

Downtown receives new guidelines

BY REBECCA SMITH
Staff Reporter

The Kirksville Historic Preservation Commission has developed new guidelines for the maintenance and remodeling of buildings in downtown Kirksville. However, the guidelines still have to be presented to City Council.

"It essentially just set up some guidelines that will maintain the integrity and look of our downtown so that we can continue to enhance it as a destination location," downtown property owner Justin Puckett said.

Tony Fajkus, City Council representative to the KHPC, said the proposed ordinance will have to go through a public hearing in which people can talk about the proposed changes and any concerns they have regarding it. The proposed ordinance will then go back to the City Council for a vote.

"We have done a great

job at preserving The Square and other areas in Kirksville and the heritage they represent," Fajkus said.

Puckett said he thinks the ordinance doesn't seem to do anything immediately and doesn't require a building with a non-historical feature to be retrofitted.

If a building owner was to remodel or build a new building then the guidelines would have to be adhered to, Fajkus said.

"When something is remodeled, the owners should try and bring out the historical significance of what is there," he said.

The proposed guidelines would affect many elements of the exterior of a building, Fajkus said.

How the building looks, the color schemes and the kind of materials you use are important, he said.

Ken Shook, chair of the KHPC said downtown guidelines are more concerned about contextual issues such as making sure

windows have the right proportion, if there is a storefront on the first floor, there are windows on the second floor and awnings fit a certain standard.

Shook said the guidelines are flexible and aim to avoid imitation buildings, but ensure that they emulate the area.

"It is quite an extensive list," Shook said. "They are basically to make sure that new construction and remodeling fits in with the context of the downtown area."

Ensuring a building has a certain feel and certain fixtures might seem like a hassle, but Shook said there is a way around this.

"I do believe that there is an appeal process for financial hardships," Shook said.

There is support for the new ordinance in the community, Fajkus said.

Shook said there is another group in Kirksville that supports the downtown area and that group has no opposition to the ordinance.

A member of that group is a non-voting member on the Kirksville Historic Preservation Committee.

Puckett said he read other city ordinances with much stricter regulations, compared to the Kirksville downtown guidelines.

There were specifications as to what color a window frame could be in some of these other ordinances, he said.

"Ours is not trying to micromanage property owners," Puckett said. "This ordinance is trying to enhance and encourage the natural feel of our downtown."

He said he already has been privately involved with several projects in the downtown area enhancing the historical pieces of the buildings.

There are elements of the downtown area that are very unique, both in architecture and historical features, Puckett said.

"I think that there are some exciting things going on downtown and I think



Lauren Tyler/Index
The exterior shop front of the Edna Campbell store was restored to meet the style and maintenance specifications of the Kirksville Historic Preservation Commission Ordinance.

that this ordinance will everyone some clear direction," he said.

APO helps clean out Java Co

BY PHILIP ZAHND
Staff Reporter

Once bustling with students, Kirksville residents and coffee shop-dwellers, a popular local hangout now is mostly empty.

After Washington Street Java Co closed its doors to business Jan. 4, Alpha Phi Omega, a National Service Fraternity, helped clean up the business Jan. 15.

Approximately 10 members from APO helped with the clean-up process, said junior Jessica Spencer, vice president. This included senior and former Java Co employee Julie Triplett. Spencer said the former owners, Steve and Jan Collins, asked the volunteers to help move out items they

were taking from Java Co.

"I just asked [Triplett] if she would help me and she enlisted some other help," Jan Collins said. APO was able to help her pack some of their belongings and appliances and put them in storage.

The coffee shop was closed Jan. 4 by the city health department due to failure to comply with requirements from the Missouri Department of Revenue.

The members were welcome to take a few items that were going to be left. Those items included tea, chairs, bar stools and paintings, which some students took to their dorm rooms, Spencer said.

APO has worked with Java Co before, said senior Liz Bledsoe,

president of APO. She said APO once helped Java Co with a large catering order for A.T. Still University.

Jan said whatever is left in the store will go to American Trust Bank.

"It was really like a family with customers and our employees," Jan Collins said. "It's the same building. Everything is there, but there's no personality. It's just not there. It's really sad to go in there right now."

Collins said she thinks there's a possibility of Java Co reopening in the future.

"Not by us, but hopefully by someone else," she said.

Collins said that currently a young man is interested in reopening the coffee shop. She said he is a Truman student, but did not disclose his name.



Krista Goodman/Index
Truman's chapter of Alpha Phi Omega cleaned out Java Co Jan. 15. The cleaning included taking art off the walls.

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