

**SUMMARY NOTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2006
VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD**

On Monday, January 9, 2006, in the Northfield Village Second Floor Multi-Purpose Room, 361 Happ Road, the Architectural Commission met at 7:30 P.M. to consider two issues:

Members in Attendance:

Pat Karr, Chairperson
Steven Page
Todd Berlinghof
Tom Jennings
James Hayes

Members Absent:

Juergen Fuss
Steve Hirsch

OTHERS PRESENT: Linnea O'Neill, Village Planner (see attached sign-in sheet).

Chairperson Karr opened the meeting with an overview of the issues to be considered at this meeting.

Chairperson Karr requested approval of the Summary Notes of the December 12, 2005 Architectural Commission meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Berlinghof, Seconded by Commissioner Hayes to approve the Architectural Commission Summary Notes of December 12, 2005.

The vote was as follows:

AYES: 4

Chairperson Pat Karr
Steven Page
Todd Berlinghof
James Hayes

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 3

Tom Jennings
Juergen Fuss
Steve Hirsch

Motion Carried

ISSUE #1: Consideration of a request for approval of Permanent Signage at 1827 Oak Street, submitted by Poliquin Performance.

John Bank from Heritage Signs was present for Poliquin Performance. Mr. Bank indicated to the Commission that a current Plat had not been updated until recently when it was found that the proposed Poliquin sign was on the Village right-of-way. Petitioner was not aware of this before. Mr. Bank said that since it was recently found that the sign was proposed on the Village right of way, he was present at this meeting to get some recommendations from

the Commission for the sign. Mr. Bank said he spoke with Pete Harvey, who owns the building and Entrade regarding the sign and the possibility of a multi-tenant sign with the Entrade sign. There are three businesses located at the building. He has not spoken with Speed Scan yet, the other tenant. Speed Scan has a sign which has not been approved by the Village. Mr. Bank indicated he worked on the sign at the Basil Building and felt a multi-tenant sign might work here. He was looking for suggestions. He wanted to know if it would be possible to build on to the existing Entrade sign. He does not have designs at this time.

Ms. Linnea O'Neill indicated that they should have about 30 square feet to work with. The present Entrade sign is 15.75 square feet and the interior 50 square feet. They can go up to 100 square feet.

Chairperson Karr felt a multi-tenant sign would work if it matched the Entrade sign. She felt the proposed Poliquin sign does not fit with the signage in Northfield. Commissioner Berlinghof asked for more information about the Entrade sign. Mr. Bank said it is 9' wide (left to right) and 18" in height with brass-type lettering. He was unsure of the substrate used but it is textured material in keeping with the building. He proposed moving the proposed sign to the Oak Street entrance, but didn't feel it would be visible. Mr. Bank felt that Petitioner wanted to advertise their business on the sign with additional information.

Commissioner Berlinghof felt the Entrade sign is a classic. He felt building from that would work, provided it didn't look like an add-on and was in keeping with the same colors and materials. He stressed that he does not approve of signs with too much information and junk, such as a telephone number and website.

Mr. Bank then asked the Commission if they have a multi-tenant sign, could it be internally lit and would they have more leeway with colors. Chairperson Karr reminded the Commission of Teddy Kossof's sign with multi-tenants and multi-colors. They were limited to 2-3 colors on the sign.

Commissioner Berlinghof answered Mr. Bank by saying that the sign being internally lit was not an issue, but the color selection and type face is more important. A company can be recognized easily by their type face. Commissioner Berlinghof felt that upgrading a look is more important.

Commissioner Page preferred internally lit signs for new structures. He felt that the sign should tie into the architecture or colors of the building. He questioned whether the existing Entrade sign is visible from both sides. Mr. Bank said it was, but that there were new trees planted which may block it at some future date.

Commissioner Jennings arrived.

Commissioner Page also questioned the chances of future tenants to the building and what arrangements were made. Chairperson Karr said that would be an agreement between the landlord and tenant. The Village is concerned that they comply with the size requirements.

Commissioner Page then questioned where the Village right of way is located. Ms. O'Neill distributed a copy of a survey showing the location. Mr. Bank indicated the Entrade sign is about 30' off Central Avenue. Ms. O'Neill indicated that the 500 address sign is on the right of way. Mr. Bank suggested moving it, but Ms. O'Neill said to leave it for now for police and fire purposes.

Chairperson Karr suggested to Mr. Bank to go back to the Petitioner and the others to discuss the recommendations made. Commissioner Page suggested landscaping around the sign. Mr. Bank said he appreciated their comments. However, the Petitioner would like to have their phone number and website on the sign and Mr. Bank asked what leeway, if any, would be given. Commissioner Berlinghof said no website and no phone numbers. Chairperson Karr indicated there have been some phone numbers on signs.

ISSUE #2: Consideration of a request for variance and approval of Permanent Signage at 400 Wagner Road, submitted by Northfield Community Nursery School.

Susan Jones, a member of the Board of Directors of the Northfield Community Nursery School was present to say that they are tenants in the Northfield Community Church and are not affiliated with the Church. They are before the Commission for a sign variance. The Church made a lot of improvements and increased their signage which made the School's signage not in compliance. The Plan and Zoning Commission did recommend to the Board of Trustees approval of the amendment to the ordinance to allow the sign. Ms. Jones indicated the sign has been there for 10 years and that as soon as they were told they were not in compliance with the sign because of the Church's new signage, they moved to correct it. She stressed the need for the sign for emergency purposes. She also indicated that the Church approved the sign.

Commissioner Berlinghof did not have a problem with the sign. He asked Ms. O'Neill whether Christian Heritage withdrew their petition. She indicated that they withdrew the website information only, not the separate sign issue. They are required to landscape. Commissioner Berlinghof suggested landscaping around this sign, perhaps low evergreens or perennials. Ms. Jones felt they should ask for the Church's approval. He added that all three of his children have attended the school and his wife was on the Board.

Commissioner Page indicated he did not have an issue with the sign, but questioned the location of the sign and would like to see signage tie in with the Church sign or building. He also added that his children attended the school and his wife was on the Board. Ms. Jones informed the Commission that the Church wanted the sign in that location. They looked into upgrading the sign to make it look like the Church's sign, but it was too costly. Commissioner Page suggested a sign in the front of the Church.

Glo Rolighed, a member of the Board of Directors, indicated that every year there are more and more children with severe allergies which may need immediate ambulance assistance. Therefore, she felt that if their sign were further away from the Church's sign, it would be

more visible. There is no evidence, however of the School unless you are behind the Church.

Commissioner Jennings questioned the location and asked if she felt there would be a better location. Ms. Rolighed felt that at the corner in front of the Church. However, where it is located now is sufficient.

Joan Hoholik, a member of the Board of Directors indicated that this existing sign is a two-sided sign which can be seen from Willow Road. However, the other side is not up at the present time. She feels this is the best location for the sign. A discussion continued regarding the angle as it appeared on the survey.

Commissioner Hayes asked about the School's lease with the Church. Ms. Hoholik indicated it is renewable every two years by either party. It was an initial 10 year lease.

Leslie George, also on the Board of Directors, indicated that they looked into the cost of a wooden sign but since they are a not-for-profit group, it is not an option. The quotes were from \$600 and up which they could not afford.

Commissioner Berlinghof suggested adding landscaping to the existing sign to be submitted for staff's approval. Chairperson Karr suggested the Garden Club's help. Ms. Jones asked when the planting should be. Commissioner Berlinghof suggested before June 1, 2006.

There being no further discussion, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Commissioner Berlinghof, Seconded by Commissioner Hayes to approve the variance of the sign as is with the caveat that landscaping be done by June 1, 2006 and approved by the staff.

The vote was as follows:

AYES: 5

Chairperson Pat Karr
Steven Page
Todd Berlinghof
Tom Jennings
James Hayes

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 2

Juergen Fuss
Steve Hirsch

Motion Carried

There being no further issues to discuss upon a motion duly made by Commissioner Berlinghof, seconded by Commissioner Jennings and passed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

HGM 1/10/06

Approved 2/13/06