

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER**

**March 4, 2010
LEVI LINCOLN CHAMBER – CITY HALL**

Commission Members Present: Peter Schneider, Chair
Thomas Constantine
Timothy McCann
Michael Theerman
James Crowley

Staff Present: Edgar Luna, Division of Planning & Regulatory Services

SPECIAL MEETING (5:30 PM)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schneider called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Proposed Awning on Union Station:** Mr. Luna informed the Commission that the Worcester Redevelopment Authority (WRA) is currently seeking to install an awning on the westerly side of Union Station to improve the outdoor space for its restaurant tenants' use. He indicated that in addition to its National Register status, Union Station was subject to a preservation restriction held by Massachusetts Historical Commission, which requires that the proposed installation of the awning be approved by the State prior to its installation. Mr. Luna also stated that the metal frame for the proposed awning will be attached to the upper section of the brick wall with 1" x 1" x 3/16" wall aluminum tubes, self-tapping screws, 1/8" steel Z-clips and 3/8" red head anchors, and indicated that the metal frame structure will be attached to the existing I-channel steel beams which will ensure minimal impact to the exterior walls of the building. He further indicated that the awning itself will likely be constructed of durable canvas, in a color that enhances the surrounding structure (black or dark green) and will include a mechanism that allows it to extend or retract. In addition, he indicated that historical photos of Union Station suggest that a large overhang surrounded much of Union Station previously to provide shelter for pedestrians and patrons, and indicated that the proposed awning is much smaller than the previous overhang, more decorative, and will enhance Union Station's outdoor patio space while preserving views of the building on all sides. Mr. Schneider stated that while he supported the proposed project, he hoped that the awning installer would not insert the studs on the brick wall but into the mortar joints or the concrete sections of the wall. Mr. Luna stated that it was his understanding that the anchors would be placed into the joints. Mr. Crowley indicated that the installation of the proposed awning would enhance the

site and encourage use of the space by commuters. Commissioner Theerman stated that he was pleased to see WRA investing in this site, and welcomed the proposed awning installation. Upon a motion by Commissioner Theerman and seconded by Commissioner Crowley, the Commission voted 5-0 to send a Letter of Support to the Massachusetts Historical Commission regarding the proposed installation of an awning at Union Station, and requested Mr. Luna prepare such a letter at his earliest convenience.

Adjournment: Chair Schneider adjourned the meeting at 5:40 PM.