the style of the building and is considered special advertising. Staff recommends that this portion of the signage be removed.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness with the condition that the proposed window lettering be removed.

V. CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

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

Code Administration:

F-1 The applicant shall obtain a sign permit for the proposed sign and/ or wall lettering.

C-1 Awnings must comply with all applicable requirements of USBC 3105.3 and 3202.3.1
Retractable and fixed awnings must have a minimum 7 foot clearance form a sidewalk to the lowest part of the framework or any fixed portion of any retractable awning is required.
Retractable awnings must be securely fastened to the building and can not extend closer than 24 inches in from the curb line (USBC 3202.3.1).

Historic Alexandria:

No comments received.

VI. IMAGES



Figure 1. Existing conditions, 102 North Fayette Street.

102 N. Fayette St.



- Linear Frontage: 59.8 feet
- Custom Awning 28"H X 168"W
T6061 - Aluminum frame
- Painted Lettering and logo
Fibre Space Logo 11" X 72"
a knit & crochet universe 3.5" X 64"
- Sunbrella Awning Fabric / True Brown
Hemmed and grommeted
- Bottom rail of awning 8' above grade

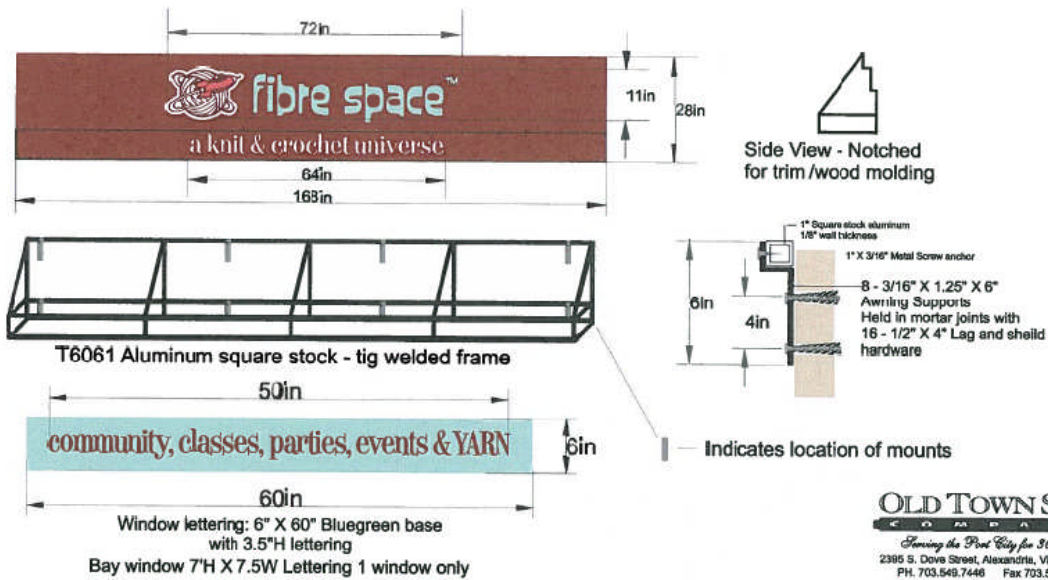


Figure 2. Specifications of proposed signage.