

District 6 Planning Council Land Use Task Force
Tuesday July 25, 2017 Minutes
6:30 PM

Welcome & Introductions

Present: Rich Holst, Renee Holst, Cheryl Van Kampen, John Jungwirth, Patrick McGuire, Betti Ingman, Amanda Cade

A motion to approve the agenda was M/S/A

A motion to approve July 2017 including Noel Nix attended his first meeting in June minutes was M/S/A

Action Item: Soe Doh-80 West Cottage- Auto Repair Garage and Auto Body Repair Garage License-change in ownership
80 West Cottage: Doh purchasing 80 West Cottage for an auto repair business. He owned a repair shop in Little Canada. It will be the first Karen Auto business in Saint Paul. Little Canada is small-only two bays. He had no condition violations, there were waste management issues in Little Canada but they were taken care of. There will be no auto body work. It is a change in ownership. A motion to approve the license and change in ownership was M/S/A.

270 Action Item: Larpenteur Avenue-Community School of Excellence : Major Variance to install a freestanding identification sign with dynamic display for the Community School of Excellence. Two zoning variances are requested:

- ✓ In residential zoning districts, industrial uses are allowed one identification sign for each street frontage not exceeding 30 square feet in area. The applicant is requesting a 70.8 square foot sign for a variance of 40.8 square feet.
- ✓ If located within a required yard, a freestanding sign may not exceed 4' in height at the property line; the applicant is proposing a sign height of 25' at the property line; the applicant is requesting a 21' height variance.

They are requesting a major variance to put a monument sign-no changes outside of a 30 minute time. The sign is 20 feet to the bottom on a pylon. The location is in three zoning districts. Larpenteur has faster traffic and four lanes of traffic. The Director discussed her history in the North End, they are looking at the farm to school program, edible gardens. It a community school they are serious about being a community school. Visual and landmarks are very important. The majority of students are Hmong and Karen. Many families come from the neighborhood, Frogtown and the East Side.

The sign will be located two feet off the right away-right by the sidewalk. It is 2 feet off the street right away. It is backlit behind the letter so it will have a small glow. The sign will stay on.

They need the larger sign to get the correct fonts on the sign. They are still working with vendors-this is the biggest the sign will be it may get smaller. There are concerns about the height of the sign-they do not want to obstruct the view. They may bring it down to 12 feet. Could it be set on a grassy area so it would not need a variance-why 4 feet would not be enough. The sign could be a distraction for drivers and a danger for pedestrians. A sidewalk will be installed. There is a swale between the sidewalk and street. Would you consider less than 25 feet? They are open to consider a lower height. There was a question regarding Rice/Larpenteur this would not be a major part of this project. The size is not the issue it is the height of the sign. It is more like a highway sign. Could there be landscaping as part of the sign? Yes, they are looking into that, native flowers and landscaping will be a part of it. The open house is August 31st. Could the sign be attached to the building-the building is set back and a parking lot in front? Driving on Larpenteur you can't see the school as well. They want to have the sign in line of sight. Would other businesses want to have a sign this size. The speed limit is 45 MPH people are already going fast. What height could the school work with? They would go 15 to 17 feet so it would be 10 feet of pole and 5 feet of sign. Why is the sign being made outside of manufactures specifications? Because the building is large removing 10 feet will not lose sightline to the signs. Could the pole be surrounded by brick or something-they will take a donation, it is a budget issue.

A motion to support the variance in agreement with community school of excellence at a total of 15 feet and leaving all other specifications as presented was M/S/a with one nay vote-being John Junwirth.

New Business

We may choose to move the meeting from the church to Rice Street Recreation Center. Pros and cons were discussed. Visibility is a positive. August 2017 Land Use will be held there.

Old Business

K2 Cars fence is going up according to the site plan.

Assign Facilitator for August

Cheryl VanKampen will facilitate August meeting.

Adjourn