

## Oklahoma City's Bricktown Urban Design Committee continues to defer vote on proposed parking, retail development

A developer seeking to build parking and retail along the Bricktown Canal continued to hit resistance from the Bricktown Urban Design Committee as it refused to vote on the project for a third consecutive month.

BY STEVE LACKMEYER [slackmeyer@opubco.com](mailto:slackmeyer@opubco.com)  3  
Published: October 13, 2011

A developer seeking to build parking and retail along the Bricktown Canal continued to hit resistance from the Bricktown Urban Design Committee as it refused to vote on the project for a third consecutive month.

Chris Johnson, owner USA Screen Printing, brought two attorneys, Dennis and David Box, a court reporter, engineer and architect to the meeting Wednesday as he struggled to gain approval for the project.

His plans call for the creation of parking lots on both sides of the canal just west of Mickey Mantle Drive. The site also includes 30,000 square feet of retail split among two buildings on each side of the waterway, with the largest continuous space to be located under a street-level parking deck to be located across from the JDM Building.

Members of the Bricktown Urban Design Committee tasked with reviewing new construction in the entertainment district have made it clear they haven't approved of the project since it's first pitch in June. A vote was deferred in September because the plans did not show how landscaping would be used to screen the parking lots from the canal.

A vote was deferred again Wednesday after committee members noted inconsistencies in the revised renderings and original plans included in the latest presentation.

"I'm not planning on voting," member Tom Wilson said. "I don't think it's the right project for Bricktown."

Johnson criticized the committee, noting city planners had determined before Wednesday's meeting that his application was deemed "complete" and recommended it for approval. He also wondered whether committee members had the authority to question him on plans to include an elevator inside the two new buildings.

“I need the city to clarify what the purposes of this board is — the inside of my building or the outside,” Johnson said.

“This is the third meeting we've been at. ... We're dealing with a man who has declared he is going to deny my permit anyway.”

Wilson and fellow member Mark Krittenbrink responded that design of the elevator could affect the roof appearances or building abutments, and similar confusion had occurred on earlier projects reviewed by the committee.

Wilson said the discrepancies in the plans submitted Wednesday were too significant to ignore and included variations in the number and placement of door openings.

“I'm going to vote my conscience, my judgment and what I think is best for Bricktown,” Wilson said. “This particular set of drawings, in my opinion, is too inconsistent for others to be voting on. What has been provided today conflicts with what we've had and what we've spent the past four days reviewing.”



**Show / Hide Comments**

Ads by Yahoo!

**Ann Johnston, Co-Founder**

The Singh Company, real estate and resort development in Florida Keys  
www.tranquilitybay.com

**Japanese Art**

Find Japanese Art Online. Free Shipping \$50 on 100,000 Items!  
Target.com/FreeShipping