

ARCHITECTURAL

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING
BEFORE THE VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD
ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

COMMISSION

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had before the Village of Northfield Architectural Commission taken at the Village of Northfield, 361 Happ Road, Second Floor Multi-Purpose Room, Northfield, Illinois on the 13th day of January, 2020, at the hour of 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

TEV BOND, Chairman
PATRICIA MORRELL
KATHYRN TALTY
BARNABY DINGES
ANDY BOWYER

MEMBERS ABSENT:

JOE MCINERNEY

ALSO PRESENT:

LINNEA O'NEILL, Staff Liaison

1 CHAIRMAN BOND: My name is Tev Bond. I'm going to
 2 call to order the January 13th meeting of the
 3 Architectural Commission.
 4 CHAIRMAN BOND: I will let the Architectural
 5 Commission introduce themselves.
 6 COMMISSIONER DINGES: Barnaby Dinges.
 7 COMMISSIONER TALTY: Kathryn Talty.
 8 COMMISSIONER BOWYER: Andy Bowyer.
 9 COMMISSIONER MORRELL: Patricia Morrell.
 10 CHAIRMAN BOND: May I have a motion to approve the
 11 meeting minutes from November 11?
 12 COMMISSIONER DINGES: Motion approve the minutes
 13 from November.
 14 CHAIRMAN BOND: Do I have a second?
 15 COMMISSIONER BOWYER: I second.
 16 CHAIRMAN BOND: All in favor?
 17 (Chorus of ayes.)
 18 CHAIRMAN BOND: Approved. Thank you.
 19

20 **1) 7 HAPP ROAD - Consideration of a request for**
 21 **approval of permanent signage for New Trier High School**
 22 **located at 7 Happ Road.**
 23 **Petitioner: New Trier Township High School District 203**
 24 **Property Index Number: 05-30-101-018, 05-30-101-020,**
 25 **05-30-101-021 and 05-30-101-031**
 26 **Project Number: 2019-0462**
 27

28 CHAIRMAN BOND: We have one agenda item tonight, 7
 29 Happ Road, consideration of a request for approval of
 30 permanent signage for New Trier High School located at 7
 31 Happ Road. So, whoever is considering speaking, if it's
 32 all right with you, we'll swear everyone in at once.
 33 So, if you could just stand and hold up your right hand?
 34 (Witnesses sworn.)
 35 CHAIRMAN BOND: Excellent. So, whenever you're
 36 ready to speak, if you could just state your name and,
 37 do you, I guess if you could just come to the front of
 38 the chairs this evening? We're in a different room
 39 tonight, so we're a little more informal.
 40 MR. HARKINS: Is it okay if I --
 41 CHAIRMAN BOND: If you'd like a chocolate, I've got
 42 chocolate.
 43 MR. HARKINS: Sure.
 44 COMMISSIONER DINGES: It's more of a classroom
 45 setting.
 46 CHAIRMAN BOND: That's right. So, if you can
 47 please just give your name?
 48 MR. HARKINS: Sure, I will.
 49 CHAIRMAN BOND: Thank you.
 50 MR. HARKINS: I'm Don Harkins. I'm with Harkins
 51 Signs and represent the school district. It's been my
 52 pleasure for over the 20-plus years that New Trier has
 53 been on the Northfield campus to oversee their signage
 54 program. Tonight, we come to you before this committee
 55 with a change. The reason that we're here is that, as

1 you're aware, there was a change in our new world of
2 security, especially in schools, and already approved
3 and installed over last year was the new fence system
4 that they did to close off many of the entrances on the
5 campus. As a result of that, we now have two entrances
6 for visitors; and as a result of the two entrances for
7 visitors, it affected the overall outside what we call
8 way-finding. So, the directional signage around the
9 outside of the campus needed to be updated.

10 So, with that updating, there's three basic parts
11 to it. One is the way-finding system which is the
12 existing directional signage which you see around the
13 campus currently. The second thing was to identify the
14 actual buildings in themselves with the campuses which
15 I'm sure you're all familiar with. There are seven
16 different buildings, seven different identities by
17 letters. So, a way to identify the buildings,
18 especially for guests, people coming out to the campus,
19 which building they're being directed.

20 Then, the third thing is to identify the entrances
21 that are now the security entrances where all visitors
22 must enter. There's two different places: one on the
23 west side of the campus and one on the east side of the
24 campus. So, there's two new entrances that are already
25 in existence. All visitors need to go to those
26 entrances, sign in, show their driver's license, and
27 then they're given a pass to go on the campus. So,
28 we're trying to identify those three aspects of our sign
29 program.

30 With that, it comes down to maybe the question of
31 why not just use the existing signs. Well, the existing
32 signs, we looked at that and the existing signs on the
33 campus have been there since this became a freshman
34 campus, the school has been there 20 some years at this
35 time, and they're showing their age. Not only that,
36 there's been just damage to a variety of those signs
37 where they've even been hit by a lawnmower or snowplows
38 with piles of snow, and so the signs have been, in some
39 cases they're warped in that they're at an angle where
40 we can't get the faces out of them. That's going to, it
41 became more involved to do that and try to straighten
42 those signs out and fix that.

43 The committee that was developed through the school
44 district, and I was part of that just as a consultant,
45 we ultimately determined that the best thing to do would
46 be to replace the entire sign system because new
47 lettering needed to be added to it anyway. So, in doing
48 that, we looked at a variety of different options. As
49 the designer, we came in with a, you know, so great,
50 let's really modernize it and come in with some snappy
51 colors and, you know, really make them look attractive
52 in that. Through the process of the committee, I think
53 they took a very conservative approach to the signage
54 and said, Don, no, let's keep this looking just like
55 what we have.

1 Let's do this more or less the same size, taking
2 into consideration the copy lengths, that we need to
3 maybe increase or decrease the height of the sign or the
4 width of the sign, but we want to keep the backgrounds
5 the same dark bronze color that we currently have as
6 well as the lettering. We want, you know, we want to
7 keep that in a very modern but readable typeface. So, I
8 think they took a very conservative approach, and you
9 would probably go on campus a year from now and you're
10 going to say I don't really notice anything much
11 different than what was currently there.

12 So, with the exception that at the same time, we
13 looked at the current Happ Road existing sign, the main
14 site sign as we call it for the campus, and it's felt
15 that, you know, for the size of the campus as, well as
16 just the size of the sign in that traffic flow of cars
17 going by at 35 miles an hour, that sign is pretty small.

18 So, we're coming before you tonight to ask that we
19 increase the width of that sign and keep it, more or
20 less it's going to look the same. We're going to add
21 the New Trier logo in a bronze piece instead of the
22 white vinyl, what's on it currently, but white letters
23 and the dark bronze background.

24 A landscaping plan has been developed for the, when
25 you look at the sign which I believe is Sign B, it's the
26 largest sign on your bottom left-hand corner of the
27 package that you have. While it looks like it's up off
28 the ground, the reason that it is is so that there can
29 be planting in there. So, we can put in 12 or 18-inch
30 evergreens or some form of planting scheme, and that the
31 sign won't be buried into the planting area.

32 So, other than that, the sign will be pretty much
33 like what's there, just greater width-wise on that
34 particular sign. We're keeping it, we're somewhat
35 constrained by the overall width because there's a
36 slope. The ground is flat for I think about 15 feet,
37 but then it starts sloping up. So, we're keeping the
38 sign with the setback, at the same setback that it
39 currently is, but we're going up to just where the
40 ground starts to slope up and we're maybe a foot or so
41 from that.

42 So, other than that, the remainder of the signs
43 which the one other exception which is up actually at
44 the front entrance where you come up to the driveway
45 where there's the staircase going up onto the main walk
46 area for the campus, there is a planter that's been put
47 in there. Right in front of the fence, they'd like to
48 put a sign that actually is identifying the campus for
49 people coming in the entrance there.

50 Other than that --

51 COMMISSIONER BOWYER: That one, right?

52 CHAIRMAN BOND: Yes.

53 MR. HARKINS: Yes, right. So, in there, you have a
54 picture showing you on the bottom left, it shows you
55 that sign that is right in front of a new fence and the

1 secure area right behind it. On the bottom right is
2 your sign, it's your main site sign showing the campus
3 identity for Northfield.

4 So, other than that, then the materials that we're
5 going to be using which is the next important thing,
6 it's all aluminum construction, so there will not be
7 rusting to these signs which sometimes you see in
8 commercial signs. That's not going to happen here where
9 everything will be aluminum. So, the finishes are a
10 dark bronze, which is currently just like they have.
11 The dark bronze color, light vinyl graphics is going to
12 be applied to the signs. Then the only other finishes
13 that are involved is a bronze, it's going to be the
14 logos and they're indicated on the drawings.

15 You'll see them in the color renderings where they
16 have the New Trier logo, the Porta Nigra, it's in the
17 bronze. Then, the letters that are actually on the
18 building where it indicates the east and the west
19 entrance will be white vinyl, or excuse me, white baked
20 enamel aluminum letters.

21 So, everything is non-corrosive. Everything is a
22 very standard finish. Nothing too particularly flashy.
23 The typeface that's going to be used is a Helvetica
24 typeface. We're going to use some irregular typeface
25 which is a little bit thinner than this, and in some
26 cases a medium which is what this is. That's to get a
27 little bit better visibility and identity to the area.

28 The signs will all be, the post and panel signs,
29 the signs that are the way-finding that are around the
30 campus, those will all be post-mounted, set in concrete.

31 They're pretty much at the same area; it's going to be
32 where we had existing signs. We'll be taking those
33 signs out and then we're removing them and putting new
34 signs in. So, it's going to be pretty much a system
35 such that you've seen before that's currently there.

36 With that, I would say I'd ask is there any
37 particular questions that the Commission has that I can
38 answer?

39 COMMISSIONER TALTY: Will any of the signs be lit?

40 MR. HARKINS: No sign is illuminated, or all signs
41 are not illuminated.

42 COMMISSIONER TALTY: Or lit from the ground? Any,
43 you know, illumination on the sign?

44 MR. HARKINS: There is no plan that I know of, but
45 I would say the one that is on Happ Road currently is
46 not illuminated. I have no knowledge that they have
47 decided to put that. If it was, I'm sure it would be
48 just a ground spot that would shine up on to the sign.
49 But that is not part of our request today, and again I
50 don't believe there's a request for it, going to be for
51 the sign up on the stairs.

52 CHAIRMAN BOND: I think if they do decide to
53 illuminate, do they have to come back to us for that,
54 Linnea? Or they can work with the Village directly?

55 MS. O'NEILL: They should just work with the Staff.

1 CHAIRMAN BOND: Yes. So, luckily, you can work
2 directly with the Village.

3 MR. HARKINS: Right, and if it were going to be an
4 illuminated sign, a close sign to here that would give
5 you either the sign or the chalet, and so the big rock
6 boulder on the corner is a ground mount illuminated too
7 LED, and it would be the same type of application. So,
8 it's very confined. It would just light the sign, and
9 then around the edge of the sign it doesn't send out a
10 beam of light that you would see.

11 COMMISSIONER BOWYER: Do they have a reason for not
12 lighting it? Or it just wasn't discussed?

13 MR. HARKINS: It wasn't really, it hasn't been on
14 the current plan and I don't think there was a
15 particular reason that they needed it. But I don't
16 think that it's an inappropriate thing, especially the
17 one that's on the Happ Road, you know, because it is,
18 being non-illuminated, you'd have to be going down and
19 if you actually look from the south kind of heading
20 north, there are some obstructions, trees and some
21 plantings.

22 So, you are getting somewhat close to that area
23 basically up where the driveways are before you actually
24 see it, and that's so illumination would really be an
25 appropriate thing for them to be maybe ask for in the
26 future in that, because it certainly would help that
27 sign in both directions. Since it's a campus that has
28 activities in the evening also, you know --

29 COMMISSIONER TALTY: Or after 4:00.

30 MR. HARKINS: Yes.

31 COMMISSIONER MORRELL: You know, that campus is
32 pretty well lit though, because I've had to go to a lot
33 of things there. It's very easy to, I mean, you see
34 trees and you get around, there's overhead lighting when
35 you're going to an event there.

36 CHAIRMAN BOND: It could be though advantageous for
37 the sign by the auditorium because the auditorium, if
38 you're not that familiar with it, you know, when FAN has
39 their events, I see people looking for that FAN site
40 like where am I going.

41 COMMISSIONER MORRELL: Yes.

42 CHAIRMAN BOND: But I think that this new proposal
43 will helpfully make the way-finding easier.

44 COMMISSIONER MORRELL: Better, yes.

45 CHAIRMAN BOND: Because I think a lot of people do
46 get confused, like where is Building D, and then you
47 just don't see that number or that letter at first.

48 MR. HARKINS: Right.

49 CHAIRMAN BOND: So, hopefully, these will be a
50 little more visible and will make it easier.

51 MR. HARKINS: Right.

52 CHAIRMAN BOND: I have a question about two
53 specific signs.

54 MR. HARKINS: Okay.

55 CHAIRMAN BOND: Which are 13A and 13. So, when I

1 go to your page that describes the information that's on
2 them, so 13 and 13A, are those going to have arrows kind
3 of pointing? Because they're not near the auditorium,
4 they're closer. Is this correct, that's a north side?
5 MR. HARKINS: Right.
6 CHAIRMAN BOND: So, you're coming, I'm assuming 13
7 is meant for people traveling south and they're trying
8 to find, where did 13 go? Does it say Cornog on it and
9 the visitor entrance? So, that's way-finding for trying
10 to like direct --
11 MR. HARKINS: Correct.
12 CHAIRMAN BOND: So, will there also be like a
13 little arrow kind of saying keep going?
14 MR. HARKINS: Yes, yes.
15 CHAIRMAN BOND: All right.
16 MR. HARKINS: Yes, so the indications that are in
17 front of the verbiage where it says UA, that's
18 indicating an up arrow, URA just --
19 CHAIRMAN BOND: Oh, yes, yes, all right, yes.
20 MR. HARKINS: It's an up arrow right, pointing you
21 to the right and that.
22 CHAIRMAN BOND: Right, okay.
23 MR. HARKINS: So, wherever you see one of those U
24 indications, that's an arrow.
25 CHAIRMAN BOND: Exactly, and that's on your first
26 sheet, sorry. Yes, right. 13A, is that, that one I
27 found New Trier Athletics Auditorium Visitor Entrance
28 West. Is that also, as you're traveling south, that
29 information is on the north side of that sign pointing
30 to --
31 MR. HARKINS: That sign is a single-face sign.
32 CHAIRMAN BOND: Oh, okay.
33 MR. HARKINS: Yes, so it's going to be looking at
34 the campus in the front.
35 CHAIRMAN BOND: So, it's on both sides of the road
36 as you're traveling south.
37 MR. HARKINS: Right, yes. Right.
38 CHAIRMAN BOND: To kind of way-find people.
39 MR. HARKINS: Yes. If it's a double-face sign,
40 then it's that column to the right where it says Sign
41 Base B. If there isn't anything there, then it's a
42 single-face sign.
43 CHAIRMAN BOND: So, as you're traveling north, it
44 will just be, okay. I guess it is pretty obvious that
45 you're coming up on the athletics and the stadium, so
46 you don't really need that noted.
47 MR. HARKINS: Yes. The athletic, especially
48 because again there is a good indication of where people
49 are visitors, you know, and they're coming to the campus
50 maybe for a game or something. You know, it's trying to
51 direct the people over to make it an accessible area.
52 Just quickly, a few weeks ago after the fence was in, I
53 happened to be doing something there right at the fence
54 where the new Porta Nigra logos are, and this lady came
55 up to me and she wanted to, I said we have to go to the

1 visitor, and she said, well, they really need signage
2 here, you know. I did say, well, I'm the sign guy.
3 Would you tell somebody about that, you know?
4 So, what we're just trying to do is make the campus
5 more user friendly.
6 CHAIRMAN BOND: Right.
7 MR. HARKINS: As well as, you know, providing
8 security on campus which unfortunately we have to do
9 today.
10 CHAIRMAN BOND: And then my other question would be
11 when you have a double sign like four and six, how do
12 those two, and maybe if I decipher this a little bit
13 more it would be obvious, how do those two signs in that
14 one location interact? How do they work together?
15 MR. HARKINS: Okay, yes.
16 CHAIRMAN BOND: Thank you.
17 MR. HARKINS: So, where sign four is over on the
18 east side of the campus, over towards the frontage road
19 area, and that sign is, so we're going to be identifying
20 the parking lots.
21 CHAIRMAN BOND: Okay, like in, oh, okay, you're
22 answering it.
23 MR. HARKINS: Yes. So, what we have added is which
24 signs are already there, but we're now identifying the
25 east parking lot, the west parking lot, the south,
26 because one of the things that we found, again people
27 are being told, you know, where do you go. So, we want
28 to be able to identify and say, well, you need to go to
29 the west parking lot to park, but there wasn't really
30 identity for that.
31 So, those signs are square, they're a little bit
32 different than the directional way-finding which are
33 more rectangular in shape. The parking lot identity
34 signs are square in shape because there isn't, we're
35 stacking the copy and so there isn't the necessity to
36 have the length on it.
37 CHAIRMAN BOND: Okay, so, but like here where you
38 have, there's two signs there, correct?
39 MR. HARKINS: Right.
40 CHAIRMAN BOND: Together?
41 MR. HARKINS: Yes.
42 CHAIRMAN BOND: So, they're next to each other or
43 they're stacked on top of each other?
44 MR. HARKINS: No, one is going to be kind of as
45 you're driving towards that sign, and the other one will
46 be off to the side. They're not going to be like right
47 next to each other.
48 CHAIRMAN BOND: Okay, okay.
49 MR. HARKINS: Some of the signs, you know, why we
50 tried to put them and indicate them in the exact, as
51 close to its position, and really we get out there, and
52 once we're out there with the signs, we actually do
53 stand there and kind of move it left and right and
54 determine what's the best visibility for the signs so
55 that, you know, we'll make it as easy for the guests as

1 possible.
2 CHAIRMAN BOND: Okay, thank you. Any other
3 questions about the signage from the Commissioners?
4 (No response.)
5 CHAIRMAN BOND: Okay, thank you.
6 MR. HARKINS: Okay, thanks so much.
7 CHAIRMAN BOND: Do you want to talk about, do you
8 have someone to talk about the landscaping? Yes?
9 COMMISSIONER TALTY: The landscaping.
10 CHAIRMAN BOND: You're up, thank you. Thank you so
11 much.
12 MR. HARKINS: Sure, thanks. Pleasure to work with
13 Linnea. I've done a lot of these, and sometimes it's
14 not as quite as --
15 MR. CONWAY: Dave Conway, Director of Physical
16 Plant Services.
17 CHAIRMAN BOND: I'm sorry, what's your name?
18 MR. CONWAY: Dave Conway, Director of Physical
19 Plant Services.
20 CHAIRMAN BOND: Thank you.
21 COMMISSIONER TALTY: So, I just had a question on
22 the landscape plan. I'm not sure if I'm missing a sheet
23 or this is an excerpt of the plan. The schedule shows,
24 you know, more plants. Maybe there was another sheet
25 that was involved?
26 MS. O'NEILL: There's two sheets.
27 COMMISSIONER TALTY: Just the two sheets, right?
28 MS. O'NEILL: Just the two sheets.
29 COMMISSIONER TALTY: So, yes. On L140, it shows a
30 certain number of plants, but on L200 on your schedule,
31 your quantities are so much higher. It looks like maybe
32 there's another area that you're landscaping that I
33 haven't --
34 MR. CONWAY: They may not all be on the plan, but
35 our grounds manager who, if you've ever seen the
36 Northfield campus, there's plants everywhere. Our
37 grounds manager takes great pride in making the school
38 look nice. So, there are some, but the schedule has
39 everything, some of them just aren't on the plan.
40 COMMISSIONER TALTY: Okay, that's why I was
41 wondering. I just didn't know if there was another
42 area.
43 MS. O'NEILL: When New Trier came before you last
44 year with the security plan, they included a landscape
45 plan for the entire property. This is a portion of it.
46 COMMISSIONER TALTY: That was that original?
47 MS. O'NEILL: Yes.
48 COMMISSIONER TALTY: Okay, that's what I was
49 wondering.
50 MR. CONWAY: We will make it look nice, I promise.
51 CHAIRMAN BOND: So, has it changed since the, it's
52 the same as the original?
53 MS. O'NEILL: Yes.
54 COMMISSIONER TALTY: It's the same material, okay.
55 CHAIRMAN BOND: When they brought the fence.

1 MS. O'NEILL: The fence and the pillars and the
2 bollards.

3 CHAIRMAN BOND: Yes. Do you recall, is there
4 anything of concern at that time?

5 COMMISSIONER TALTY: No, and there is nothing of
6 concern on the plant material that they're showing. I
7 just didn't know if I was missing another area that you
8 were going to show tonight.

9 MR. CONWAY: Between the two, they're all there.

10 CHAIRMAN BOND: Excellent, thank you so much.

11 COMMISSIONER TALTY: Great.

12 MR. CONWAY: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN BOND: Would anyone else like to speak
14 this evening?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN BOND: No? Commissioners, any more
17 comments or concerns?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRMAN BOND: Do you want to make a motion? May
20 I have a motion?

21 **COMMISSIONER MORRELL: I move to approve the**
22 **signage plan per the request of New Trier Township**
23 **High School, Northfield campus, 7 Happ Road, in**
24 **conformance with plans submitted December 9th of**
25 **2019.**

26 **CHAIRMAN BOND: May I have a second?**

27 **COMMISSIONER DINGES: Second.**

28 **CHAIRMAN BOND: All in favor?**

29 **(Chorus of ayes.)**

30 CHAIRMAN BOND: Congratulations! The motion
31 passes. Thank you for your time.

32 MR. HARKINS: Thank you, thank you very much.

33 MR. CONWAY: Thank you.

34 CHAIRMAN BOND: Our next Architectural Commission
35 meeting is scheduled for February 10th regarding a sign
36 request for North Shore Mosquito Abatement.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BOND: May I have a motion to adjourn?

39 COMMISSIONER TALTY: I'll make the motion.

40 CHAIRMAN BOND: Second?

41 COMMISSIONER MORRELL: I'll second.

42 CHAIRMAN BOND: All in favor?

43 (Chorus of ayes.)

44 CHAIRMAN BOND: Meeting adjourned. Thank you very
45 much.

46 Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

47

48

49 APPROVED 2/10/20

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