

Mr. Huffman – On our Agenda today is the Strongsville United Church of Christ. Would you please state your name and address for the record.

Mr. Studer – Jim Studer, 20153 Lismore Court, Strongsville.

Ms. Renfro – Katie Renfro, 18116 Broxton Drive, Strongsville, Ohio 44149.

Mr. Patel – Rakesh Patel, just attending the Public Hearing.

Mr. Huffman – Why don't you explain to the board what you would like to do.

Mr. Studer – I appreciate the Committee convening so quickly. I don't know how much time you have had to review what I have presented in that packet. Basically what we are doing is replacing the steps and the stoop in the front of our church. I have no idea when those steps were put in but they have deteriorated badly and the cracks and wrought iron railing is rusted beyond repair. So at the cost of somewhere between \$15,000.00 and \$17,000.00 we are presenting what we would like to do as far as a replacement project of the steps and stoop. We added a few things, note there are planters that are going to be placed there to kind of break up the view of the front of the church and add to the beautification of our property there on the corner. I guess I should as a side bar, mention that the flowers that were put in the planters last year, I thought were really, really attractive to the intersection and certainly added to our property there. Katie is our Architect, we have another gentleman in our membership that is an architect and so we have reviewed all safety procedures, disabled requirements in terms of handrails, footage, steps and all that type of thing so I know we are in compliance with everything in that aspect.

Mr. Haseley – The ADA, is that what you are referring to?

Mr. Studer – Yes.

Mr. Haseley – Good.

Mr. Studer – So I think it is pretty self explanatory and I would certainly be more than happy to try to answer any of your questions or concerns that you might have.

Mr. Huffman – Ok, let me just give a brief analysis of what I have seen here in our overview. It looks like you are replacing everything from the front door out to a certain point where it either meets the sidewalk or the street. The entire stoop is being replaced. The railings are going away; the concrete around the stoop is being replaced. I will entertain comments, I'll start with Eve.

Mrs. Hawk – The area that is behind the stoop is that going to be plantings?

Mr. Studer – That currently is plantings and will continue to be, yes.

Mr. Huffman – What area were you pointing to?

Mrs. Hawk – Right here up against the church to either side of the vestibule.

Mr. Studer – To either side of the vestibule there are evergreens in there.

Mrs. Hawk – Do you know what year this vestibule was added?

Mr. Studer – No, I don't. If I were to guess, I would say back in the 1930's although I don't know that to be a fact.

Mr. Huffman – Ray, any comments?

Mr. Haseley – Just one quick question. The planters, are you going to try to match something with the color of the brick?

Mr. Studer – Yes, we are going to match the color of the brick of the church. On the back of the steps we are going to put brick there rather than pouring steps.

Mr. Haseley – I can only see all of this as a positive.

Mr. Huffman – Ben.

Mr. Stankewicz – Yes, I agree with Mr. Haseley. I went out and took a look at it. I think it is really an enhancement for that whole corner and again my only concern is the brick and what you are going to use on it. Other than that, I think its going to be nice.

Mr. Huffman – Phyllis.

Mrs. Wahl – I think that was my main concern also, the color of the brick and that it will match. It is fine.

Mr. Huffman – I may have been thinking about something else when you made your comment about the brick. The brick is going to match which part of the building?

Mr. Studer – We are going to try to match to the best we can, the building itself.

Mr. Huffman – There are two bricks, the vestibule has one brick and the building has a different brick.

Mr. Studer – Yes, well we tried to match it. At that time when that was done and the brick on the main building itself is so old that it is impossible to try to match that, rather than the vestibule.

Mr. Huffman – The vestibule, you are intending to keep indefinitely. There are no plans to ever remove that?

Mr. Studer – At this point there are not. That is not to say that, I don't know why we would ever do that. Why do you ask?

Mr. Huffman – The reason I ask is, if you try to match the old building, then you are going to go to old building, to different brick to a different brick. Or if you were able to match the vestibule brick, at least the vestibule and the planters would look like they came in at the same time.

Mr. Studer – Which would you prefer?

Mr. Huffman – I think my thought would be to try to match the vestibule brick.

Mr. Studer – We can do that.

Mr. Huffman – There are other opinions on that.

Mrs. Wahl – That is a very good point. If you match the old building there will be a difference with the vestibule and the vestibule is out front. It probably is better to match the vestibule at least that would be one.

Mr. Studer – The reality is that we probably won't be able to so we are going to have three colors no matter what we do, I think is the bottom line. If that is the direction that you are suggesting we take, we will certainly take that direction and try to do that.

Mr. Huffman – How old is the vestibule?

Mr. Studer – I am guessing, 60 years.

Mr. Huffman – The vestibule is 60 years old?

Mrs. Hawk – Was that choir area and everything on the side added at the same time?

Mr. Studer – I don't know. I don't think so. I don't think that the two were tied in as a project.

Mrs. Hawk – I think I remember correctly that the side where the Sunday school rooms are, that part is older than the vestibule.

Mr. Studer – No, the Sunday school area that was added in the 50's in the late 50's. I know that the vestibule was before that. Those two were not tied in at all.

Mrs. Hawk – Pilgrim Hall, when was that added?

Mr. Studer – Well, that was the early 60's. We have had one, two, three now, major renovations.

Mrs. Hawk – I remember when they put that Sunday school area off on the side. I thought that was . . .

Mr. Studer – You maybe right because that was before my time. I arrived on the scene in 1979 so other than the last renovation with the parking lot; everything was done before that time.

Mrs. Hawk – I agree with him, I think that you could get that brick matched with the vestibule and make it look more like they all go together.

Mr. Studer – I don't see anything wrong with that. We will try our best to do that.

Mr. Huffman – Overall I agree I think it is a nice enhancement to the church and we welcome it and are glad to see it done. There maybe some way of doing a little mock up panel of the brick so you can see some quantity of brick to better observe how close the match is. Maybe get the brick supplier to just put up a little, about 12 bricks together and see how that matches.

Ms. Renfro – I can request that from the company that is being selected to build it.

Mr. Huffman – Whatever the best match is that you can get. I realize its going to be difficult to get an exact match.

Mr. Stankewicz – When are you looking to get this done?

Ms. Renfro – We are looking at late May or mid June.

Mrs. Wahl – What do you plan on putting in the planters? It looks like an evergreen.

Mr. Studer – I am sort of the official gardener at the church. I'm going to guess we will try a number of different things, maybe a relatively short grass of some kind and then some annuals, whether they are impatiens or whatever. At this point we could put in asters in there or whatever. Something that is going to give us some color and look good.

Mr. Stankewicz – If you like, you could certainly check with Jennifer the City Forester, she would be more than happy to talk to you and maybe some of the things that she is doing on the opposite side by the clock tower, some of the color and things that she is doing. Maybe you guys could hook up.

Mr. Studer – These planters are not going to be huge. They will not have the capacity of the pots that you placed on the curbs. They will be smaller than that.

Mr. Stankewicz – The offer is there.

Mr. Studer – I appreciate that.

Mrs. Hawk – Will they have watering or do you have to physically water them?

Mr. Studer – Yes, they will require watering physically.

Mr. Huffman – They are not irrigated.

Mr. Studer – They are too small to put in an irrigation system.

Mr. Huffman – The follow up on Ben's comment, Jennifer Milbrandt would be a good source for some of the landscaping by the building. I realize that the two planters are small. If that helps you to determine what kind of plants you want by the building. Any other comments? I would entertain a motion for Strongsville United Church of Christ.

Mr. Stankewicz – I will make a motion that we accept the plan that is presented today for the Strongsville United Church of Christ.

Mrs. Wahl – Second.

Mr. Huffman – Secretary, please call the roll.

Roll Called

All Ayes

APPROVED

Town Center Commission Minutes
March 28, 2007
Page 7

Mr. Huffman – Is there any other business to come before this Committee? Seeing and hearing none this meeting is adjourned.

Hearing no further business. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Timothy E. Huffman