MINUTES CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL PLAN COMMISSION TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017

Members Present:	Tim Kessler James Holderfield Laura Macklin-Purdy Tom Schuetz Dan Frio Peter Vargulich Tom Pretz
Members Absent:	Chairman Todd Wallace Jeff Funke
Also Present:	Russell Colby, Planning Division Manager Ellen Johnson, Planner Court Reporter

1. Call to order

Vice Chairman Kessler called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Vice Chairman Kessler called the roll. A quorum was present.

3. Presentation of minutes of the March 21, 2017 meeting of the Plan Commission.

Motion was made by Mr. Holderfield, seconded by Mr. Frio, and unanimously passed by voice vote to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2017 Plan Commission meeting. Mr. Pretz abstained.

PUBLIC HEARING

4. Meijer PUD, 855 S. Randall Rd. (Callie Robertson, Anchor Sign) Application for Special Use requesting an amendment to PUD Ordinance 1999-M-24 regarding permitted wall signage on the Meijer building.

The attached transcript prepared by Planet Depos Court Reporting is by reference hereby made a part of these minutes.

Motion was made by Mr. Schuetz and seconded by Mr. Holderfield to close the public hearing.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Holderfield, Schuetz, Vargulich, Pretz, Frio, Purdy, Kessler Nays: Absent: Wallace, Funke Minutes – St. Charles Plan Commission Tuesday, April 4, 2017 Page 2

Motion carried: 7-0

Agenda item #6 was moved to be the next item for discussion.

MEETING

6. Meijer PUD, 855 S. Randall Rd. (Callie Robertson, Anchor Sign) Application for Special Use requesting an amendment to PUD Ordinance 1999-M-24 regarding permitted wall signage on the Meijer building.

Motion was made by Mr. Schuetz and seconded by Mr. Frio to recommend approval of the Application for Special Use requesting an amendment to PUD Ordinance 1999-M-24 regarding permitted wall signage on the Meijer building, 855 S. Randall Rd., with a condition that the pharmacy drive-up sign does not go up until the pharmacy is put in.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Holderfield, Schuetz, Vargulich, Pretz, Frio, Purdy, Kessler Nays: Absent: Wallace, Funke Motion carried: 7-0

PUBLIC HEARING

5. General Amendment (City of St. Charles)

Ch. 17.22 "General Provisions", Section 17.22.030 "Permitted Encroachments" and Ch. 17.30 "Definitions", Section 17.30.030 "General Definitions" (yard encroachment for pergolas and sports courts).

The attached transcript prepared by Planet Depos Court Reporting is by reference hereby made a part of these minutes.

Motion was made by Mr. Holderfield, seconded by Mr. Schuetz, and unanimously passed by voice vote to close the public hearing.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Holderfield, Schuetz, Vargulich, Pretz, Frio, Purdy, Kessler Nays: Absent: Wallace, Funke Motion carried: 7-0

MEETING

7. General Amendment (City of St. Charles)

Ch. 17.22 "General Provisions", Section 17.22.030 "Permitted Encroachments" and Ch. 17.30 "Definitions", Section 17.30.030 "General Definitions" (yard encroachment for pergolas and sports courts).

Minutes – St. Charles Plan Commission Tuesday, April 4, 2017 Page 3

Motion was made by Mr. Pretz and seconded by Mr. Schuetz to recommend approval of the General Amendment to Ch. 17.22 "General Provisions", Section 17.22-030, "Permitted Encroachments", and Ch. 17.30 "Definitions", Section 17.30.030 "General Definitions" (yard encroachments for pergolas and sports courts), with a condition that pergolas projecting from the principal structure be permitted to encroach up to 8 ft. into the front and exterior side yard.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Holderfield, Schuetz, Vargulich, Pretz, Frio, Purdy, Kessler Nays: Absent: Wallace, Funke Motion carried: 7-0

8. Additional Business from Plan Commission Members or Staff

9. Weekly Development Report

10. Meeting Announcements

a. Plan Commission

Monday, April 10, 2017- Joint Meeting with Planning & Development Committee, 5:45pm Council Committee Room Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 7:00pm Council Chambers Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 7:00pm Council Chambers Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 7:00pm Council Chambers

 b. Planning & Development Committee Monday, April 10, 2017 at 7:00pm Council Chambers Monday, May 8, 2017 at 7:00pm Council Chambers

11. Public Comment

12. Adjournment at 7:44 PM



Transcript of Hearing - Wall Signage on Meijer building

Date: April 4, 2017 Case: St. Charles Plan Commission

Planet Depos Phone: 888-433-3767 Fax: 888-503-3767 Email: <u>transcripts@planetdepos.com</u> www.planetdepos.com

WORLDWIDE COURT REPORTING | INTERPRETATION | TRIAL SERVICES

1	BEFORE THE PLAN COMMISSION
2	
	OF THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES
3	
4	X
5	In Re: :
6	Application for Special :
7	Use Requesting an :
8	Amendment to PUD Regarding :
9	Permitted Wall Signage on :
10	Meijer building, 855 S. :
11	Randall Road. :
12	X
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14	HEARING
15	St. Charles, Illinois 60174
16	Tuesday, April 4, 2017
17	7:01 p.m.
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22	Job No.: 126916
23	Pages: 1 - 21
24	Reported by: Joanne E. Ely, CSR, RPR

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1	HEARING, held at the location of:
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3	ST. CHARLES CITY HALL
4	2 East Main Street
5	St. Charles, Illinois 60174
6	(630) 377-4400
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13	Before Joanne E. Ely, a Certified Shorthand
14	Reporter, and a Notary Public in and for the State
15	of Illinois.
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2 TIM KESSLER, Vice Chairman	
3 DAN FRIO, Member	
4 JAMES HOLDERFIELD, Member	
5 TOM PRETZ, Member	
6 LAURA MACKLIN-PURDY, Member	
7 TOM SCHUETZ, Member	
8 PETER VARGULICH, Member	
9 ALSO PRESENT:	
10 RUSSELL COLBY, Planning Division Manager	
11 ELLEN JOHNSON, Planner	
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Okay. This meeting
3	of the St. Charles Plan Commission will come to
4	order.
5	Holderfield.
6	MEMBER HOLDERFIELD: Here.
7	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Schuetz.
8	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Here.
9	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Vargulich.
10	MEMBER VARGULICH: Here.
11	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Pretz.
12	MEMBER PRETZ: Here.
13	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Frio.
14	MEMBER FRIO: Here.
15	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Purdy.
16	MEMBER MACKLIN-PURDY: Here.
17	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Kessler, here.
18	No. 3 on the agenda is presentation of the
19	minutes of the March 21, 2017, meeting.
20	Is there a motion? I'll entertain a motion
21	to approve.
22	MEMBER HOLDERFIELD: So moved.
23	MEMBER FRIO: Second.
24	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: All in favor.

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1	(Ayes heard.)
2	MEMBER PRETZ: I'm going to abstain.
3	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Okay. No. 3 and 4
4	
	on our agenda are public hearings, and we do have a
5	member in the audience. Okay. I'm looking
6	something up real quickly, so just give me a moment.
7	Okay. I will review our I'd like to
8	review the procedures for public hearings for our
9	audience of one and the Plan Commission as well.
10	The applicant will present make a
11	presentation, and I believe the applicant is the
12	City in both cases. Ellen; right?
13	MS. JOHNSON: No. For the Meijer's item,
14	there is an applicant here, an outside applicant.
15	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Okay.
16	MR. ROBINSON: Your audience of one.
17	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: You're the
18	applicant. Very good. Okay. Thank you.
19	And so the applicant will present the
20	application. Then we'll ask you some questions, and
21	then you can ask us questions. We'll just ask each
22	other questions.
23	And when we believe we've had enough
24	evidence to make a recommendation, we'll ask to

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1	either move or continue the public hearing.
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	When we're done with the public meeting I
3	notice that on the agenda both matters are set for
4	the meeting portion; and if we believe that we've
5	closed the public hearing, and we believe we have
6	all the information we need to make a
7	recommendation, we'll do so at that time.
8	So I would I'm going to ask, and I want
9	to make sure this actually came up, I think, at
10	our last meeting. We have a court reporter here, as
11	we all know; and so if we could all speak one at a
12	time and hopefully even among the Plan Commission,
13	if we can look to be recognized before we speak so
14	we're not just all, you know, asking out questions.
15	So when you do speak, if you would give us
16	your name and address for the record.
17	And with that, then I guess our first item
18	is the Meijer PUD. So you're up first.
19	MEMBER FRIO: Don't be nervous of the crowd.
20	MR. ROBINSON: Brian Robinson. I work for
21	Anchor Signs. My address is 708 Towhee Lane,
22	T-o-w-h-e-e, Cochranville, Pennsylvania 19330.
23	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Again, did you say
24	T-o-u-h-y?

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1	MR. ROBINSON: Towhee, T-o-w-h-e-e.
2	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Oh, T-o-w-h-e-e.
3	Okay.
4	MR. ROBINSON: I am here for the Meijer; and
5	to the best of my knowledge, what we're trying to do
6	is reface two signs that apparently were installed
7	on this building with no permit, and add a third
8	sign of a drive-up pharmacy or drive-through
9	pharmacy, I believe it would say, on the wall. A
10	pharmacy drive-up over near where the garden center
11	is. It's not there now. They would also like to
12	add that.
13	MEMBER MACKLIN-PURDY: There's not a
14	drive-up pharmacy there.
15	MR. ROBINSON: There is not a drive-up
16	pharmacy there.
17	MEMBER MACKLIN-PURDY: But there will be.
18	MR. ROBINSON: They're requesting for a sign
19	because I believe they would like to put a drive-up
20	pharmacy there; otherwise, they're going to confuse
21	a lot of people.
22	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Okay. Thank you.
23	MR. ROBINSON: You're welcome.
24	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: I guess we start

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1	with the question portion of our meeting. I do have
2	a question.
3	So is it true that they're going to put
4	they're requesting to put that sign up before they
5	have a drive-up pharmacy? Is that your
6	understanding?
7	MR. ROBINSON: That is my understanding
8	because as of right now, there is no drive-up
9	pharmacy. I believe they're requesting the sign
10	I don't believe that they'll ever put that sign up
11	or that they will ever make a drive-up pharmacy, but
12	I think they want it as a contingency plan.
13	But I don't personally deal with Meijer.
14	I'm not the account manager. Somebody else does
15	that. They put this in and asked me to ask for that
16	sign.
17	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Well
18	MR. ROBINSON: So my understanding is Meijer
19	would eventually like to have the option to put a
20	drive-up pharmacy. I've surveyed probably 30 to 40
21	Meijers. Most of them now have a drive-up pharmacy.
22	So my guess is they would like to add a drive-up
23	pharmacy to this building.
24	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Ellen or Russ, can

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1	you shed any light on this?
2	MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Per the PUD for this
3	property, a drive-through pharmacy is a permitted
4	use. So they could add a drive-through at some
5	point, and I think that they're asking to have this
6	additional sign approved just so that in the future,
7	the PUD ordinance wouldn't need to be amended again
8	to allow for an additional sign.
9	I think that's the reason for bundling this
10	sign with the others, just so that it's approved for
11	the future.
12	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Is there any reason
13	we would not want them to install the sign without
14	the drive-up pharmacy?
15	MS. JOHNSON: Yeah. I don't
16	MR. ROBINSON: I don't believe they would
17	install the drive-up pharmacy sign without the
18	drive-up pharmacy. I believe it's to if they
19	decide to remodel and add a drive-up pharmacy, we
20	would just be able to the sign would already be
21	approved per your Board, and we wouldn't have to
22	come back to have another meeting to have that sign
23	approved again. We could just permit it and install
24	it.

1	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: All right. That's a
2	different approach, but we'd like to be sure of
3	these things before we
4	MS. JOHNSON: Yeah. The Plan Commission
5	could put a condition on a recommendation for
6	approval that the drive-up sign not be installed
7	until the drive-through goes in.
8	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: You know, I've seen
9	stranger things. I don't think that's a bad idea,
10	frankly. It happens. They've installed two signs
11	without any permit, so there's nothing stopping
12	them, if it's permitted, to put the sign up, if
13	there is no drive-through pharmacy.
14	Does it make sense? Probably not. But
15	you're in town from Pennsylvania. Why call you back
16	to put the sign up? I mean that could happen.
17	MR. ROBINSON: It could.
18	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: That's my point, but
19	anyway.
20	Tom, go ahead.
21	MEMBER SCHUETZ: I just have a general
22	question. I think I know the answer, but I want to
23	be sure we're all on the same I realize you're
24	the sign company, and so you're the messenger.

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1	So currently, there's some of these signs
2	existing, and you're going to be adding more signs
3	is what we're looking at here, with more square
4	footage; is that correct?
5	MR. ROBINSON: Technically
6	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Square footage of signage.
7	MR. ROBINSON: Technically, yes, if you're
8	considering the two signs, the Starbucks sign
9	well, the Starbucks sign is up apparently
10	unpermitted, and the U.S. Bank sign is up
11	unpermitted.
12	I believe the original agreement stated they
13	would allow five signs. So there's now seven on the
14	building. So they're trying to get permits for
15	those two signs and this third sign, yes, so more
16	square footage because that sign is 43.88 square
17	feet.
18	MEMBER SCHUETZ: So if we look at the
19	proposed versus the PUD ordinance, we're looking at
20	a difference here if the pharmacy sign doesn't go
21	up right away, the 44 square feet comes off and
22	basically it's 511; right? Am I reading it
23	correctly?
24	MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

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1	MEMBER SCHUETZ: All right. Thank you.
2	MEMBER MACKLIN-PURDY: I have a question.
3	So this means that you would have to turn into
4	the from the way that Meijer is configured, and
5	I'm assuming this is on as you're looking at
6	this, Meijer is on the right side, this drive-up.
7	MR. ROBINSON: Correct. The right-hand side
8	of the store, yes.
9	MEMBER MACKLIN-PURDY: As you're looking at
10	it, on the right side. So you would have to pull in
11	from the front and go around the back.
12	MR. ROBINSON: Correct. Most of the ones
13	I've seen that have this store configuration, if you
14	look at the I don't know if you have the same
15	picture
16	MEMBER MACKLIN-PURDY: Yeah, we do.
17	MR. ROBINSON: where that little the
18	back of that little SUV is, the little gray car.
19	MEMBER MACKLIN-PURDY: Yes.
20	MR. ROBINSON: Usually, what they have is a
21	drive-up lane that has it pulls up to the front.
22	So that's kind of blocked off, and they just draw
23	you know, they have the parking lot and painted a
24	line for the drive-up.

1	MEMBER MACKLIN-PURDY: So the queue would be
2	in the front of the store.
3	MR. ROBINSON: Basically, right under where
4	that sign is
5	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Under the sign.
6	MR. ROBINSON: the pharmacy drive-up. It
7	would be right there. I mean, this would be like
8	some sort of no parking sign or something right
9	there. It's usually, they put a canopy, and they
10	cut the hole, kind of like a CVS pharmacy. It's
11	just a window that would be cut. So they would have
12	to basically cut out the brick in that probably
13	that third, that last section where that parking
14	sign is or no parking sign, whatever it happens to
15	say.
16	They would cut a hole in that window, and
17	basically, it would just be a window right there
18	that you would pull up to and the pharmacy would,
19	you know, have a little microphone and push the
20	button to talk to the pharmacist.
21	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: And inside the
22	store, the pharmacy is right there.
23	MEMBER MACKLIN-PURDY: I know, but does
24	anyone else see a problem, a potential issue with

1	the queue?
2	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Yes. But
3	MEMBER MACKLIN-PURDY: But that's not what
4	we're approving. Okay. I get it, but I'm just
5	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: That's a different
6	meeting.
7	MEMBER VARGULICH: If they add the pharmacy,
8	are they going to have to I'm assuming they would
9	have to develop the plans that show how that was
10	going to be added and what modifications, if any, I
11	assume there will be, to the parking lot and to the
12	configuration and all those things?
13	MS. JOHNSON: Yes.
14	MEMBER VARGULICH: Is that the kind of thing
15	that will come back to us?
16	MS. JOHNSON: Most likely. We have to take
17	a look at what was approved in the original PUD
18	ordinance and go from there.
19	MEMBER HOLDERFIELD: I understood you to say
20	that it's already been approved for a drive-through
21	pharmacy.
22	MS. JOHNSON: Yes. The use itself, but it's
23	not clear on the plans where exactly the pharmacy
24	was intended or the drive-up was intended to go.

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1	So I think that some sort of modification or
2	amendment would be needed to change the approved
3	plan if we needed to pull out the drive-through, but
4	we would analyze that when it comes in.
5	MEMBER VARGULICH: So we would get to
6	analyze the queue and those things, if we felt it
7	was an issue.
8	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Subject for a
9	different meeting.
10	MEMBER VARGULICH: We would discuss that at
11	that time.
12	MEMBER MACKLIN-PURDY: Okay.
13	MEMBER VARGULICH: This just simplifies the
14	amendment to the PUD.
15	MEMBER MACKLIN-PURDY: Right.
16	MEMBER PRETZ: I have a question for staff.
17	I understand the PUD and the 511 square feet
18	originally approved.
19	If this was not a PUD or without this
20	specific language, based on the square footage of
21	the building itself, does the 511 feet exceed the
22	normal limit of square footage for signs, or are we
23	still under that? Hopefully, that made sense.
24	MS. JOHNSON: So typically, it would be

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1	one sign. We would allow one wall sign per
2	business, per street frontage. So in this case, if
3	there's three businesses in the building, we would
4	allow and they have two street frontages. So
5	they would be allowed to have six wall signs; and
6	then the total square footage is 1 1/2 square feet
7	per linear foot of the building, the building wall,
8	and I don't know what the building wall length is
9	off the top of my head.
10	MEMBER PRETZ: But probably 511 is probably
11	under that.
12	MS. JOHNSON: It may be. It may be.
13	MEMBER VARGULICH: Well, they're showing
14	on the plan, they're showing 654 feet for the face
15	of the building facing Randall Road.
16	MS. JOHNSON: So it's under what would be
17	allowed.
18	MEMBER VARGULICH: Right.
19	MEMBER PRETZ: So the maximum normally would
20	have been six signs, but yet the square footage is
21	well under.
22	MS. JOHNSON: Correct, yes.
23	MEMBER PRETZ: Okay.
24	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: I just had one other

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1	curious question. Your company has been engaged to
2	reface the Starbucks sign; is that correct?
3	MR. ROBINSON: Correct.
4	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Is that what
5	prompted this?
6	MR. ROBINSON: Yes. We called the City to
7	ask about if we needed a permit to reface the sign,
8	to which we found out that the sign was never
9	permitted in the first place.
10	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: See, the last two
11	guys didn't make that call.
12	MEMBER PRETZ: But thank you for calling.
13	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Yes.
14	MEMBER PRETZ: Thank you for calling.
15	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: All right. If we
16	feel we have enough information to close the public
17	hearing, I'd entertain that motion.
18	MEMBER SCHUETZ: I'll make the motion that
19	we do approve
20	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: We're closing the
21	public hearing.
22	MEMBER SCHUETZ: I'm sorry. Motion to
23	close.
24	MEMBER HOLDERFIELD: Second.

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1	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: All right. All in
2	favor.
3	(Ayes heard.)
4	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: And if nobody has
5	any objection, which I doubt they will, we'll jump
6	ahead to Item No. 6 in the meeting portion, which is
7	the Meijer PUD, 855 South Randall Road, application
8	for special use requesting an amendment to PUD
9	Ordinance 1999-M-24 regarding permitted wall signage
10	on the Meijer building.
11	And since we've had some discussion on it,
12	we could discuss it some more, or we could entertain
13	a motion. Is anybody ready to make a motion?
14	MEMBER SCHUETZ: I was.
15	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Well, then, you go
16	right ahead, Tom.
17	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Okay. I'll see if I can do
18	this right. So I'd like to make the motion that we
19	do approve the signage that's been proposed with the
20	condition that the pharmacy drive-up sign does not
21	go up until the pharmacy is put in, and that would
22	be the Meijer PUD, 855 South Randall Road, PUD
23	Ordinance 1999-M-24.
24	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Okay. So you're

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1	recommending approval. You're recommending that
2	we you're making a motion to recommend approval.
3	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Correct.
4	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Okay. With the
5	condition that the drive-up sign is not going to be
6	installed until such time as they build the
7	drive-up.
8	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Correct.
9	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Okay. All right.
10	Is there any discussion on the motion?
11	MR. ROBINSON: No questions.
12	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Surprise. Okay.
13	I'll take a roll call.
14	MEMBER PRETZ: Don't we need a second?
15	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Yeah. We do need a
16	second.
17	MEMBER FRIO: Second.
18	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Okay. Holderfield.
19	MEMBER HOLDERFIELD: Yes.
20	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Schuetz.
21	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Yes.
22	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Vargulich.
23	MEMBER VARGULICH: Yes.
24	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Frio.

1	MEMBER FRIO: Yes.
2	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Purdy.
3	MEMBER MACKLIN-PURDY: Yes.
4	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Pretz.
5	MEMBER PRETZ: Yes.
6	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Kessler, yes.
7	All right. That motion passes. Thank you
8	very much.
9	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
10	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Enjoy your stay in
11	St. Charles.
12	(Off the record at 7:19 p.m.)
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1	CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER
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3	I, Joanne E. Ely, Certified Shorthand
4	Reporter No. 84-4169, CSR, RPR, and a Notary Public
5	in and for the County of Kane, State of Illinois,
6	the officer before whom the foregoing proceedings
7	were taken, do certify that the foregoing transcript
8	is a true and correct record of the proceedings,
9	that said proceedings were taken by me
10	stenographically and thereafter reduced to
11	typewriting under my supervision, and that I am
12	neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any
13	of the parties to this case and have no interest,
14	financial or otherwise, in its outcome.
15	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
16	hand and affixed my notarial seal this 6th day of
17	April, 2017.
18	My commission expires: May 16, 2020
19	OFFICIAL SEAL
20	Joanne E. Ely Notary Public - State of Illinois My Commission Expires 5/16/2020
21	
22	
23	Notary Public in and for the
24	State of Illinois



Transcript of Hearing -Encroachment for Pergolas and Sports Courts

Date: April 4, 2017 Case: St. Charles Plan Commission

Planet Depos Phone: 888-433-3767 Fax: 888-503-3767 Email: <u>transcripts@planetdepos.com</u> www.planetdepos.com

WORLDWIDE COURT REPORTING | INTERPRETATION | TRIAL SERVICES

1	BEFORE THE PLAN COMMISSION
2	OF THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES
3	
4	x
5	In Re: :
6	General Amendment :
7	Regarding Permitted :
8	Encroachments and Yard :
9	Encroachment for Pergolas :
10	and Sports Courts. :
11	X
12	
13	HEARING
14	St. Charles, Illinois 60174
15	Tuesday, April 4, 2017
16	7:19 p.m.
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22	Job No.: 126916
22	Job No.: 126916 Pages: 1 - 26

	Conducted on April 4, 2017
1	HEARING, held at the location of:
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3	ST. CHARLES CITY HALL
4	2 East Main Street
5	St. Charles, Illinois 60174
6	(630) 377-4400
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13	Before Joanne E. Ely, a Certified Shorthand
14	Reporter, and a Notary Public in and for the State
15	of Illinois.
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1	PRESENT:
2	TIM KESSLER, Vice Chairman
3	DAN FRIO, Member
4	JAMES HOLDERFIELD, Member
5	TOM PRETZ, Member
6	LAURA MACKLIN-PURDY, Member
7	TOM SCHUETZ, Member
8	PETER VARGULICH, Member
9	ALSO PRESENT:
10	RUSSELL COLBY, Planning Division Manager
11	ELLEN JOHNSON, Planner
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Okay. We're
3	going to jump back to No. 5, General Amendment,
4	City of St. Charles, General Provisions,
5	permitted encroachments, Definitions and General
6	Definitions, Chapter 17.22. I won't read all the
7	details. Ellen is going to fill us in. Thank you.
8	MS. JOHNSON: Okay. So this is a proposed
9	amendment being proposed by City staff regarding
10	yard encroachments for pergolas and also sports
11	courts.
12	The proposed first is regarding pergolas.
13	Currently, gazebos and pergolas are listed together
14	in Table 17.22-3, which is a table in the zoning
15	ordinance called permitted encroachments, which
16	lists different types of structures and whether or
17	not they are allowed within the required yard
18	setbacks.
19	So right now gazebos and pergolas are listed
20	together, and they're not permitted in the side yard
21	or the front yard, and they are allowed up to 3 feet
22	from the rear lot line.
23	So we're proposing to separate these two
24	structures out, keeping the gazebos the same; and

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1	for pergolas, allowing them within the interior side
2	yard up to 3 feet from the lot line, but only in the
3	RT, Traditional Residential Zoning District, and the
4	CBD-2 District and not in the other zoning districts.
5	There's also a definition proposed for each
6	one. Right now these structures aren't defined in
7	the ordinance, which leads to some confusion with
8	enforcement and how to interpret the code. So we're
9	proposing some definitions just to clarify.
10	This diagram shows a typical 50-by-100-foot
11	lot in, say, an RT-3 Zoning District. So it shows
12	the required front yard, 20 feet, the 15-foot
13	exterior side yard because this is a corner lot, and
14	that 30-foot rear yard and that 6-foot side yard.
15	And the green area, the green box shows
16	where a pergola would be permitted per the proposed
17	amendment. So it would be allowed up to 3 feet from
18	the side lot line and then up to 3 feet from the
19	rear lot line.
20	This amendment has come up because over the
21	past several months, we've talked to a number of
22	residents who have wanted to put pergolas in their
23	side yards, and they live in the RT, Traditional
24	Residential Zoning District, which have smaller lot

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1	sizes than other residential districts in town, and
2	they haven't been able to do so because of the fact
3	that the structure can't be within the side-yard
4	setback.
5	Due to the smaller size of the lots in the
6	RT district and just the pattern of development,
7	many times there are structures existing within the
8	side yards in these neighborhoods, including garages
9	and sheds and fences, and all of those structures
10	are actually allowed either up to or within 3 feet
11	of the side-yard setback.
12	So with that in mind, it would make logical
13	sense to also allow pergolas since side yards are
14	typically used kind of as part of a back part of
15	the rear yard in these districts, and other
16	structures are also found in this area of the lot.
17	So that's kind of the rationale behind this
18	amendment.
19	Are there any questions?
20	MEMBER MACKLIN-PURDY: How does that work if
21	there's sidewalks?
22	MS. JOHNSON: If there's sidewalks along the
23	side.
24	MEMBER MACKLIN-PURDY: Like on the side.

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1	Because I used to live on a corner lot with a
2	sidewalk. So how does that work with the 3 feet?
3	MS. JOHNSON: Well, the
4	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: It's an interior
5	side yard.
6	MS. JOHNSON: The pergola wouldn't be
7	allowed on a corner lot on the exterior side.
8	MEMBER MACKLIN-PURDY: Okay.
9	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: So it wouldn't be
10	allowed on a corner lot on the exterior side.
11	MS. JOHNSON: Within that 15-foot setback.
12	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Within that 15-foot
13	setback.
14	MS. JOHNSON: It's treated the exterior
15	side yard is typically treated the same as the front
16	yard in terms of permitted encroachments, keeping it
17	consistent.
18	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Okay.
19	MS. JOHNSON: If there's no more questions
20	on that, I'll move on.
21	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Okay.
22	MS. JOHNSON: All right. Next is sports
23	courts. So currently right now it's the same table
24	of permitted encroachments. It lists sports

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1	courts or tennis courts and doesn't include any
2	other types of sports courts. So it's been unclear
3	how far, say, a basketball court or an ice rink can
4	be within the yard or how close those structures can
5	be to the property line.
6	So this came up this winter with ice rinks
7	locating in maybe the exterior side of the front
8	yard, and we didn't have a clear position whether
9	that would be permitted or not because it's really
10	not addressed in the ordinance.
11	So we're proposing to take tennis courts and
12	make it a more general category as sports courts and
13	keep the encroachment information the same as
14	currently exists for tennis courts.
15	So a sports court wouldn't be allowed in the
16	front or exterior side yard or the interior side
17	yard, and it would be allowed in the rear but would
18	need to be 10 feet from the lot line.
19	We also have a proposed definition of sports
20	court to include basketball courts, ice rinks,
21	tennis courts, and other hardscape surfaces that
22	isn't part of a driveway used for access to a
23	garage. So this wouldn't include like a basketball
24	hoop that has a drive when you use a driveway as

1	a basketball court, it wouldn't include that. So
2	this diagram illustrates where a sports court would
3	be allowed per the proposal.
4	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: I have a question.
5	You say hardscape surfaces. I mean, I see temporary
6	ice rinks being built all around my neighborhood,
7	and they're just 2-by-12 with a plastic sheet on the
8	lawn filled with water. You're saying those aren't
9	allowed?
10	MS. JOHNSON: Yeah. Technically, we would
11	want to see a 10-foot setback from the rear lot line
12	for those.
13	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Okay. So if it's
14	within the setbacks, it doesn't matter.
15	MS. JOHNSON: Right.
16	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: You can do whatever
17	you want.
18	MS. JOHNSON: Right. It would just need to
19	be 10-foot from the rear and then not within the
20	yard setbacks as shown on the diagram.
21	MEMBER FRIO: Where does this apply?
22	MS. JOHNSON: This would apply across all
23	zoning districts.
24	MEMBER MACKLIN-PURDY: So what happens if

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1	this is already there?
2	MS. JOHNSON: Then they would be
3	grandfathered in. So, I mean, an existing surface
4	would be allowed to stay.
5	MEMBER MACKLIN-PURDY: But if they put up a
6	temporary ice skating rink, they wouldn't be able to.
7	MS. JOHNSON: Right. Next year they
8	wouldn't be allowed to put it back.
9	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: I'm curious. What
10	actually is there a specific incident or
11	incidents or application that prompted this?
12	MS. JOHNSON: We had a couple complaints
13	that came in this year for ice rinks in the front
14	yard of certain neighborhoods, and we didn't really
15	have a way to address it because it wasn't clear in
16	the zoning ordinance. So it came to our attention
17	that it should probably be addressed somehow in the
18	code so that we can respond to those types of
19	questions.
20	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Does this apply to
21	temporary or just permanent?
22	MS. JOHNSON: It would to temporary also if
23	it meets the definition.
24	MEMBER MACKLIN-PURDY: There's a few in the

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1	front yards of my neighborhood.
2	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Sure.
3	MEMBER PRETZ: Not in my neighborhood. The
4	front yards aren't big enough to hold one.
5	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Can you skate?
6	MEMBER PRETZ: That's a different story.
7	MEMBER FRIO: I have a question. I live off
8	of Persimmon. My neighbors put a pad in their
9	backyard. I don't know if it was intended for a
10	basketball hoop or a court, but it is now. They
11	have spotlights, and they're out there every night
12	until 11:00 o'clock. It's literally their
13	court like, here's my living room. Their court
14	is where that wall is. That's allowed?
15	MS. JOHNSON: I'm not sure where it
16	depends on where their property line is. It would
17	need to be 10 foot back from their rear lot line.
18	MEMBER FRIO: They can do like a full-court
19	basketball court and include lights and everything?
20	MS. JOHNSON: Yeah.
21	MEMBER FRIO: That's allowed?
22	MS. JOHNSON: Yes. There are some
23	limitations in our lighting chapter on glare and
24	lighting levels at property lines but yes.

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1	MEMBER FRIO: Thank you.
2	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: And that's a
3	permanent structure.
4	MEMBER FRIO: Oh, yeah. It's a basketball
5	it's a pad with four spotlights, and they're out
6	there every night until 11:00 o'clock. It's as
7	annoying as all get out.
8	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: I want to go back to
9	the question about this one is for across all
10	zoning districts. Why RT and CBD?
11	MS. JOHNSON: For the pergolas?
12	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Right. I understand
13	the RT but
14	MS. JOHNSON: In CBD-2, typically, the lot
15	size is the lot size is the same in CBD-2 as the
16	RT-4 District; and a lot of the CBD-2 District is
17	covered in residential is single-family
18	residential.
19	So typically, like when we did the
20	amendments last year for some of the yard
21	encroachments in the RT District, we included CBD-2
22	also just to account for residential uses in the
23	CBD-2.
24	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Okay. Any other

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1	questions?
2	MEMBER VARGULICH: I have a question. With
3	respect to the pergolas, is there some reason they
4	cannot be in an exterior?
5	MS. JOHNSON: An exterior side?
6	MEMBER VARGULICH: Yeah.
7	MS. JOHNSON: It hasn't come up that that
8	location hasn't been requested. It hasn't come up
9	as an issue yet. And typically, our encroachments
10	we keep consistent for front yards and exterior side
11	yards just so that the structures don't conflict
12	with, say, a public sidewalk or so that it's not
13	visible from the road also.
14	There's not a reason that we couldn't
15	propose to change the setback to allow
16	encroachment in the exterior side, but we're not
17	proposing that right now.
18	MEMBER SCHUETZ: It would be a visual too I
19	would think on the side.
20	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: I have a condition
21	now that I mean, there is no sidewalk on the
22	exterior side yard. There is a hedge, a 20-foot
23	hedge between the house and the street. It wouldn't
24	be visible. It's actually not a it's not a front

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1	yard. I can see a condition where that would be
2	MEMBER VARGULICH: Right.
3	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: very important.
4	MEMBER VARGULICH: Right. I just think it's
5	something to consider. If they could use the
6	exterior side yard, that something like a pergola
7	just could not exceed the front-yard setback, so the
8	front of the house. So you would be able to use the
9	side yard from the if you will, extending the
10	front of the house out as far as it could come
11	forward.
12	So you would never impact the front yard,
13	but you could use the exterior side yard much in the
14	same way that they're using the interior side yard.
15	I would think it wouldn't impact visibility, like a
16	corner visibility issue from the setback. The
17	front-yard setback is 20 feet.
18	So from a sight triangle standpoint, it
19	wouldn't be it's not like a sight triangle that
20	would create a safety concern, you know, for a
21	pedestrian and vehicle issue.
22	MS. JOHNSON: Would you propose that same,
23	like a 3-foot setback requirement from the exterior
24	side then?

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1	MEMBER VARGULICH: Yeah.
2	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Could you put that
3	visual on the pergola back. Thank you.
4	MEMBER PRETZ: Living on one of these rather
5	small lots, I'm uncomfortable with the exterior side
6	yard, especially with the 3-foot. I understand that
7	there may be 20 bushes or something like that.
8	There's exceptions to cutting out the visibility.
9	To me it seems like it's more than adequate
10	with the interior and the rear yard, and you wind up
11	having a side yard that is the exterior yard that is
12	I believe from a visibility but also from a
13	congested, amount of structures, and things like
14	that. And I think that the rest of the space is
15	more than adequate.
16	There is plenty of room in the back and
17	plenty of room in the interior side yard. That's
18	just my feeling living in that type of neighborhood.
19	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: I think that if all
20	of the yards if all of the homes were configured
21	the same way and all of the lot sizes were
22	identical, I would agree with that; but I think that
23	there are enough conditions in a RT District that
24	would cause that to be, you know, a more useable

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1	space. I mean, in some of these houses, that
2	exterior side yard is like where they live. You
3	know, I mean, that's the outside living space.
4	That's number one.
5	Number two, I see your point about the
6	visual and the over-structure condition if it was
7	anything other than a pergola because a pergola is
8	an open structure. It's not a gazebo. It's not
9	MEMBER FRIO: Why it is coming up for
10	question? I mean, nobody is asking for it now, so
11	why are we looking to
12	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Nobody is asking for
13	this either.
14	MEMBER FRIO: Yes, they are.
15	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Well, the City is
16	making an application, but it's not based on
17	somebody making an application.
18	MEMBER PRETZ: Well, I believe that we
19	probably are going to have one tomorrow.
20	MS. JOHNSON: We do. That was coincidental.
21	Yes.
22	MEMBER PRETZ: That happens to be exactly
23	the pergola. They requested the 3-foot.
24	MEMBER SCHUETZ: If, say, it were to be

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1	approved the way it is currently proposed, and
2	somebody had a situation, like Mr. Kessler is
3	bringing up, would they have the opportunity to come
4	back to the City and get a variance?
5	MS. JOHNSON: They couldn't get a variance.
6	They could request a code amendment to come back
7	and
8	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: And do this exact
9	same thing that we're doing right now.
10	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Oh, so they would have to
11	come before us and everything. I see.
12	MEMBER PRETZ: And the way I see it is that
13	if we're not having a request and somebody wants to
14	do it, then let them come back and request it.
15	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: But who came to
16	request to do this? Nobody.
17	MEMBER FRIO: Who prompted this?
18	MS. JOHNSON: Just conversations with a
19	couple residents.
20	MEMBER FRIO: So it has been somewhat
21	requested.
22	MS. JOHNSON: Yeah. We told them that we
23	could request an amendment because we saw a case to
24	be made for it. But in those situations, it was for

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1	the interior side yard.
2	MEMBER FRIO: So it had been requested.
3	MS. JOHNSON: Yeah. Not formally by the
4	people but
5	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Not
6	MEMBER FRIO: She just said it has been
7	requested.
8	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: No. It hasn't been
9	because there has been no application.
10	MEMBER FRIO: There have been discussions.
11	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: There have been
12	discussions about where they could put them in the
13	city, and the City said, We'll come up with what we
14	think.
15	MEMBER FRIO: But somebody has questioned
16	them because they want to do it.
17	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: So now we're saying,
18	okay, now that you're here, we've got another
19	condition that we think would be discussed.
20	MR. COLBY: Can I offer a suggestion?
21	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Sure.
22	MR. COLBY: With respect to the front yard
23	and the exterior side yard, we do allow an
24	encroachment of an open unenclosed porch to go 8

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1	feet into either the front or exterior side yard
2	setback.
3	So an option might be to allow pergolas to
4	do the same thing since they're a similar type of
5	structure, which would allow you to place them at
6	least adjacent to the face of the building but not
7	necessarily have them freestanding out towards the
8	sidewalk.
9	MEMBER PRETZ: That makes sense.
10	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: It makes perfect
11	sense.
12	MEMBER PRETZ: At least there's consistency
13	in there.
14	MEMBER VARGULICH: I have a question.
15	You're showing a corner lot here, so the 15-foot
16	side yard. What is the typical lot width for an
17	interior?
18	MS. JOHNSON: Usually, it would be 6 feet on
19	both sides.
20	MEMBER VARGULICH: Okay. All right. So
21	when you have an exterior side yard, you actually
22	are penalized in usability given this.
23	MS. JOHNSON: Yes.
24	MEMBER VARGULICH: If you have an interior

1	side yard, yes, your lot is smaller, but you
2	basically can build the same size house, and you
3	would get to use the other interior side yard.
4	Right now we're penalizing people for being adjacent
5	to a roadway.
6	MS. JOHNSON: Although you can't build as
7	close to the exterior side setback, the house
8	itself.
9	MEMBER VARGULICH: Okay. A fair
10	recommendation, Russ. Thanks.
11	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Okay. Would anybody
12	like to make a motion?
13	MEMBER HOLDERFIELD: To close the public
14	hearing.
15	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Yes.
16	MEMBER HOLDERFIELD: I move we close the
17	public hearing.
18	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Second.
19	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: All in favor.
20	(Ayes heard.)
21	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Then we move right
22	to Item No. 7 on our agenda, and we've had the
23	discussion on the permitted use of the signs, and I
24	think we could take a motion. Who would like to do

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1	that?
2	MEMBER PRETZ: Me?
3	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Yeah. Would you
4	make that motion.
5	MEMBER PRETZ: Okay. I'd like to make a
6	motion to the General Amendment recommendation for
7	approval for Chapter 17.22, General Provisions,
8	Section 17.22-030, Permitted Encroachments, and
9	Chapter 17.30, Definitions, Section 17.30.030,
10	General Definitions, yard encroachments for pergolas
11	and sports courts. With the additional and I'm
12	just going to defer to staff. Russ, could you
13	describe that once again.
14	MR. COLBY: Yes. What's permitted for open
15	and unenclosed porches is an 8-foot encroachment
16	into the front exterior side yard.
17	MEMBER PRETZ: As he said.
18	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: So to include the
19	MEMBER PRETZ: Pergolas.
20	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: To include the same
21	provision that we use for open porches for pergolas.
22	Okay.
23	MEMBER HOLDERFIELD: I have a question for
24	you, Russ. When you're talking about the porch as

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1	it exists now, can a porch extend the complete
2	length of the building on the exterior side?
3	MR. COLBY: Yes, yes, it can.
4	MEMBER HOLDERFIELD: It can go all the way
5	to the back.
6	MR. COLBY: As long as it doesn't extend
7	anymore than 8 feet into the yard towards the
8	street.
9	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Okay. We have a
10	motion. Is there a second?
11	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Second.
12	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: All right.
13	Holderfield.
14	MEMBER HOLDERFIELD: Yes.
15	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Schuetz.
16	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Yes.
17	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Vargulich.
18	MEMBER VARGULICH: Yes.
19	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Frio.
20	MEMBER FRIO: Yes.
21	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Purdy.
22	MEMBER MACKLIN-PURDY: Yes.
23	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Pretz.
24	MEMBER PRETZ: Yes.

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1	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Kessler, yes.
2	All right. That concludes Item No. 7.
3	No. 8 is additional business for Plan
4	Commission members or staff.
5	Russ, you were going to give us an update on
6	the signage that came up at our last meeting.
7	MR. COLBY: Yes. I don't have any new
8	information.
9	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Okay. I do. They
10	have moved the truck so that it's parked properly in
11	the parking stall, although it's in the same spot,
12	and they have removed the spotlights. And
13	technically, they're within the ordinance by leaving
14	the truck there as long as they move it once every
15	24 hours, I believe.
16	MR. COLBY: I don't remember exactly.
17	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Okay. Any other
18	business?
19	(No response.)
20	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: All right. The
21	weekly development report looks good. That's a very
22	helpful tool, by the way. I like that very much.
23	Thank you for that.
24	Meeting announcements, we have meetings on

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1	April 10, next Monday, our joint meeting with the
2	Planning and Development Committee of the City
3	Council.
4	MR. COLBY: Yes. Is there anyone that
5	cannot attend that meeting?
6	MEMBER SCHUETZ: The one on April 10th?
7	MR. COLBY: Correct.
8	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Yeah. I can't.
9	MR. COLBY: You can or cannot.
10	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Cannot.
11	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: All right.
12	MEMBER HOLDERFIELD: Where is that going to
13	be held?
14	MR. COLBY: We have listed here on the
15	council committee room. I'm not sure. It's either
16	the council committee room or A and B, one of the
17	meeting rooms there.
18	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Okay. And then
19	Tuesday, April 8th the 18th, I'm sorry. It
20	should be April 18th, May 2nd, May 16th.
21	Anyone know if they cannot attend those
22	meetings? Okay.
23	And then the Planning and Development
24	Committee meeting which follows the joint meeting,

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1	and the next one will be on the 8th.
2	All right. Public comment? No public, so
3	there's no comment.
4	All right. I'll take a motion to adjourn.
5	MEMBER SCHUETZ: I motion we close the
6	meeting.
7	MEMBER VARGULICH: Second.
8	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: All in favor?
9	(Ayes heard.)
10	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: This meeting of the
11	St. Charles Plan Commission is closed at 7:44.
12	(Off the record at 7:44 p.m.)
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1	CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER
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3	I, Joanne E. Ely, Certified Shorthand
4	Reporter No. 84-4169, CSR, RPR, and a Notary Public
5	in and for the County of Kane, State of Illinois,
6	the officer before whom the foregoing proceedings
7	were taken, do certify that the foregoing transcript
8	is a true and correct record of the proceedings,
9	that said proceedings were taken by me
10	stenographically and thereafter reduced to
11	typewriting under my supervision, and that I am
12	neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any
13	of the parties to this case and have no interest,
14	financial or otherwise, in its outcome.
15	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
16	hand and affixed my notarial seal this 6th day of
17	April, 2017.
18	My commission expires: May 16, 2020
19	OFFICIAL SEAL
20	Joanne E. Ely Notary Public - State of Illinois My Commission Expires 5/16/2020
21	
22	
23	Notary Public in and for the
24	State of Illinois

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