Citizen Participation Report

Special Exception Use Permit Application, 1919 Wayne St.

This report is submitted pursuant to the Ann Arbor City Code, Title V, Chapter 55, Article XII, 5:110(3)(b). This provision states as follows:

Citizen participation report. The petitioner shall provide the Planning and Development Services Unit with written documentation of any meetings or discussions that are held with citizens at least 10 business days prior to the Planning Commission public hearing on the petition.

Petitioner, USA Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus, Saint Ignatius Trust (hereinafter "Jesuits") filed for a special exception use permit on 4/18/2014. On April 22, 2014, Petitioner mailed to all property owners, addresses and registered neighborhood groups within 500 feet of the proposed petition site the information required by the Ann Arbor City Code, Title V, Chapter 55, Article XII, 5:110(3)(a). Petitioner also provided an electronic copy of the information to the Planning and Development Services Unit within 5 business days of acceptance of the petition. Petitioner received several responses to its mailing, most of them through an e-mail address Petitioner had established specifically for e-mail input. These responses are summarized below. Note that apparently some residents of the area around 1919 Wayne St. provided input directly to the City Planner and/or Planning Commission staff without copying Petitioner or Petitioner's attorney. Some provided input to both Petitioner or Petitioner's attorney and the City. The summary below deals only with discussions between Petitioner and/or Petitioner's attorney and citizens.

Written documentation of any meetings or discussions that are held with citizens:

On 4/23/14, Petitioner's attorney spoke by phone with Mr. Larry Grossman (734-649-8587). Mr. Grossman asked for clarification regarding what Petitioner was asking for. Petitioner's attorney explained that Petitioner wished to be recognized as meeting the definition of "functional family" under the Ann Arbor Code, and summarized the definition. Mr. Grossman said that it "sounded reasonable."

On 4/24/14, Petitioner's attorney received this e-mail: "Dear Mr. Taylor: I'm of the opinion that there is plenty of parking space for every member of the Jesuit house to have a car should such be their need and desire. John Woodford 1922 Lorraine Pl." Petitioner's attorney responded by thanking Mr. Woodford for his input, and telling him it would be put in the file.

On 4/25/14, Petitioner's attorney received a call from Dr. Greg Henry, 1850 Washtenaw. In response to his questions, Petitioner's attorney explained that the requested permit is for a certain number of people, and does not specify how they are distributed within the house. Petitioner's attorney also explained that the residents of the house will be St. Mary's staff, and graduate students at U of M. Petitioner's attorney also explained that if the Jesuits some day sell the property, each group wanting to fit under the functional family definition must meet the definition in the Code; they cannot simply take over the Jesuits' permit.

On 4/28/14, Petitioner's attorney received the following e-mail from Sue Lucas, on Berkshire. "My name is Sue Lucas and I live on Berkshire Road, very near 1919 Wayne. I've been living the dream, across from the B&B that NEVER followed their zoning rules and blatantly disregarded their specific restrictions as assigned by the City of Ann Arbor. I could never get anyone to listen to me, even during a face to face meeting with

representatives from the city. They park all over my street and block my driveway, though they have a driveway they don't let guests use and didn't provide a curb cutout or parking as required. They have late parties and long term guests, also against the zoning restrictions. In Ann Arbor, there's NO recourse when people just do whatever they feel like after buying a property so I will be vehemently opposing the further destruction of our private neighborhood with additional group housing." Petitioner's attorney thanked her for her input.

On 4/29/14, Petitioner's attorney received a phone message from Ms. Merrill Dudley. Petitioner's attorney called and left three messages over the course of several days at the number included in the message, but he was never able to speak to Ms. Dudley.

On 4/30/14, Petitioner's attorney responded to an e-mail from Mary Ellen Urick, a resident of 1924 Lorraine Place. Ms. Urick had raised several issues in her e-mail. Petitioner's attorney, in his response, pointed out that the special exemption use permit the Jesuits are seeking does not change the zoning of the house or neighborhood, so it would not allow anything that is not currently allowed under the ordinance. He also pointed out that the Jesuits will tend to live relatively quiet lives of prayer, study, and meditation, and not typical undergraduate student lives. He also pointed out that the Jesuits currently have a house in Ann Arbor, at 1250 Ferdon, and invited Ms. Urick to take a look at how the Jesuits maintain that house. Ms. Urick's email also expressed concerns regarding parking of the Jesuits' cars. Petitioner's attorney pointed out that the Jesuit intend to take advantage of the garage and driveway to minimize the impact on street parking in the neighborhood, and that they were seeking an agreement with the church next to 1919 Wayne to allow them to park in the church's lot. He also affirmed the Jesuits' commitment to preserving the quiet nature of the area and to being good neighbors.

In addition to the above, Fr. Dan Reim, Superior of the local Jesuit community, contacted the head of the Oxbridge Neighborhood Association, asking if someone from the Jesuits' organization could attend the Association's 5/13/14 meeting to explain the application and the Jesuits' way of life, and to answer neighbors' questions. However, he did not get a response to his inquiry.

Date: 5/19/2014

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