Zoning Board of Appeals January 27, 2021 Regular Meeting

STAFF REPORT

Subject: ZBA 20-033; 907 & 913 S. Main

Summary:

Main + Davis LLC, property owners, are requesting a variance from planting the required two street trees along S. Main Street as there is insufficient public right-of-way width and underground utilities to plant trees. Section 5.20.10(B) requires one street tree of the minimum size and species meeting City standards shall be provided for every 45 linear feet of public street right-of-way abutting a site plan site. The property is zoned R4C, Multiple-Family Residential District.

Background:

The subject property is located on the east side of S. Main Street, south of E. Davis Ave. Both homes were built in the late 1800's to early 1900's.

Description:

The petitioner seeks approval to demolish the existing two-story, 2,062-square foot home at 907 S. Main St. and the two-story, 2,772- square foot home at 913 S. Main St. and construct a new three-story, 13,467-square foot six-unit apartment building with 36 bedrooms. Both lots are zoned R4C, Multiple-Family Residential, and approval of the site plan is contingent upon combing the two lots to create a .32-acre site.

Site plans for City Council approval trigger the need for the entire site be brought into code compliance and the Unified Development Code does not address foregoing planting street trees nor is it eligible for a landscape modification and therefore a variance is necessary.

One street tree of the minimum size and species meeting City standards shall be provided for every 45 linear feet of public street Right-of-Way abutting a site plan site. A total of two (2) street trees are required. There is insufficient public right-of-way and this area is in a "do not plant" zone due to underground utilities. Additional tree plantings are not proposed on private property as there is insufficient room on site.

Standards for Approval- Variance

The Zoning Board of Appeals has all the power granted by State law and by Section 5.29.12, Application of the Variance Power from the UDC. The following criteria shall apply:

(a). That the practical difficulties are exceptional and peculiar to the property of the person requesting the variance and result from conditions which do not exist generally throughout the City.

The current code requirements are internally inconsistent and cannot be satisfied. certain ROW areas, where utility or communication lines are buried

underground, trees cannot be planted even while the code mandates such plantings.

- (b). That the practical difficulties will result from a failure to grant the variance, include substantially more than mere inconvenience, inability to attain a higher financial return, or both.
 - There are no available options/remedies for planting trees in the ROW area where utility lines are underground. We understand city staff supports this variance request.
- (c). That allowing the variance will result in substantial justice being done, considering the public benefits intended to be secured by this Chapter, the Practical difficulties that will be suffered by a failure of the Board to grant a variance, and the rights of others whose property would be affected by the allowance of the variance.
 - Allowing this variance will correct what appears to be an oversight in the definition of code (we understand that the staff may recommend revision to the code).

(d). That the conditions and circumstances on which the variance request is based shall not be a self- imposed practical difficulty.

• The variance request is not self-imposed and approval will correct what appears to be an inherent conflict in the code requirements.

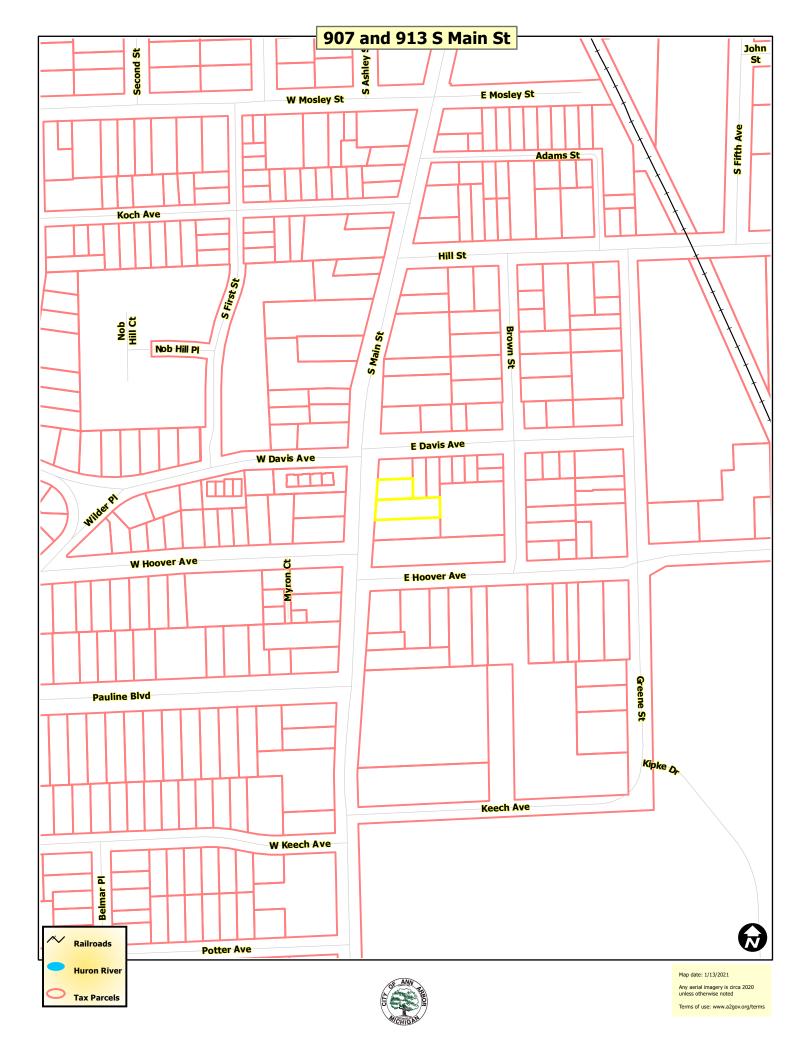
(e). A variance approved shall be the minimum variance that will make possible a reasonable use of the land or structure.

• Failure to grant the variance will halt the proposed project that has been recommended for approval by planning staff and passed the vote by Planning Commission. This proposal meets all other applicable codes including the required landscaping.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Cheng

Chris Cheng City Planner







Tax Parcels

907 and 913 S Main St





Tax Parcels

Map date: 1/13/2021 Any aerial imagery is circa 2020 unless otherwise noted Terms of use: www.a2gov.org/terms



ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS APPLICATION

City of Ann Arbor Planning Services

City Hall: 301 E Huron Street Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

Phone: 734-794-6265 Fax: 734-794-8460 Email: planning@a2gov.org

PROPERTY INFORMATION								
ADDRESS OF PROPERTY					Z	IP CODE		
ZONING CLASSIFICATION	NAME OF PROPERTY OWNER*If different than applicant, a letter of authorization from the property owner must be provided							
PARCEL NUMBER		OWNER	R EMAIL AI	DDF	RESS			
APPLICANT INFORMATION								
NAME								
ADDRESS	ESS		CITY			STATE	ZIP CODE	
EMAIL			<u>.</u>		PHONE		<u></u>	
APPLICANT'S RELATIONSHIP TO PROPERTY								
REQUEST INFORMATION								
Q VARIANCE REQUEST Complete Section 1 of this application			□ REQUEST TO ALTER A NONCONFORMING STRUCTURE Complete Section 2 of this application					
REQUIRED MATERIALS				OFFICE USE ONLY				
One hard copy application complete will all required attachments must be submitted. Digital copies of supportive materials included in the submitted hard copy will only be accepted in PDF format by email or accompanying the hard copy application on a USB flash drive. Required Attachments: Boundary Survey of the property including all existing and proposed structures, dimensions of property, and area of property. Building floor plans showing interior rooms, including dimensions. Photographs of the property and any existing buildings involved in the request.				Fee Paid: ZBA: DATE STAMP				
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT								
All information and materials submitted with this application are true and correct. Permission is granted to City of Ann Arbor Planning Services and members of the Zoning Board of Appeals to access the subject property for the purpose of reviewing the variance request.								

Property Owner Signature : <u>Sata R</u> Charle: ____

$Section \ 1 \ {\rm City} \ {\rm of} \ {\rm Ann} \ {\rm Arbor} \ {\rm Planning} \ {\rm Services} \ - \ {\rm Zoning} \ {\rm Board} \ {\rm of} \ {\rm Appeals} \ {\rm Application}$

VARIANCE REQUEST							
ARTICLE(S) AND SECTION(S) FROM WHICH A VARIANCE IS REQUESTED: (Example: Article 3, Section 5.26)							
REQUIRED DIMENSION: (Example: 40' front setback)	PROPOSED DIMENSION: (Example: 32 foot 8 inch front setback)						
Feet: Inches:	Feet: Inches:						
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK AND REASON FOR VARIANC	E:						
The City of Ann Arbor Zoning Board of Appeals has the powers granted by State law and City Code Chapter 55, Section 5:29. A variance may be granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals only in cases involving practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships when all of the following statements are found to be true. Please provide a complete response to each of the statements below.							
The alleged practical difficulties are exceptional and peculiar result from conditions that do not exist generally throughout							
The alleged practical difficulties that will result from a failure to grant the variance, include substantially more than mere inconvenience, inability to attain a higher financial return, or both.							
Allowing the variance will result in substantial justice being do secured by this chapter, the practical difficulties that will be s the rights of others whose property would be affected by the	uffered by a failure of the Board to grant a variance, and						
The conditions and circumstances on which the variance requ	uest is based shall not be a self-imposed practical difficulty.						
A variance approved shall be the minimum variance that will	make possible a reasonable use of the land or structure.						

Section 1 City of Ann Arbor Planning Services – Zoning Board of Appeals Application

VARIANCE REQUEST ARTICLE(S) AND SECTION(S) FROM WHICH A VARIANCE IS REQUESTED: (Example: Article 3, Section 5.26) **REQUIRED DIMENSION:** (*Example: 40' front setback*) PROPOSED DIMENSION: (Example: 32 foot 8 inch front setback) Feet: Inches: Inches: Feet: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK AND REASON FOR VARIANCE: 1. Article [], Section [] requires planting of 2 trees in right of way ("ROW"). However, due to the underground utility/communication lines along ROW, we are unable to plant the required trees. 2. Article [], Section [] maintains a maximum drive aisle width of []. We are seeking a variance to increase width of the drive aisle (ONLY at the mouth of the drive aisle) by 4 feet to improve aesthics. The City of Ann Arbor Zoning Board of Appeals has the powers granted by State law and City Code Chapter 55, Section 5:29. A variance may be granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals only in cases involving practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships when all of the following statements are found to be true. Please provide a complete response to each of the statements below. The alleged practical difficulties are exceptional and peculiar to the property of the Person requesting the variance, and result from conditions that do not exist generally throughout the City. For item 1 above, the current code requirements are internally inconsistent and CANNOT be satisfied. In certain ROW areas, where utilities or communication lines are buried underground, trees CANNOT be planted even while the code mandates such requirement. The alleged practical difficulties that will result from a failure to grant the variance, include substantially more than mere inconvenience, inability to attain a higher financial return, or both. There are no available options for planting in ROW areas with buried utility lines. We understand that the staff supports this variance request. Allowing the variance will result in substantial justice being done, considering the public benefits intended to be secured by this chapter, the practical difficulties that will be suffered by a failure of the Board to grant a variance, and the rights of others whose property would be affected by the allowance of the variance. For item 1, allowing the variance will correct what appears to be an oversight in the definition of the code. For item 2 above, allowing the variance for a marginal increase in width of a small portion of the driveway

will improve aesthetics along S. Main Street.

The conditions and circumstances on which the variance request is based shall not be a self-imposed practical difficulty. For item 1, the variance request is not self-imposed and approval will correct what appears to be an inherent conflict

in the code requirements. For item 2, expanding the driveway at the enterance will improve aesthetics along S. Main St.

A variance approved shall be the minimum variance that will make possible a reasonable use of the land or structure. Failure to grant the first variance will halt the project that has been recommended by approval by planning staff and has been approved by the Planning Commision and recommended by approval by the City Council.

