

From: Mark Johnson

Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2014 3:54 PM

To: Planning; Petersen, Sally; Lumm, Jane; Briere, Sabra; Kunselman, Stephen; Taylor, Christopher (Council)

Subject: Planning Commission letter supporting the exception for 1919 Wayne Street

My husband and I live in Ann Arbor Hills in Ward 2. We fully support the Jesuit application for an exception that is before the Planning Commission. For the record, although it should not be relevant, we are not Catholic or members of the Jesuit congregation.

Our rationale for recommending that the planning commission grant the exception is:

- Granting the exception is the legal thing to do. As the Planning Commission staff and legal department found, the exception requirements have been legally met. Not to grant the exception would be discriminatory. Ann Arbor does not need another lawsuit which we will probably lose. The recommendation of the Planning Commission staff and legal department make it clear that the city recognizes that the exception legally should be granted. Either the Jesuits or the Urbaniaks could sue the city if the exception is rejected.

- Parking has been addressed and is no longer an issue for discussion. The Jesuits have agreed not to park on the street as is clearly stated in their exception request. They will park at the church behind the house (2 spaces have been granted) and in their 2 car garage and driveway.

- There is no reason to believe that the MAJORITY of the ONA (Oxbridge Neighborhood Association) members are against the exception. A small but vocal group (some ONA Board members and their supporters) is fighting the exception and excluding anyone from the discussion who does not agree with them. After an initial meeting on May 13, ONA has not had open meetings where all ONA members have been invited. They also have not notified the general membership of ONA that association dues would and are being used to pay an attorney to OPPOSE the exception. To date, ONA general membership has been kept in the dark. Many Oxbridge Neighborhood Association members are very unhappy and displeased with the actions and non-actions of the ONA board. Many believe that they have inappropriately used the association funds to hire an attorney to fight the Jesuit exception. Some are just now finding out that this has occurred and others still do not know. The process has been handled very poorly by the ONA Board. There has been an unbelievable lack of open communication and no open general membership involvement.

The Ann Arbor Observer or AnnArbor.com could have a field day with this as the Observer did recently with the Arboreteum lawsuit story where a number of individuals were named and shamed. If the exception is not approved this is likely to happen. Again, this is a small group of individuals who are objecting. If they succeed in getting the exception rejected, it will be an embarrassment to Ann Arbor.

We hope that the Planning Commission will resolve this quickly and legally. We also hope there will be enough Planning Commission members attending the June 17 meeting as a minimum of 6 votes is required to pass the exception.

Vivian and Mark Johnson