



City of Alachua

Planning & Community Development Department

Staff Report

Planning & Zoning Board Hearing Date:

August 13, 2019

Quasi-Judicial Hearing

SUBJECT: A request for the approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the following alterations to an existing commercial structure: removal and replacement of existing corrugated metal awning

APPLICANT/AGENT: Celine Crane, Design Diva Construction

PROPERTY OWNER: Heal Y & M, LLC

LOCATION: 14521 Main Street

PARCEL ID NUMBER: 03697-001-000

ACREAGE: ±0.12 acres

PROJECT PLANNER: Adam Hall, AICP, Planner

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Planning & Zoning Board approve the Certificate of Appropriateness.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: *Based upon the competent substantial evidence presented at this hearing, the presentation before this Board, and Staff's recommendation, this Board finds the application to be consistent with the City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan and in compliance with the Land Development Regulations and approves the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness.*

SUMMARY

This application is a request by Celine Crane of Design Diva Construction., applicant and agent for Heal Y & M, LLC., property owner, for the approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the following alterations to an existing commercial structure: removal and replacement of approximately 30 linear feet corrugated metal awning.

The subject property is ±0.12 acres in area, and is located at 14521 Main Street, south of the Alachua Women's Club and west of the First Baptist Church of Alachua.

As part of the application package, the applicant has submitted pictures and specifications for the proposed corrugated metal awning. Pictures have also been submitted of the structures on nearby properties to demonstrate that the proposed alteration is consistent with the character of nearby structures.

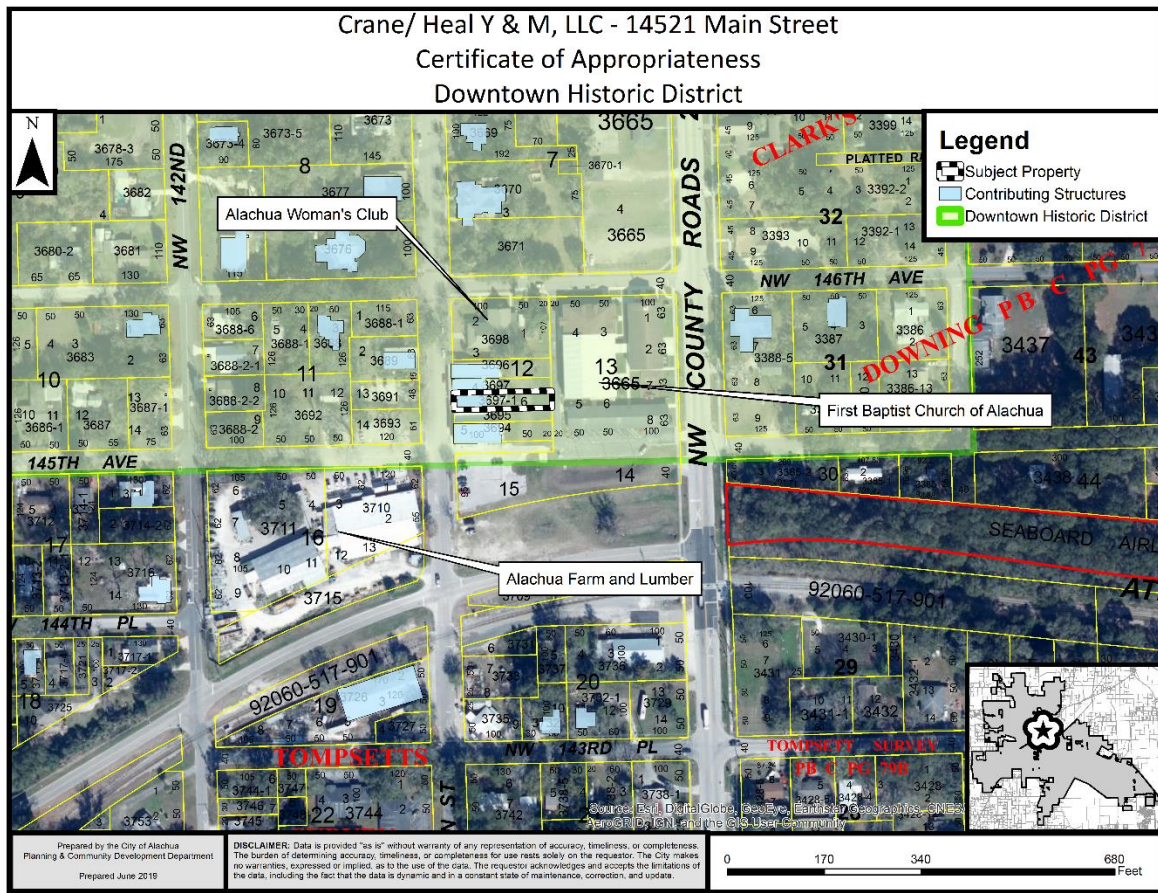
Section 3.7.2(A) of the City's Land Development Regulations (LDRs) establishes the standards for the Historic Overlay District. The general purposes of the Historic Overlay District are as follows:

- ❖ to protect the beauty of the City and improve the quality of its environment through identification, recognition, conservation, maintenance, and enhancement of the City's historic and architectural resources;
- ❖ to protect designated land and buildings or structures having historic and architectural significance;
- ❖ to stabilize and improve property values;
- ❖ to foster civic pride; and,
- ❖ to encourage redevelopment in the City's downtown.

Section 3.7.2(A)(2)(a) of the LDRs establishes the City of Alachua Downtown Historic District, which includes all lots within an area bounded by NW 145th Avenue, NW 145th Terrace, NW 148th Place, and NW 138th Terrace. The area of the District, the subject property, and contributing historic structures are shown on Map 1.

Map 2 depicts the vicinity surrounding the subject property.

Map 2. Vicinity Map



CONSISTENCY WITH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Goals, Objectives, and Policies (GOPs) identified below provide a basis to establish consistency with the Comprehensive Plan. There may be additional GOPs which the application is consistent with that are not listed below. An analysis of the application's consistency with the identified Goals, Objectives, and Policies below has been provided.

Future Land Use Element

GOAL 3: Historic, Cultural and Archeological Preservation: The City shall encourage the preservation of historic, cultural and archeological resources through the use of preservation districts, land acquisition, and partnerships with local, state and federal protection agencies.

Objective 3.1: Historic Preservation Districts:

The City of Alachua shall encourage property owners to maintain and improve buildings, grounds, streetscape and vistas and encourage settlement and revitalization of established neighborhoods.

Policy 3.5.a: The City shall ensure that future development within the district is sensitive to the historic character of any historic district.

Policy 3.9.a: An historic preservation overlay zoning classification shall be used to protect significant historic resources.

Policy 3.10.a: The City shall have Certificate of Appropriateness procedures for reviewing exterior changes to historic buildings, structures and sites in historic districts.

Analysis of Consistency with Goals, Objectives, & Policies: The applicant has submitted materials to support that the proposed modifications will be consistent with and sensitive to the character of the historic district. The proposed metal awning is similar to the existing corrugated metal awning which is in disrepair and in need of replacement. The proposed metal awning is also similar to those existing on adjacent properties.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

Section 2.4.6(E) of the City's Land Development Regulations (LDRs) establishes the standards of review for an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness. Staff's evaluation of the application's compliance with the applicable standards of Section 2.4.6(E) is provided below.

(1) *Affect Exterior Appearance*

Whether the proposed action will affect the exterior appearance of the subject land or structure or the appearance of any interior portion specifically identified in any relevant designation ordinance.

Evaluation: The applicant has submitted construction specifications which demonstrate the proposed alterations, located within the Historic Overlay District, would be consistent with the appearance of structures identified as contributing structures to the Downtown Historic District as designated by the National Register of Historic Places.

(2) *Affect Consistent with Historical, Architectural, or Other Relevant Qualities*

Whether any such affect is consistent with the historical, architectural, or other qualities which the relevant designation ordinance seeks to protect and enforce.

Evaluation: Section 3.7.2 of the LDRs establishes the provisions of the City's Downtown Historic District. The general purposes of the Historic Overlay District are: to protect the beauty of the City and improve the quality of its environment through identification, recognition, conservation, maintenance, and enhancement of the City's historic and architectural resources; to protect designated land and buildings or structures having historic and architectural significance; to stabilize and improve property values; to foster civic pride; and to encourage redevelopment in the City's downtown.

The proposed alterations are consistent with the character of proximate structures (see exhibits and construction drawings submitted by the applicant).

Staff finds the proposed alterations would be consistent with the qualities of structures within the Historic Overlay District which the District seeks to protect.

(3) *Negative or Positive Impact on Neighboring Lands of Historical Significance*

Whether the proposed action will have a negative or positive impact on neighboring lands that have historic significance.

Evaluation: Based upon the preceding information, the proposed building elements will be consistent with the appearance of other proximate structures, including those identified as contributing structures in the Master Registry of the National Register of Historic Places.

(4) *Effect of Denial*

Whether the denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness would deprive the owner of reasonable beneficial use of their land.

Evaluation: The approval of this application would permit the owners to replace building elements in need of renovation to maintain structure's habitability and address public safety concerns. The existing awning is in disrepair and could potentially pose a threat to public safety if not repaired. The property is currently zoned for business uses (CBD).

(5) *Demolition*

In cases where a Certificate of Appropriateness is proposed for demolition of all or a portion of a Historic Property, the applicant shall demonstrate:

- (a) That no other feasible alternative can be found;
- (b) The extent to which the land may not be beneficially used without approval of the demolition;
- (c) The ability to obtain a reasonable return from the existing structure(s); and
- (d) Whether or not the building, structure, or land contributes to a Historic Overlay (HO) District, or no longer has historical significance.

Evaluation: No demolition has been proposed, therefore, this standard is not applicable.