

# THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

## CANCER PATIENT LODGING GETS OKAY FROM DOWNTOWN DESIGN PANEL

By *Wayne Risher*  
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Downtown's design review board tentatively approved a 40-suite lodging facility for out-of-town cancer patients on Union and a 120-bed nursing home on North Second.

Board members said the design for a proposed American Cancer Society Harrah's Hope Lodge would blend well with its surroundings, including Sun Studio, the iconic Memphis music site at 706 Union.

Designers of the Hope Lodge and the nursing home, a project of Harbor View Properties Inc. of Parsons, Tenn., agreed to tweak their plans in response to suggestions Wednesday by the Center City Commission architectural review panel.

Architects from TRO Jung Brannen and Trivers Associates presented the Hope Lodge design, which the Cancer Society plans to build at 718 Union, at the northwest corner of Union and Manassas.

The three-story, 9,860-square-foot building would be set back from Union on the end closest to Sun Studio, so as not to obstruct views of the landmark for motorists driving west on Union, said Greg Zipfel, director of the health and wellness studio at Trivers.

Leighanne Hart, development director of the Cancer Society, said Hope Lodge proponents were eager to move forward.

"That was one more hurdle, and we're very excited about it."

The organization has raised \$7 million toward a goal of \$8.5 million to build the home-away-from-home for adult cancer patients.

Hart said, "We anticipate breaking ground in late April, and it's about a one-year construction project."

Operators of Sun Studio are still in discussions with the University of Tennessee about street access and other issues, but they had no problem with the design.

John Schorr, president and general manager of the music museum, said, "It looked OK. It was set back from Union Avenue, so a good portion of our building is viewable from that side.

"Obviously, it's a fine cause, and we're totally for that."

The design review board action cleared the way for the \$13 million nursing home project to close on a property tax freeze before year's end.

Tennessee Health Management,

which operates Court Manor nursing home on Court in Midtown, plans to move operations to the Downtown facility at 1513 N. Second.

Scott Dicus and Leslie Smith of Askew Nixon Ferguson architects presented plans for the 83,000-square-foot building on 10 acres on Second between Pear and Mahannah streets.

Center City staff said the project would have a residential look compatible with the Uptown neighborhood.

Site preparation is under way. The nursing home is supposed to be done in about a year.