STAFF REPORT



Meeting: November 20, 2014

To: Design and Historic Review Commission members

From: Patrick B. Howard, AICP

Director

Through: Rebeca A. Guerra, AICP, LEED-AP, CPD

Planning Manager

Staff Planner: Jeff Fisher

Planner

Case: RCC14-23

Request: Approval of a sign in the River Corridor, as required by Section

12.703(a) of the River Corridor Development Ordinance, to allow for a new freestanding (roof) sign with a total sign height of 36 feet, measured from the ground, and a total sign area of

75 square feet.

Location: 1 West Concho Avenue, generally located at the southwest

corner of the intersection of West Concho Avenue and South Chadbourne Street; more specifically San Angelo Addition, Block B, Lot 21 & N 49' 5 1/2" of the E 100 feet of Lot, in

central San Angelo.

Legal

Description: San Angelo Addition, Block B, Lot 21 & N 49' 5 1/2" of the E

100' of Lot.

Size: 0.343 acres

General Information

Future Land Use: Downtown

Zoning: Central Business District (CBD)

Existing Land Use: Vacant one-story building

Surrounding Zoning / Land Use:

North:	Central Business District (CBD)	Heritage Haus Clocks, San Angelo Finance, JL Mercer Boots, Lucky You Boutique, Art Glass Studio, Stango's Coffee Shop
West:	Central Business District (CBD)	Parking lot, historic buildings, financial loans, Michelin Tires
South:	Central Business District (CBD)	Vacant stores, Freedom Fellowship Church
East:	Central Business District (CBD)	Trashy's Treasures, Concho Quiltery, clothing stores, Miskey's Gifts, Cactus Book Shop

District: CMD #3 Johnny Silvas

Neighborhood: Downtown

Thoroughfares/Streets: Per the Major Thoroughfare Plan, West

Concho Avenue is a "Parkway" which used to serve public areas characterized by open spaces and waterfront features. South Chadbourne Street is a "Major Arterial Road" which connects freeways and other arterials. West Concho Avenue is approximately 36 feet paved, 4 feet less than required. South Chadbourne Street is approximately 40 feet paved, 24 feet less than required. However, the subject property is within the Central Business District with established buildings developed with zero-foot setbacks. The existing road network appears to be able to accommodate the proposed restaurant where the sign would be located.

Recommendation:

The Planning Division recommends <u>APPROVAL</u> of this request, subject to five (5) Conditions of Approval.

History and Background:

This request was tabled at the October 28, 2014, Design and Historic Review Commission Meeting, at the request of the Commission, to allow the applicant to revaluate the height of his proposed freestanding sign, and to submit revised building façade renderings associated with his previous approval, RCC14-13. The applicant has submitted new renderings but has decided to maintain the existing sign height, area, and visual appearance. Therefore, Planning Staff comments remain unchanged as per below.

On May 28, 2014, the applicant, Tim Condon, submitted an application for a River Corridor Review for an exterior remodeling of an existing vacant one-story building, with attached wall signs, at 1 West Concho Avenue for a future restaurant, "The Angry Cactus West Texas Bar and Grill" (RCC 14-13). Included in his submission for the restaurant building were renderings for a 15'-18' rooftop cactus sculpture, which was later determined by the Permits Division to be a sign. Under the definition in the Sign Ordinance in Section 12.602, a sign shall be "any object, device, display, plaque, poster, painting, drawing, or structure, or part thereof, which is used to advertise, identify, display, direct or attract attention to a person, institution, organization, business, product, service, message, event or location by any means, including words, letters, figures, design, symbols, fixtures, colors, illumination, or projected images."

Shortly before the Design and Historic Review Commission Meeting of June 19, 2014, for RCC14-13, the applicant decided not to proceed with the cactus roof sign, and so it was not made part of the Development Historic Review Commission (DHRC) approval for the building facades and wall signs.

The applicant later decided to proceed with the rooftop cactus, and submitted new applications on August 19, 2014. The first request was for a Sign Variance (SV 14-04) to allow the cactus sign in the River Corridor to have a total sign height of 34 feet, measured from the ground, whereas the maximum sign height is 30 feet, measured from the ground. The second variance, was to receive DHRC approval because the sign was in the River Corridor (RCC 14-23).

On Monday, September 15, 2014, the Planning Commission approved Sign Variance Application SV14-04 to allow for a sign height of 36 feet, measured from the ground, based on the special circumstance that the additional height would allow for greater visibility from the street level. This approval still allowed the sign area and final dimensions to be flexible so long as the height of the cactus was not greater than 36 feet from the ground as approved by the variance, and that the total sign area did not exceed 75 square feet, the maximum sign area allowed in the River Corridor.

On Monday, November 17, 2014, the applicant submitted revised building renderings showing the cactus sign (RCC14-13). The revised submission shows fully scaled elevation drawings showing a new canopy at the front of the building at the corner of West Concho Avenue and South Chadbourne Street. The new canopy is 10 feet high and would project 3 feet into the street right-of-way along the first 16 feet of both the West Concho Avenue and South Chadbourne Street frontages. The 10 foot high cactus sign with 2 foot base would sit on top of the canopy and remains the same as before.

As indicated, the applicant has made no changes to the cactus sign since the last DHRC Meeting of October 28, 2014. The applicant is requesting approval of a cactus sign with the same visual appearance and dimensions, 7.5 feet wide by 10 feet high on a 2 feet base, with a total sign area of 75 square feet. However, it should be noted that the proposed sign is expected to extend into the City right-of-way by at least three (3) feet. This protrusion will require that a Right-of-Way Encroachment agreement be approved by City Council prior to a Sign Permit being granted. This action is reflected in proposed Condition of Approval #5.

Analysis:

Section 12.703(a) of the River Corridor Development Ordinance requires the DHRC to review signs greater than 50 square feet in size. In order for the DHRC to recommend approval of this application, the request needs to be consistent with the design guidelines of the *River Corridor Master Development Plan* and meet the *Historic Preservation Design Guidelines* for commercial properties within the Central Business District of San Angelo.

The existing vacant building on the property was built in 1969 and covers the entire site up to the property lines. The applicant had stated he would have liked to erect a freestanding cactus on the ground in front of the building, but there is insufficient space. His only option was to erect the cactus on the roof. The sculpture is a unique feature used specifically to advertise the applicant's restaurant and to draw potential customers walking or driving downtown to the site. As indicated, the applicant was granted a sign variance from the Planning Commission to allow the roof sign to be 36

feet in height, measured the ground, 6 feet above the maximum allowed of 30 feet from the ground (application SV14-04).

The River Corridor Master Development Plan outlines guidelines for colors and lighting in the River Corridor which would apply to signs. Staff has addressed each of the following:

Colors

Section 1.B.3 of the Master Development Plan states that: "materials and colors should relate to historic precedents apparent in the immediate environment....using subtle yet rich colors rather than intense, bright colors." The Design Guidelines outline further principles for building materials and colors: "Colors should compliment neighboring buildings and reflect a traditional color palette. Only colors similar to or comparable to the palette adopted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation will be allowed." The proposed color palette provides sample colors for buildings built during multiple periods in history. Because the subject building was built in 1969, staff recommends that the cactus be of a green similar to the color palette of the last period – the Suburban Modern from the 1950s – which in this case would be an Avocado, Plymouth Green, or a similar green (see attached color palette).

Staff conducted a site visit on September 11, 2014, and found samples of the suburban modern color palette as well as darker shades of green in the area. The wall face of the Chester Dorner Jewelry Store at 219 S. Chadbourne Street, north of the property appears to match the Plymouth Green of the color palette. The doors and window frames around the Miss Hattie's Restaurant and Lounge on 26 E. Concho Avenue east of the property also uses a Plymouth Green. Miss Hatties and the Sassy Fox Botique at 36 East Concho Street to the east, use a darker green for their overhanging canopies (see attached photos).

Staff would therefore support a subtle shade of green, whether light or dark for the sign, similar to the above developments in the area and the color palette of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. As a Condition of Approval, Staff recommends the applicant submit final colors and materials for the sign to the Planning Director, or his or her designee, for approval.

Lighting

Planning staff's recommendations on lighting standards remain unchanged from the previous approval (RCC14-13).

Section 1.B.7 of the River Corridor Master Development Plan sets guidelines for lighting: "integrating lighting into a building can enhance the façade and architectural features, and provide for the safety of pedestrians, but should not result in glare and light spill." Moreover, near the River Front, it is encouraged

under Section XI to "eliminate light trespass from building sites, improve night sky access, and reduce development impact on nocturnal environments. Reduce overall electrical usage from site lighting, through appropriate selection of type, sizing and operation of light fixtures."

Staff understands the sign would be used to attract patrons to the applicant's bar and grill which includes live music at night, and therefore, requires sufficient lighting. However, the above guidelines require that signage not result in glare or light spill given the historical character of the River Corridor.

Staff conducted a second site visit on Monday, September 15, 2014, at night to look at the illumination of other signage in the River Corridor. Staff found a consistent type of lit signage in the area. Signs were lit from the back, usually with an LED light, but did not produce lighting that was excessively bright or that spilled over onto adjacent properties. Examples include the freestanding sign for J.L. Mercer Boots at 224 South Chadbourne Street, Stango's Coffee at 221 South Chadbourne Street, The Deadhorse Music Lounge at 210 South Chadbourne Street, Grinners Daiguiri Bar at 217 South Chadbourne Street, Casa Décor Furniture Store at 39 West Concho Avenue and the "37" sign for Iggy's Italian Ice at 37 West Concho Avenue in San Angelo (see photos attached). Such signage is consistent with other DHRC approvals where glare and light spill are minimized, such as the signage for the Twisted Root Burger bar/restaurant at 333 South Chadbourne Street (RCC 13-51) and for Angelo Mercantile at 135 West Twohig Avenue (RCC 12-54). As a Condition of Approval, staff recommends that any lighting proposed for the sign not be excessively bright or spill over onto adjacent properties.

Action Requested:

The action requested is for the Planning Commission to <u>APPROVE</u> Case RCC14-23, subject to the following five (5) Conditions of Approval:

- 1. Approval of the Sign shall be consistent with dimensions per the attached renderings.
- 2. The sign shall be predominantly painted a shade of green that is consistent with the color palette of the National Trust for Historic Preservation for the Suburban Modern 1950s period.
- 3. All exterior lighting shall be shielded and positioned in such a matter so as to not spill over onto any adjacent property.

- 4. Final color samples, signage renderings, and lighting details shall be submitted to the Planning & Development Services Director, or his or her designee, for final authorization prior to sign permit approval.
- 5. Prior to final approval of the sign permit, the applicant shall obtain a Right-Of-Way Encroachment Agreement from City Council for any portion of the proposed signage which projects onto a public right-of-way.

Appeals:

Per Section 12.703(g) of the River Corridor Development Ordinance, an applicant who is denied a building permit will have a right to appeal to the City Council within 30 days of the Commission's decision. If the City Council approves the proposed construction, the Building Official shall then issue a permit therefore.

Attachments: Aerial Map

Future Land Use Map

Zoning Map

Photos of Site and Surrounding Area Signage

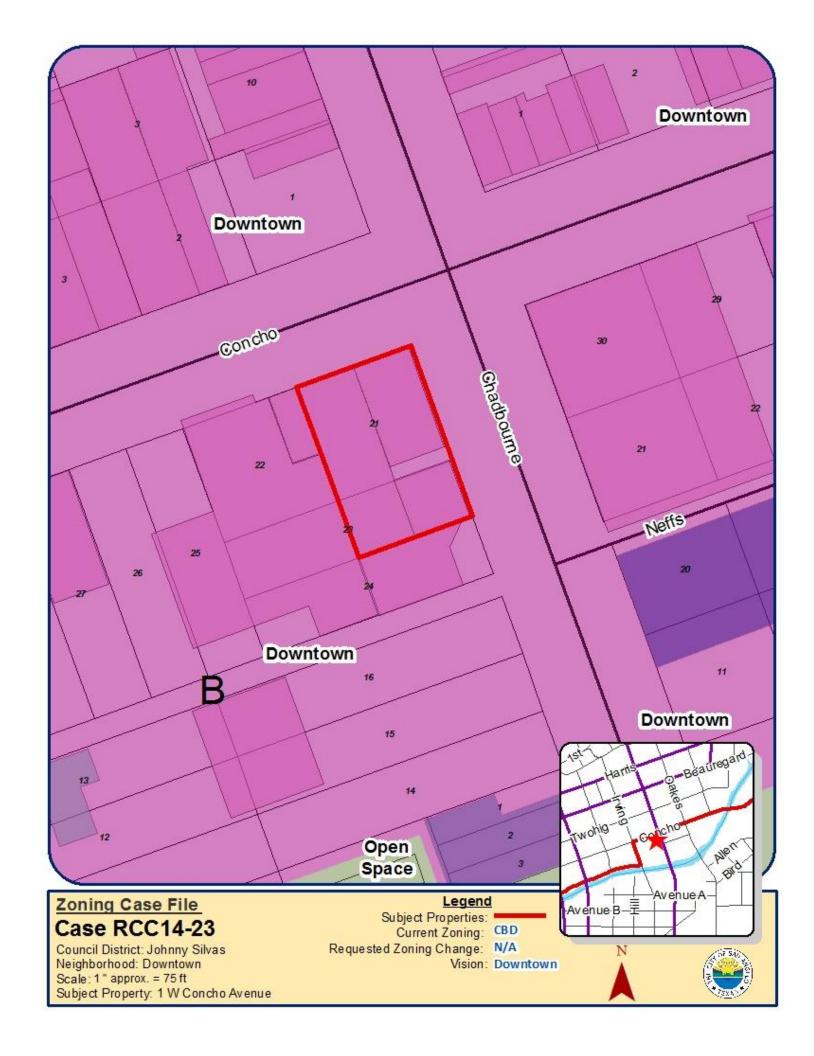
Color Palette - National Trust for Historic Preservation.

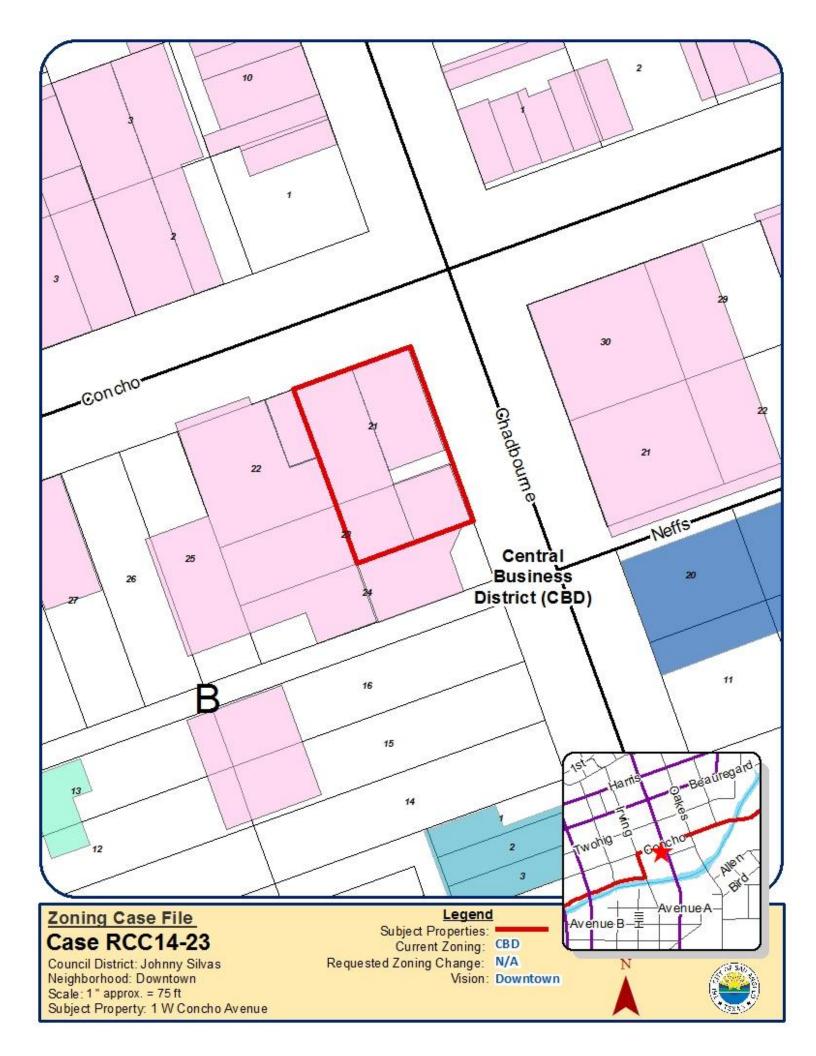
Original Cactus Sign Renderings

Building with Sign Renderings (June 19, 2014)

Canopy Renderings (Nov 17, 2014)







Photos of Site and Surrounding Area

Looking South at building (W. Concho)



Looking East at building (S. Chadbourne)



North



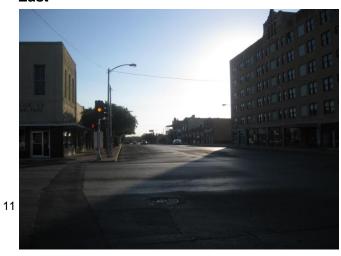
South



West



East



Photos - Continued

Chester Dorner Jewelry - 219 S. Chadbourne St



Miss Hatties - 26 E. Concho Ave



Sassy Fox – 36 E. Concho Ave



Photos - Continued

J.L. Mercer Boots - 224 S Chadbourne



Deadhorse Lounge – 217 S Chadbourne



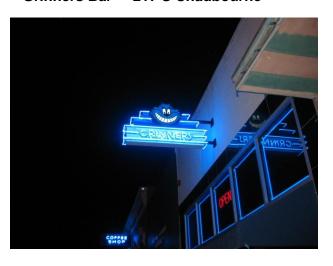
Casa Décor – 39 West Concho Ave



Stangos Coffee – 221 S Chadbourne



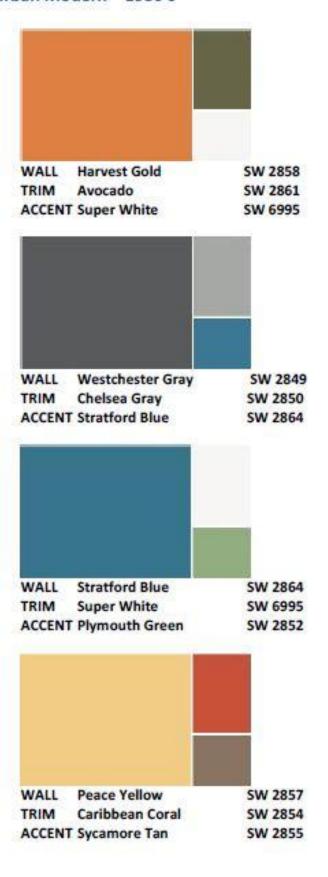
Grinners Bar - 217 S Chadbourne



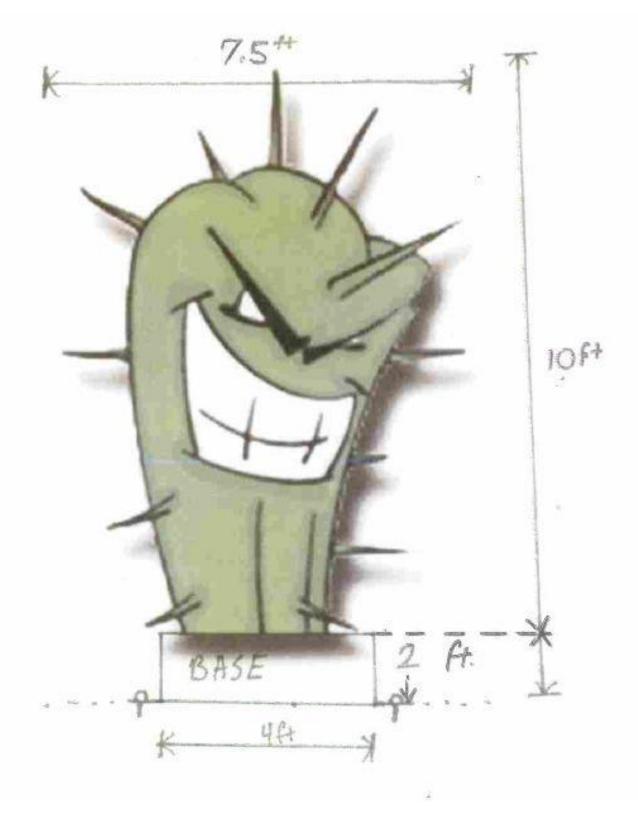
Iggys Italian Ice – 37 West Concho Ave



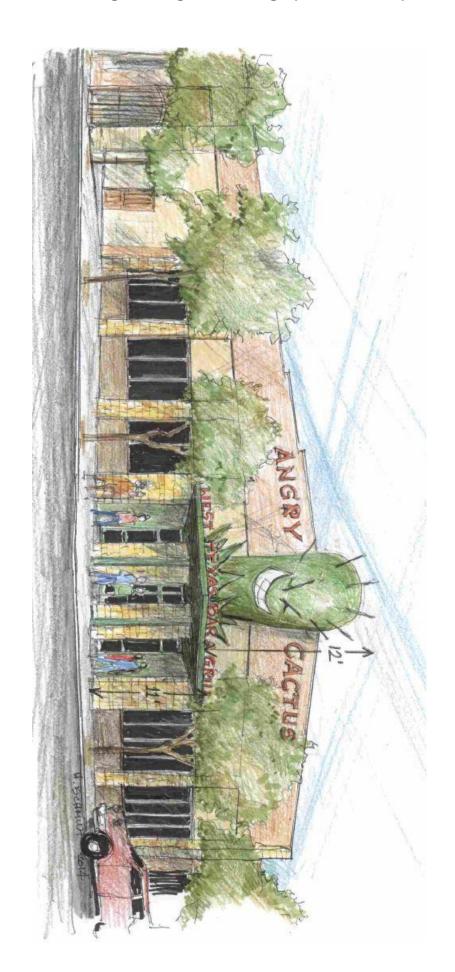
Suburban Modern - 1950's



Original Rendering of Proposed Cactus Sculpture Sign



Building with Sign Renderings (June 19, 2014)



Canopy Renderings (Nov 17, 2014)



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To: Design and Historic Review Commission members

From: Patrick B. Howard, AICP

Director

Through: Rebeca A. Guerra, AICP, LEED-AP, CPD

Planning Manager

Presenter: Jeff Fisher

Planner

Case: Amendment to Case RCC14-13

Request: A request for an amendment to a previous approval of exterior

alterations of an existing building located in the River Corridor, as required by Section 12.703(a) of the River Corridor

Development Ordinance, on the following property:

Location: 1 West Concho Avenue, generally located at the southwest

corner of the intersection of West Concho Avenue and South Chadbourne Street; more specifically San Angelo Addition, Block B, Lot 21 & N 49' 5 1/2" of the E 100 feet of Lot, in

central San Angelo.

Legal

Description: San Angelo Addition, Block B, Lot 21 & N 49' 5 1/2" of the E

100' of Lot.

Size: 0.343 acres

General Information

Future Land Use: Downtown

Zoning: Central Business District (CBD)

Existing Land Use: Vacant one-story building

Surrounding Zoning / Land Use:

North:	Central Business District (CBD)	Heritage Haus Clocks, San Angelo Finance, JL Mercer Boots, Lucky You Boutique, Art Glass Studio, Stango's Coffee Shop
West:	Central Business District (CBD)	Parking lot, historic buildings, financial loans, Michelin Tires
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District: CMD #3 Johnny Silvas

Neighborhood: Downtown

Thoroughfares/Streets: Per the Major Thoroughfare Plan, West

Concho Avenue is a "Parkway" which used to serve public areas characterized by open spaces and waterfront features. South Chadbourne Street is a "Major Arterial Road" which connects freeways and other arterials. West Concho Avenue is approximately 36 feet paved, 4 feet less than required. South Chadbourne Street is approximately 40 feet paved, 24 feet less than required. However, the subject property is within the Central Business District with established buildings developed with zero-foot setbacks. The existing road network appears to be able to accommodate

the proposed restaurant where the sign would be located.

Recommendation:

The Planning Division recommends <u>APPROVAL</u> of this request, subject to four (4) Conditions of Approval.

History and Background:

On May 28, 2014, the applicant submitted for the first time, this application for a River Corridor Review for exterior alterations to an existing vacant building on the property (RCC14-13). The alterations were for his new restaurant, "The Angry Cactus West Texas Bar and Grill." Included with the submission, was a floor plan showing the bar and restaurant with a total of 7,669 square feet, a building elevation showing a red brick base and a neutral light yellow and red stucco finish on the remainder of the building, as well as a large 15'-18' cactus roof sculpture sign and two large thorns at the front entrance. (see attached "June 19, 2014 renderings"). The applicant removed the cactus from his application prior to the Design and Historic Review Committee (DHRC) Meeting.

On June 19, 2014, the DHRC approved the proposed alterations, minus the cactus, subject to four (4) conditions: 1) that the final color scheme and building materials, signage, lighting, and variation to the building walls with columns, recesses, and/or canopies are to be consistent with the existing character of the area, and that any canopies projecting into a public right-of-way will require approval from Council; 2) that the applicant complies with all the standards outlined in the Sign Ordinance; 3) if the proposed thorns encroach within the right-of-way of the two adjacent streets in front of the building, it requires City Council approval; 4) Staff recommends attached wall signs where only the lettering is backlit rather than signs where the entire sign area, including areas outside the lettering is internally illuminated for overall consistency, and that the proposed signs shall not produce lighting that is excessively bright.

The applicant later decided to proceed with the rooftop cactus, and submitted new applications on August 19, 2014. The first request was for a Sign Variance (SV 14-04) to allow the cactus sign in the River Corridor to have a total sign height of 34 feet, measured from the ground, whereas the maximum sign height is 30 feet, measured from the ground. The second variance was to receive DHRC approval because the sign was in the River Corridor (RCC 14-23). The latter application remains pending and was tabled at the October 28, 2014 DHRC Meeting, at the request of the Commission, to allow the applicant to revaluate the height of his proposed freestanding sign, and to submit revised façade renderings associated with this application.

On Monday, November 17, 2014, the applicant submitted revised building renderings showing the cactus sign. To clarify, this report will be evaluating only the revised building renderings (RCC14-13). The cactus sign will be reviewed as its own application (RCC14-23).

The revised submission shows fully scaled elevation drawings showing a new canopy at the front of the building at the corner of West Concho Avenue and South Chadbourne Street. The new canopy is 10 feet high and would project 3 feet into the street's right-of-way along the first 16 feet of both West Concho Avenue and South Chadbourne Street. The 10-foot high cactus sign, with a 2-foot base, would sit on top of the canopy, but as previously mentioned, will be reviewed by separate application pending (RCC14-23). Also shown are recessed building walls as required by the previous approval, however, it is unclear the projection distance between the projecting columns and the building walls.

The canopy as shown would include sign lettering for the restaurant "West Texas Bar and Grill." The façade colors and materials remain unchanged from the previous approval. The base would be a light brown or red brick finish, with a light yellow and red neutral stucco finish for the remainder of the building. The canopy would be a neutral green color and there would be some yellow brickwork underneath the canopy around the front entrance.

The existing building, built in 1969, was constructed up to the property lines (with a zero foot setback) and the canopy, with the lettering and cactus sculpture on top, is shown projecting 3 feet from the building.

Therefore, as a proposed Condition of Approval, the applicant will require an encroachment agreement from City Council specifically for the canopy, and for the lettering on top of the canopy. The cactus sculpture sign on top of the canopy will also require an encroachment approval which will be a condition of application RCC14-23.

Analysis:

Section 12.703(a) of the River Corridor Development Ordinance requires the DHRC to review any remodeling of the exterior of an existing structure. In order for the DHRC to recommend approval of this application, the request needs to be consistent with the design guidelines of the *River Corridor Master Development Plan* and meet the *Historic Preservation Design Guidelines* for commercial properties within the Central Business District of San Angelo.

The staff recommendation is based upon the statements listed below which remain unchanged from the previous DHRC approval on June 19, 2014, unless where bolded:

Staff conducted a site visit and examined the subject property and adjacent properties in the immediate area of the River Corridor. Surrounding properties contain a wide range of retail commercial uses including coffee shops, clothing, home accessories, and art boutiques. Existing buildings have a smooth finishing of brick or concrete, with building cornices, pediments, recessed entries, and some awnings and canopies. The buildings vary in color, the majority are neutral light yellow, red or brown brick or concrete. Signage ranges from traditional style to modern style with lighted signs emitting minimal light to keep with the traditional character of the River Corridor.

In order to recommend approval of this application, the proposal needs to be consistent with the design guidelines of the *River Corridor Master Development Plan* and have regard for the *Historic Preservation Design Guidelines* for commercial properties within the Central Business District of San Angelo.

Staff supports the neutral yellow and red stucco and red-brown brick façade. Section 1.B.3. of the Master Plan supports using "subtle yet rich colors rather than intense, bright colors" and "colors should be harmonious with those colors found on adjacent buildings". Examples of similar color and building materials in the area include Stango's Coffee (red) and Heritage Haus (neutral yellow) which are immediately north of the property on Chabourne Street, and provide a smooth building finish.

The proposed alternations are also in keeping with the Master Plan respecting building design as outlined in 1.B.1 which states that "new development must be compatible in scale with the surrounding buildings and respect the pedestrian-oriented nature of the city", and for corner lots "corner entryways are encouraged, and alcoves, canopies, or other means of shelter should be provided at corner intersections". The proposed building would be 24 feet high and be similar to the one-two story buildings in the area. The building will will have a corner entrance fronting onto an angle facing West Concho Avenue and South Chabourne Street. Section 1.B.2. states "the proportions, forms and spacing of windows, doors, and other architectural elements should reflect the characteristic proportions and spacings of existing facades found in the historic city center." The building's windows and doors appear of similar size and style to other establishments in the area including Stango's Coffee and the retail strip along the north side of East Concho Avenue, including Heritage Haus and Miskeys Gifts.

The new renderings appear to show more variations in building facades in accordance with 1.B.2. of the Master Plan "new buildings should reflect the

characteristic rhythm of existing facades along the street (20-40 feet width)" and the *Historic Preservation Design Guidelines* which encourage "building wall offsets, including projections, recesses, changes in floor level, or changes of materials should be used to add architectural variety and interest, and to relieve the visual impact of a blank wall" and "the repetition of recessed entries provides a rhythm of shadows along the street, which establishes a sense of scale". The Master Plan in Section 1.B.4 also encourages awnings and canopies as they "serve as a transition between the building, sidewalk and street, helping visually unite them, and providing pedestrian scale to the street". Under Section 1.B.1. "corner entryways are encouraged, and alcoves, canopies, or other means of shelter should be provided at corner intersections".

Staff recommends that the applicant submit final plans prior to construction showing the projection distance between the new columns and the walls on South Chadbourne Street and West Concho Avenue.

Staff also reviewed the new wall sign requests. The signage at the front of the building has been amended from "Angry Cactus West Texas Bar and Grill" to "Angry Cactus" only, with the "West Texas Bar and Grill" letters now on the canopy in the projection area. Each sign appears to be less than 25% of the wall area as required in 12.604 of the Sign Ordinance.

The applicant has not included the two large thorns at the front corner of the building so they will be removed from this approval.

Staff recommends that proposed signs have lighting that is directed only behind the lettering and not to other areas within the sign face, consistent with other approvals by the DHRC such as the signage for the bar/restaurant at 135 West Twohig Avenue (RCC 12-54). Staff also recommends lighting that minimizes light pollution and is consistent with lighting in the area. Applications to DHRC for exterior alterations at 135 West Twohig Avenue, and 333 South Chadbourne Street (RCC13-51) approved gooseneck warehouse and mounted cage lights which are consistent with the area.

Action Requested:

The action requested is for the Planning Commission to <u>APPROVE</u> an amendment to Case RCC14-13, **subject to the following four (4) Conditions of Approval:**

1. The applicant shall submit final plans to be administratively approved by the Director of Planning & Development Services, or his or her designee, prior to construction, showing the final color scheme and

building materials, signage, lighting, and variation to the building walls with columns, recesses and/or canopies to be consistent with the existing character of the area and with the attached renderings.

- 2. The applicant shall comply with all the standards outlined in the Sign Ordinance, unless otherwise indicated or waivered.
- 3. All illumination shall be designed in such a manner so as to minimize the potential for glare and unnecessary diffusion onto adjacent property and rights-of-way.
- 4. The applicant shall obtain a Right-Of-Way Encroachment Agreement from City Council for any required grease trap, signage, and portion of the building which projects onto a public right-of-way.

Note:

1. The two thorns shown at the front of the building as part of the original submission approved on June 19, 2014, have been removed and shall no longer be part of this approval.

Appeals:

Per Section 12.703(g) of the River Corridor Development Ordinance, an applicant who is denied a building permit will have a right to appeal to the City Council within 30 days of the Commission's decision. If the City Council approves the proposed construction, the Building Official shall then issue a permit therefore.

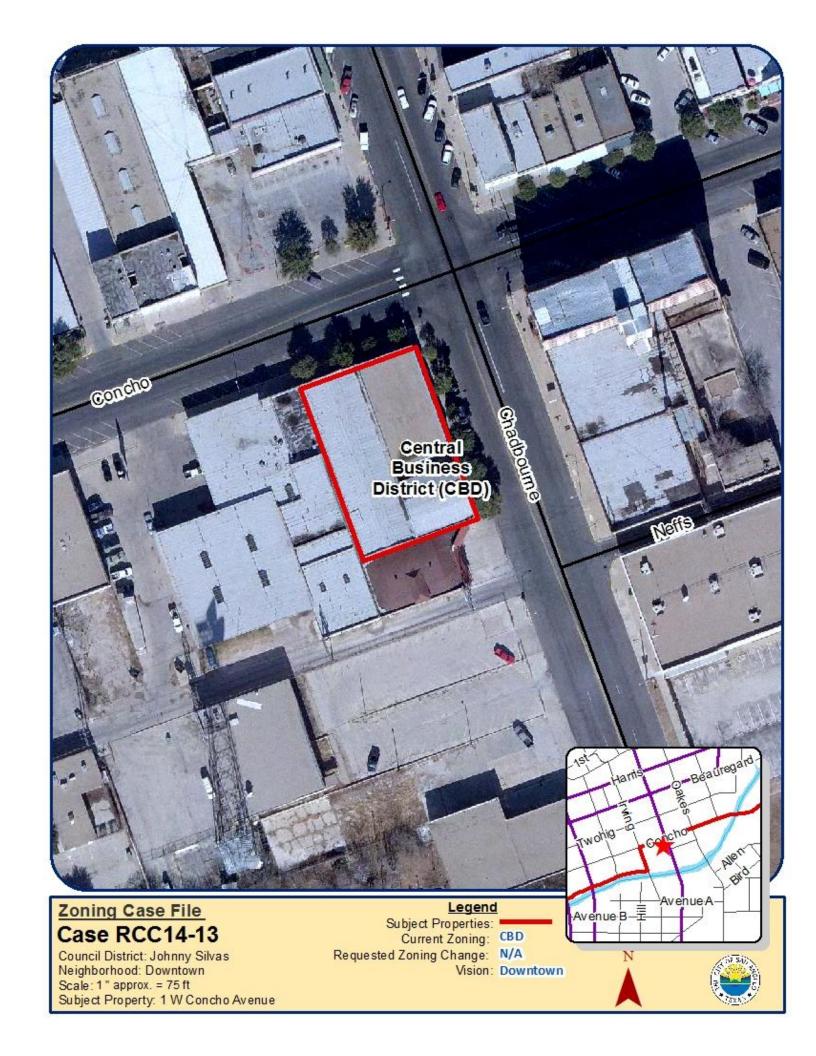
Attachments: Aerial Map

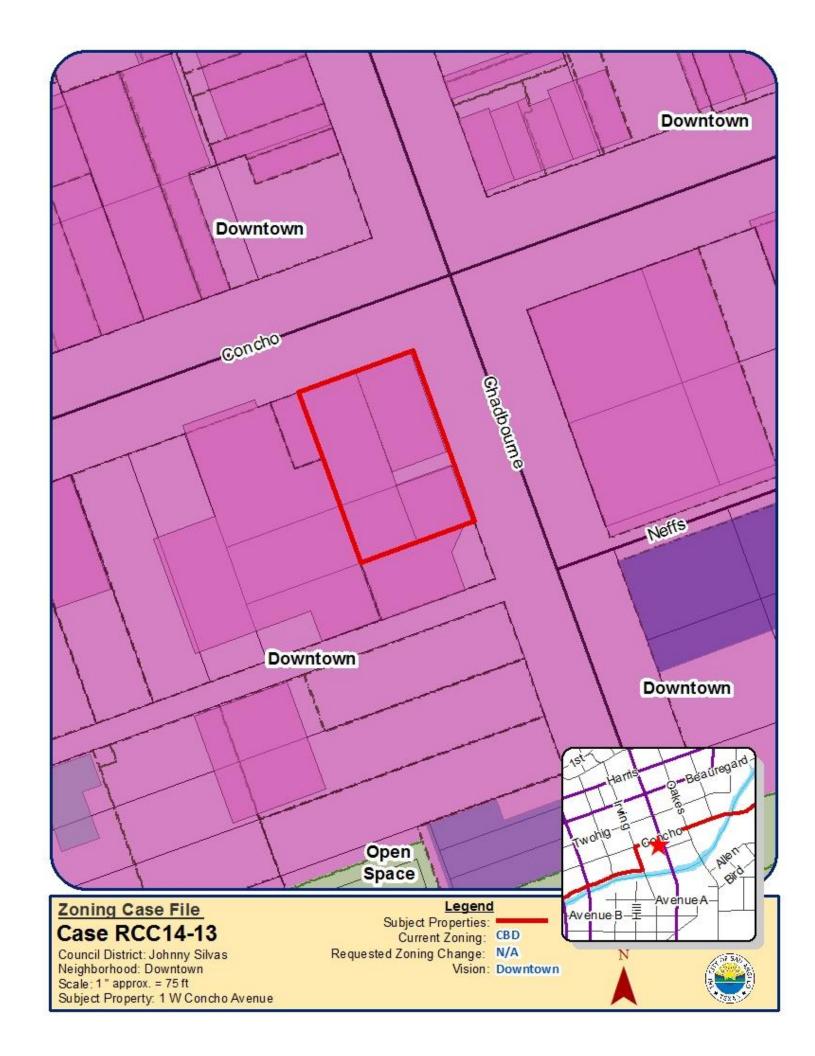
Future Land Use Map

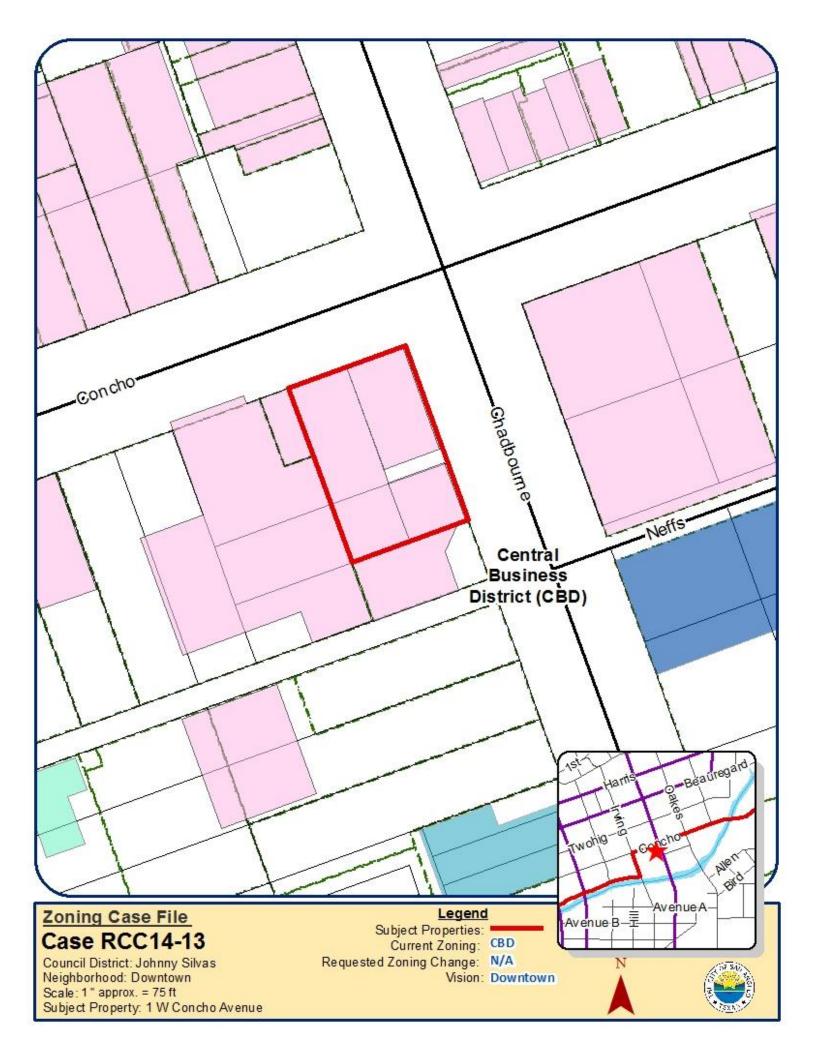
Zoning Map

Photos of Site and Surrounding Area Signage Color Palette - National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Original Building Renderings (June 19, 2014) Revised Building Renderings (Nov 17, 2014)







Photos of Site and Surrounding Area

Looking South at building (W. Concho)



Looking East at building (S. Chadbourne)



North



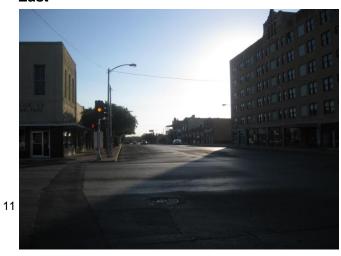
South



West



East



Photos - Continued

Chester Dorner Jewelry - 219 S. Chadbourne St



Miss Hatties - 26 E. Concho Ave



Sassy Fox – 36 E. Concho Ave



Photos - Continued

J.L. Mercer Boots – 224 S Chadbourne



Deadhorse Lounge – 217 S Chadbourne



Casa Décor - 39 West Concho Ave



Stangos Coffee – 221 S Chadbourne



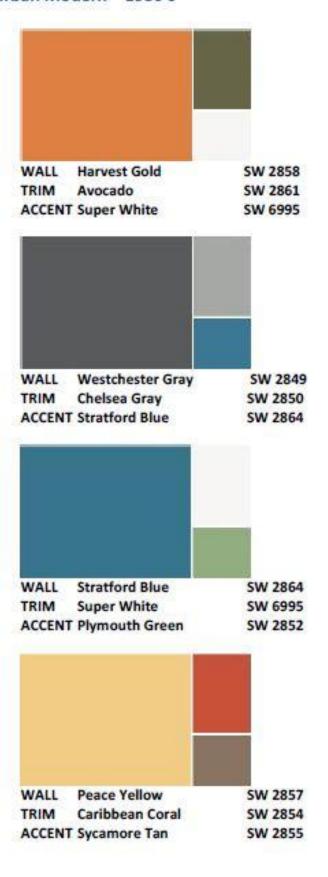
Grinners Bar - 217 S Chadbourne



Iggys Italian Ice – 37 West Concho Ave



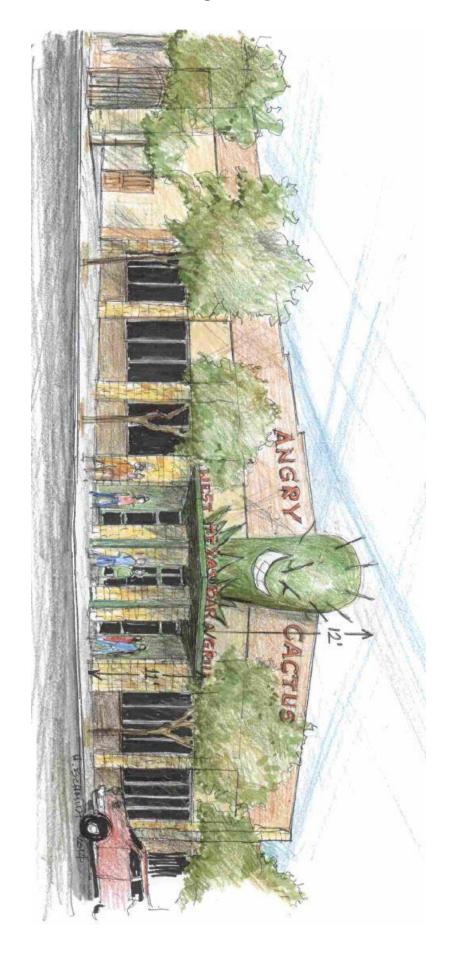
Suburban Modern - 1950's



Original Renderings "June 19, 2014"



Revised Renderings "November 17, 2014"





10 cactus