

**SUMMARY NOTES
OF THE MEETING OF
THE ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2009
VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD**

On Monday, September 14, 2009, at the Northfield Village Board Room, 361 Happ Road, the Architectural Commission met at 7:00 P.M. to consider five issues:

Members in Attendance:

Pat Karr, Chairperson
Juergen Fuss
Steve Hirsch
Steve Page
Patricia Leonard

Members Absent:

Tom Jennings
Jason Felicione

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

Chairperson Karr requested approval of the Summary Notes of the July 13, 2009, Architectural Commission meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hirsch, Seconded by Commissioner Leonard to approve the Architectural Commission Summary Notes of July 13, 2009.

The vote was as follows:

AYES: 5

Pat Karr, Chairperson
Juergen Fuss
Steve Hirsch
Steve Page
Patricia Leonard

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 2

Tom Jennings
Jason Felicione

Motion Carried

ISSUE #1: Consideration of a request for approval of permanent signage for St. Philip the Apostle Parish located at 1962 Old Willow Road. The petitioner is St. Philip the Apostle Parish.

Denise Bronis of White Way Sign and Geoff Pautsch, representing St. Philip the Apostle Parish, were present. Mr. Pautsch informed the Commission that they will be keeping the existing wooden sign and using the new sign for special event messages, such as Oktoberfest.

Commissioner Fuss asked if the sign will be double faced to which Mr. Pautsch replied that yes it would be double faced. The brickwork will match the brick on the new construction project which also matches the existing brick building.

Commissioner Leonard questioned if plantings would be used. Mr. Pautsch indicated what is proposed are perennials with some annuals and boxwood.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Hirsch, Seconded by Commissioner Page to approve the ground sign as proposed in conformance with the plans submitted August 7, 2009.

The vote was as follows:

AYES: 5

Pat Karr, Chairperson
Juergen Fuss
Steve Hirsch
Steve Page
Patricia Leonard

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 2

Tom Jennings
Jason Felicione

Motion Carried

ISSUE #2: Consideration of a request for approval of the site lighting plan for an automobile dealership for The Fields Auto Group located at 770 Frontage Road. The petitioner is Field's Imports, Inc.

Petitioner requested that this matter be continued to the October meeting. Ms. O'Neill indicated that Jeff Brown will be coming back and the Village is currently locating a lighting consultant.

ISSUE #3: Consideration of a request for approval of a fence variation for Willow Park located at 401 Wagner Road. The petitioner is Northfield Park District.

George Axeloff was present for the Northfield Park District.

Commissioner Karr indicated she read everything submitted and understands his concern with foul balls going onto Willow Road. She felt it was a nice plan.

Commissioner Fuss questioned Mr. Axeloff as to whether they had considered reconfiguring the diamond to face another direction. Mr. Axeloff responded that they had considered other options, but it was not an option due to the flood plain problems.

Commissioner Fuss then asked what color the actual fence would be. Mr. Axeloff indicated black; the least noticeable color for a chain-link fence is black. He went on to say that left handed batters contributed to the amount of foul balls going on to Willow.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Page, Seconded by Commissioner Fuss to approve the requested variation to allow a 30' high backstop and sideline fences for the pony league field at Willow Park.

The vote was as follows:

AYES: 5

Pat Karr, Chairperson
Juergen Fuss
Steve Hirsch
Steve Page
Patricia Leonard

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 2

Tom Jennings
Jason Felicione

Motion Carried

ISSUE #4: Consideration of a request for approval of equipment placement and co-located antennas on the existing monopole in the Northfield Self Storage facility located at 546 Frontage Road for Verizon Wireless. The petitioner is SAC Wireless.

Gary Schraw, Construction Manager for SAC Wireless was present for Verizon Wireless and SAC Wireless. Mr. Schraw explained to the Commission that Verizon Wireless has an existing monopole with three carriers co-located on it. They are proposed to take the first 3 storage units and create an equipment shelter on the existing structure. New antennas will be added to the existing pole. He indicated that this will improve the coverage in the area.

Commissioner Karr asked Mr. Schraw why it seemed to be more technical now with more complex issues. Mr. Schraw indicated that new video, music, cameras and more, are features being added to the phones which create the need for more technology. He is an architect, not an engineer, but said that more and more technology keeps coming. They are preparing for the future and improving the infrastructure. He went on to say that the Northfield area does not have good coverage; however, Verizon is #1 in backup generator coverage.

Commissioner Hirsch questioned why most monopoles and equipment shelters have fencing with barbed wire and wondered if this was required by the wireless companies. Mr. Schraw indicated they will be using the existing fencing and will only be adding the antennas. Commissioner Hirsch then asked if adding more would be more dangerous and if there are security risks. Mr. Schraw explained that he has done many sites in Chicago and the City requires solid wood fencing around the compounds and he felt that type of fencing created more hazards because you cannot see behind the fence. He prefers chain link fencing. The reason for the fencing is to keep people out. There is not enough voltage to hurt anyone. Commissioner Karr pointed out that the monopole is located behind the office building and out of sight.

Commissioner Hirsch asked whether someone's information could be obtained if a person were to break into the equipment shelter. Mr. Schraw didn't believe this would occur.

Commissioner Fuss then questioned any downsides to the poles and shelters to the public who live near them. Mr. Schraw indicated that the government and FCC say there is no risk. He trusts that the government is correct. He went on to say that with the proposed additional antenna, they are at 75% capacity on the monopole.

Commissioner Karr questioned if more landscaping could be done around the shelter. Ms. O'Neill indicated that the 6' strip on the east side of the self-storage facility could be landscaped with additional shrubs to soften the appearance. Mr. Schraw indicated they will be keeping the five (5) Honeylocust trees.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Leonard, Seconded by Commissioner Hirsch to approve the equipment placement and co-located antennas on the existing monopole with the following exception:

- 1. Additional landscaping shall be provided in the planting bed on the east side of the storage facility to conceal the proposed HVAC units and the exhaust damper.**

The vote was as follows:

AYES: 5

Pat Karr, Chairperson
Juergen Fuss
Steve Hirsch
Steve Page
Patricia Leonard

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 2

Tom Jennings
Jason Felicione

Motion Carried

ISSUE #5: Consideration of a request for approval of a dish antenna on the penthouse at One Northfield Plaza (560 Frontage Road) for Clearwire Wireless Broadband (a division of Sprint). The petitioner is SAC Wireless.

Gary Schraw, Construction Manager for SAC Wireless was present for Clearwire (a division of Sprint). Mr. Schraw explained to the Commission that the dish is similar to a TV dish, except that it is 12" in diameter and will be painted to match the existing penthouse wall color. It is a line-of-sight dish and does not emit radioactive waves. The equipment required is the size of a DVD player and slides into an existing radio cabinet on the 5th floor.

Commissioner Fuss asked if the dish would be seen at grade level. Mr. Schraw indicated that it could not be seen as it is above the 5th floor and is set back.

Commissioner Hirsch questioned what the total would be for antennas now. Mr. Schraw indicated 29 total. Ms. O'Neill indicated she counted 38.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Hirsch, Seconded by Commissioner Fuss to approve the proposed installation of one 12" microwave dish antenna on the existing penthouse of the 560 Frontage Road (One Northfield Plaza) with the following exception:

1. The dish, pipe and hardware are to be painted the same color as the penthouse facade.

The vote was as follows:

AYES: 5

Pat Karr, Chairperson
Juergen Fuss
Steve Hirsch
Steve Page
Patricia Leonard

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 2

Tom Jennings
Jason Felicione

Motion Carried

OTHER BUSINESS:

ISSUE #1: Discuss changes to the previously approved sign, pavers, curbs, gates for the mechanical screening enclosure at the front façade, ground lights and lighting fixtures for The Isabella Condominium located at 1884 Old Willow Road.

Commissioner Karr reported that approximately 200 people attended the Open House for Isabella Condominiums. She indicated the units are very nice.

Ms. O'Neill showed the Commission the changes which have been requested from the original approvals made by this Commission. The first change is to use Bluestone pavers instead of the previously approved brick pavers. The second alteration is instead of the approved concrete entrance curb that a limestone curb be installed. No ground lights were approved previously, however, they are asking for six ground lights (3 on each side) for the entrance walk. Ms. O'Neill went on to say that 3 stone light piers were approved before, but they would like to only use 2 stone light piers with a Sternberg Ripon Luminaire on top of a 6'6" pole. An entrance sign had been approved along with a sign variance; however, the petitioner would now prefer that an address sign be placed on the two wing walls (2' by 2' and 3'2" tall brick pier with two wing walls that extend 4'8" north and west) and no variation would be required. The final change requested is to use decorative wood gates and a 2' decorative wood screen on top of the wall instead of the metal gates for the mechanical screen which were previously approved.

Commissioner Page questioned the lighting, specifically if they were using uplights or down lights. Commission members also questioned why the Village's Sternberg pole was not being utilized. Ms. O'Neill indicated she will clarify with the architect.

Otherwise, the Commission members felt these changes were acceptable.

ISSUE #2: Discuss proposed storefront changes (contemporary entrance door to replace the existing glass door) for ENAZ, a new retail store opening between Lori's Shoes and The Happ Inn, located at 309 Happ Road.

Ms. O'Neill explained to Commission members that this is a new retail store which currently has glass doors. The owner would like to replace the glass doors with a dark stained wood door with angled glass inserts and a wood insert above the glass that angled in the opposite direction. Ms. Lurie, the owner found the doors in the basement and was given permission to use the door.

Commission members felt this change was acceptable

There being no further issues to discuss upon a motion duly made by Commissioner Leonard, seconded by Commissioner Hirsch and passed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 P.M.

HGM 9/14/09

Approved 10/13/09