PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES STAFF REPORT

For Planning Commission Meeting of October 18, 2011

SUBJECT: Glacier Hills Life Enrichment Center Addition Landscape Modification

Request (1200 Earhart Road)

File No. SP11-022

PROPOSED CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MOTION

The Ann Arbor City Planning Commission hereby approves the proposed landscape modifications in order to maintain the previously approved landscape plan according to Chapter 62 (Landscape and Screening Ordinance), Section 5:608(2)(c)(vii).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that this petition be **approved** because the modifications are consistent with the intent of the ordinance and are associated with a previously approved site plan.

DESCRIPTION OF PETITION

An Administrative Amendment to the Glacier Hills Planned Project Site Plan currently is being reviewed by city staff to allow a one-story, 3,100-square foot addition to an existing building, which is less than 10 percent of the total floor area of the site. At least 31 parking spaces will be removed to maintain the approved amount of open space and impervious surfaces. An Administrative Amendment requires the project to be brought into compliance with all existing City codes. A recent change to Chapter 62 (Landscaping and Screening) includes a requirement for at least 50% of the interior landscape island areas to be depressed bioretention areas used for storm water management as well.

The Glacier Hills Skilled Nursing Care Facility Planned Project Site Plan was approved on June 21, 2010. It included extensive rearrangement and reconstruction of the existing parking lots along with the construction of a two-story, 60,000-square foot skilled nursing care facility. Construction on the parking lots and skilled nursing care facility began shortly after the site plan was approved. On July 25, 2011, Glacier Hills applied for an administrative amendment, in part because it would be more cost effective to construct the relatively small addition to Care and Rehabilitation Center building while crews were already at the site for the Skilled Nursing Care Facility. The newly reconfigured parking lots, conforming to the code in effect in 2010, were finished about the same time as the Landscape and Screening Ordinance was revised. The petitioners are able to further revise the parking lots to comply with most of the new landscape requirements, including breaking up the rows of parking to a maximum of 15 spaces between landscape islands, but retrofitting the site so that half of the islands are depressed bioretention areas utilized for storm water management will require another complete reconstruction of the parking lots.

Another new provision in the Landscape and Screening Ordinance provides the Planning Commission (or City Council, whichever is the approving body) may approve a modification to

allow landscape elements which are part of a previously approved site plan to be maintained and continued as nonconforming provided no alterations of the existing landscape elements are proposed. The petitioners are requesting a modification to allow all existing landscape islands to remain as previously approved. With approval of the modification request, staff will be able to approve the administrative amendment under review.

Prepared by Alexis DiLeo Reviewed by Wendy Rampson

Attachments: Approved Landscape Plan, North and South

Revised Landscape Plan (available after 10/17/11)

c: Owner: Glacier Hills Inc.

1200 Earhart Road

Ann Arbor, MI 48105-2768

Petitioner: Robert Zabowski

Edmund London & Associates, Inc. 20750 Civic Center Drive, Suite 610

Southfield, MI 48076

City Attorney Systems Planning File No. SP11-022



