

From: Lenart, Brett
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:47 AM
To: Beverly Strassmann <bis@umich.edu>
Subject: RE: I want to speak at hearing for 215 Packard tonight!

Hello-

In the future, the meeting can be viewed on CTN Channel 6, AT&T Channel 99, or online at www.a2gov.org/watchctn simultaneously while on the phone. This would be the mechanism to both see and hear the meeting, and be ready to comment on any public hearing.

Additionally, I will of course pass your comments on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Sincerely,

Brett Lenart, AICP | Planning Manager
City of Ann Arbor Planning Services
301 E. Huron Street, P.O. Box 8647
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

blenart@a2gov.org | Direct (734) 794-6000 #42606 | General (734) 794-6265 | www.a2gov.org

From: Beverly Strassmann <bis@umich.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 9:38 AM
To: Lenart, Brett <BLenart@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: I want to speak at hearing for 215 Packard tonight!

The public needs to be given the password that is asked for in zoom. Otherwise the meeting is not transparent. *9 is not enough to actually view the meeting and the PowerPoints.

The builder stated that he had informed the zoning board back in 2013 of his future intention to add 3 bedrooms in the basement. However the public was not told of that plan and this means that the city's zoning board was hiding something critical from the public in 2013 when the builder was given his first variance for 215 Packard.

Moreover the parking allowance is by unit not bedroom so adding bedrooms greatly impacts the parking pressure.

Also it is strange how the committee approved the other zoning appeal for a house on Packard last night on the grounds that bedrooms were merely being enlarged and not added to in number. That idea was dropped for Kaplan's appeal which did entail 3 new bedrooms. It was very clear that Kaplan has become buddy buddy with City zoning officials who should be protecting the public interest and instead are serving the private interests of the builder at the expense of the public welfare and safety.

The zoning board seems to think it's fine to allow a variance that makes a structure nonconforming to zoning and then later to approve further variances on the grounds that the structure is already non-conforming. This disingenuous practice needs to be broadly exposed to the public because it shows how corrupt the zoning board has become.

Sincerely,

Beverly Strassmann
Germantown Neighborhood Association, President

On Thu, Apr 23, 2020 at 8:30 AM Lenart, Brett <BLenart@a2gov.org> wrote:

Hello Ms. Strassman-

I'm sorry to hear of your frustrations last evening, but I'm glad you were able to speak during public comment for the 215 Packard Rd. application. The City has been working hard to provide a variety of public comment opportunities and transparency during this challenging time.

For future meetings that are held in this manner, members of the public will continue to have the following methods of providing feedback:

- Email to planning@a2gov.org for any Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Historic District Commission, or Design Review Board Meeting. If you are interested in another board or commission, I would be happy to connect you to the appropriate staff.
- Selecting the "ecomment" link on agenda items. This link is found to the far right of every agenda item on the City's legislative calendar site: <http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>
- Dialing the phone number, entering the meeting ID, and pressing *9 to electronically raise your hand to speak during a public hearing.

Additionally, the City has published this resource if additional technical information is desired:
<https://www.a2gov.org/departments/city-clerk/Pages/Virtual-Meetings-.aspx>

Sincerely,

Brett Lenart, AICP | Planning Manager

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From: Beverly Strassmann <bis@umich.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 6:49 PM

To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>

Subject: I want to speak at hearing for 215 Packard tonight!

The web site does not say how I can do that. Please call me at 734 545 0280

Now you just skipped over the public comments!!

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Beverly I. Strassmann, Germantown Neiborhood Assoc President

Hello:

I tried to join the zoning board of appeals meeting tonight to participate by making comments on an agenda item. It turned out that the link provided to the public did not allow that and there was no opportunity to make comments. The number and meeting id were a sham and no password was provided.

I am very concerned about the policies of the zoning board vis a vis allowing contractors to get approval through a 2 step process whereby density is increased beyond what was initially discussed and approved. The case in question is 215 Packard Rd. There's another similar matter coming up for S. 5th Ave.

Overall, the City gets an F for public comment opportunities and transparency during the pandemic.

Sincerely,

Beverly I. Strassmann

President of Germantown Neighborhood Association