

Aaron King

From: Salvador Patino <salvador.patino@chavodesign.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2018 10:54 AM
To: Aaron King
Subject: UDO-284

Hello Aaron,

I'm not sure I will be able to attend today's Planning Board Meeting, but wanted to weigh in on the ordinance amendment to the UDO in regards to the use of metal siding on commercial buildings.

I know there is a good reason for this proposal, since metal has been used as a cheap option for poorly designed buildings. However, metal really isn't the problem, but rather bad design. Metal can be used in very creative ways that are both aesthetically pleasing and durable (which is why owners chose it). I don't think getting rid of metal will really solve the problem you are trying to tackle with this amendment, since they will just replace it with another cheap and poorly designed option. For instance, a tilt-up concrete panel building, CMU wall, or hardy plank siding can look just as bad or worse than the type of metal siding you are trying to replace. So we will still end up with crappy looking buildings, they will just have a different shade of lipstick on them.

The reason I am against this measure is because it limits the palette of architects and designers, and takes away a material that if used right can look great. Look at some of the work that STITCH has been doing here in Winston-Salem for example. The metal skin on their house on the corner of Granville and Montgomery is a great example of what a well designed metal skin can look like. Even the cheap corrugated metal can look great if designed correctly.

Also, if this ordinance amendment passes, can we hold the city and its buildings to the same standards? For example, the city buildings in the Fairgrounds; including the plans to build a new metal "shed" behind the Annex.

Again, I completely understand the good intentions of this amendment, and agree that the use of metal siding it is trying to tackle would make our built environment better. However completely taking away a very durable and versatile material that can make great looking buildings is not really the answer. I guarantee you that they will just be replaced with another material that looks just as cheap and soulless. After all, crappy design is crappy design.

Best,

Salvador Patiño

Project Manager/Lead Designer

(336) 701-0242
salvador.patino@chavodesign.com
chavodesign.com