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                            Meeting
                    01/09/2024
REGULAR MEETING - ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
CITY OF NOVI
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024
Council Chambers/Novi Civic Center
41725 Novi Road
Novi, Michigan
BOARD MEMBERS:
Joe Peddiboyina, Chairperson
Mike Longo, Secretary
Linda Krieger, Member
Jay McLeod, Member
W. Clift Montague, Member
ALSO PRESENT:
Elizabeth Saarela, City Attorney
Alan Hall, Deputy Community Development Director
Sarah Fletcher, Recording Secretary
REPORTED BY:
Cynthia Ann Chyla
Certified Shorthand Reporter
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Roll Call
Public Hearing Format and Rules of Conduct
Approval of Agenda
Minutes - December 2023
Public Remarks
Public Hearings
    The Antique Barn, PZ23-0061
    Primrose & Swim School, PZ23-0066
    Orchard Development & Construction, LLC
    PZ23-0067
    V's Barbershop, PZ23-0068
    Colucci Properties, LLC, PZ22-0070
Other Matters
Adjournment
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1 that we can split this parcel into two separate parcels
Basically what we're looking to accomplish is to have the child care parcel and the swim school parcel separate from one another. In doing that we will have cross access and cross parking across the entirety of the two parcels. So as you'll notice the drive aisles are -- the curb cuts are both shown on the parcel where the swim school will be located -- I'm sorry, where the child care will be located.

So they will both have access to those drive aisles or all the parking spaces will be able to be utilized by both users and the clients of both of those businesses.

So it's our intention to create a cohesive multi-tenant development that will have use between the parcels and then we will have the shared access, maintenance and then parking agreements as well in place. Those drafts are already in review with the City of Novi's Legal Department at this time.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. I know you
have that, and do you have anything to show to public
tonight on the projector?
MS. KOZLOWSKI: We do not have anything in
addition to show other than that what was submitted with
the package, so that being the site plan showing the
depiction of the actual lot split line. As you can see,
we have that located on the west side of one of the curb
cuts off of Ten Mile Road.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Anything you would like to add?

MS. KOZLOWSKI: We've appreciated working with
the City of Novi with this project so far. We're very
well into our final site plan review and we feel that
we've made a lot of changes to this property, a lot of
revisions and improvements for the better just working
through the city's engineering and building department
trying to come up with an excellent cohesive development
that we think can really benefit the community.
We know that there is an existing vacant
retirement home on this property and we would love to
redevelop it into something that is of a great use for
the families of the City of Novi. We think that both a
child care center and a swim school would be a benefit
to all in the community.
So we thank you for your support in this
project and I'm happy to answer any questions that you
might have.

3 Thank you so much. Thank you so much. Okay.
can't it just be one property? allocated to --

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Excellent.

From the City any comments?
MR. HALL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
This is the property where the Whitehall
Healthcare Center is now. That's scheduled to be
demo'ed and these two buildings are going to go up as
she suggested. They're here for a 0 lot line setback
for both properties, so each property would be required
to have a 0 set line -- 0 line setback variance. So
that makes sense. But we don't have the properties yet
because it's not split, so what we're doing tonight is
approving the split that they'll have those variances
put in when we need them if that makes sense.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Sounds good.

All right. And correspondence, secretary.
MEMBER LONGO: There were 23 mailed out, three returned, no objections and no approvals.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you so much.
Okay. So open to the Board. Anybody would
like to comment on this case, please open to the Board.
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Yeah. Linda, please go ahead.
MEMBER KRIEGER: And you've been to the
Planning Commission with this already?
MS. KOZLOWSKI: Yes, we have.
MEMBER KRIEGER: Okay. Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Michael.
MEMBER MONTAGUE: Are these going to be
separate owners of the property or are they one -- I
mean same owner of property and two different tenants?
MS. KOZLOWSKI: It would be the same owner of property but two different tenants with separate leases.

MEMBER MONTAGUE: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Michael, do
you have any comments on this?
MEMBER LONGO: I guess to cover his point I understand what you're doing and I approve and I think
it's great. I don't understand why you separate. Why

MS. KOZLOWSKI: For us on the ownership side it is better for tax purposes to have the property taxes

MEMBER LONGO: Say no more.
MS. KOZLOWSKI: -- specific tenants. Just


The applicant, please. Please come to the podium. Please spell your first and last name clearly for our record. And if you're not an attorney our secretary will take the oath.

And who is presenting come to the podium and one of you can talk.

MR. COWAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and Zoning Board Members. My name is Dennis Cowan. That's C-O-W-A-N. I'm an attorney with Plunkett Cooney and I promise to tell the truth.

With me this evening are Tom Shaffou of Orchard Construction who is the builder of the proposed home. He is technically the applicant but the variance will benefit the owners which Mr. Kashat is here, Eddie Kashat, and his wife who are residents of Novi. They live -- they have lived for 12 years in the Ten Mile and Beck area on Broadmoor Street.

We are proposing to build a special home for a special family. This is, in essence, a request to have a garage which will facilitate two vans to transport their disabled adult children who are 28 and 32 years old; also to allow a ramp to be built within the garage to then allow them to be transferred in and out of the

Both suffer from a very rare disease which Dr. Delly, I have attached in the letter, his letter of diagnosis that they've had for several years. It's called generalized severe dystonia. It causes severe muscle spasms that result in repetitive and twisting movements which cannot be controlled by either of the children and it significantly interferes with their normal life activities. They must have $24 / 7$ care that's provided by the parents and others.

As a result of one of -- the son can only be moved on what's called a medical stretcher which has a padding on it, and the daughter, Natalia, is wheelchairbound at this time.

So the new home -- and I included a letter from Mr. Shaffou to show that -- you know, to demonstrate the needs that the family has. In addition to the garage to accommodate two vans, handicapped vans, we also have the ramp, but we also have an elevator in the home. All the passage ways will be wider. This will be a totally accessible home to accommodate the two children and to assist the family in their care.

From the background in terms of the variance

1 we're only asking for a single variance. We
2 respectfully request that variance. The practical
3 difficulty results if the variance is denied they have 4 nowhere to go in Novi. They would love to stay in Novi
5 and they want to build this home in Novi at the site that they've chosen.

If the variance were denied and they were to build at this site they would have no choice but to have the ramp outside of the home and expose their children and themselves when they are doing the transfer for medical reasons or to the hospital for therapy or to visit friends, or the daughter likes to come to the Novi library, would expose them to rain, snow, wind, kind of a day like today that none of us like and it would be an additional imposition on them.

This is not a self-created variance. It's not a matter of convenience. It really is the minimum variance necessary. The good news is is that this isn't causing any other request for a variance or a nonconformity. The lot, if you're familiar with it, is a very large lot. It's wooded. The woods are going to stay -- that's correct? -- the woods are going to stay so this doesn't create any, you know, setback problems
or anything of that nature, and there is separation from
that home with the rest of the subdivision and it's
adjacent to I think it's called Hickory Woods School is right nearby.

We also and most importantly I think to you
and to Novi this request and your granting of it would
be very consistent with the Fair Housing Act and the
Americans with Disabilities Act which does promote and
require decisions that allow medical conditions to have
accommodations. This is clearly one of those
situations. The need for the family is something
greater than the normal general public and it would not
result in any type of fundamental change in your rezoning ordinance.

So we respectfully request this variance for the reasons stated and we agree with the staff report that was submitted to you.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you, Dennis.
I appreciate the case, this thing, on this neurology
problem, and I saw the medical report also.
MR. COWAN: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: The doctor specialty in neurology.

just want to tell you for Tom and I and others who have
been involved in this it's really been a special event.
We both know the family, and I just want to tell you that I know Mr. Kashat can't wait to get home. You've made a family very happy tonight. They can build their dream special home here in Novi.

Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you so much. Good luck. I appreciate it.

MR. COWAN: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: And Case Number PZ23-0068 (V's Barbershop) 47972 Grand River Avenue, north of Grand River Avenue, west of Beck Road, Parcel 50-22-17-226-020. The applicant is requesting variance from the City of Novi Sign Ordinance Section 28-5(a) to allow an additional wall sign (maximum of one wall sign is allowed for this tenant, a variance of one additional wall sign), Section 28-10(b)(4) to allow an animated sign (animated signs are prohibited). This variance
would accommodate an animated barber pole sign. This property is zoned Community Business (B-2).

Is applicant present, please. Come to the
podium. Please tell your first and last name clearly
for the record and if you're not an attorney my
secretary will take the oath. Thank you.
MS. MILAN: Good evening. My name is Carolyn Milan. My last name is spelled M as in Mary I-L-A-N.
I'm with SEM1, LLC and that's -- and I'm a co-owner of V's Barbershop at 47972 Grand River Avenue.

MEMBER LONGO: Excuse me. Are you an attorney?

MS. MILAN: I'm not an attorney.
MEMBER LONGO: Do you promise to tell the
truth in this case?
MS. MILAN: I do.
MEMBER LONGO: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you so much.
And, Carolyn, please go ahead and proceed where we can
help you tonight on this case.
MS. MILAN: Yeah. We are a new business
opened for just under a month at the West Market Square
strip mall, which is a fairly lage strip mall. We're
kind of off to the side a little bit and we're
requesting a -- respectfully requesting a variance to
the zoning ordinances saying that we're not allowed to
have a barber pole there because -- for a couple of


MEMBER McLEOD: Do you have any, continuing on the first question, do you have any evidence or indication that when people drive by the place like the barbershop that they have the inclination Oh, I know what this is, I should, you know, now go there, versus people in 2024, people use their phones, people Google barbershop near me, hair salon near me, Google those terms and go to those stores directly as opposed to just happening to drive by a place and feel the interest to go?

MS. MILAN: Yeah. We've been keeping track of how people find us, actually, and I'm surprised at how
many people are telling me, you know, I just happened to be walking by on foot and, you know, I saw that there was something new there. Although we do get a lot of traffic from Google, I would say it's not our predominant -- predominantly how we get most of our clients. We're doing a lot of marketing.

MEMBER McLEOD: And then my second question is: You mentioned that the pole communicates the type of business?

MS. MILAN: Yeah.
MEMBER McLEOD: The name of the place is V's Page 35
Barbershop.
MS. MILAN: Yes.
MEMBER McLEOD: The barbershop in the name I think communicates the type of business.

MS. MILAN: You're right. What the barber pole -- the difference between our barbershop and many other barbershops is that we do quite a few -- we're very traditional looking on the inside. We have six antique totally refurbished chairs. We're really trying to go for that very traditional look, and the barber pole is just a universal symbol of a very traditional barbershop. There's not a lot of shops that really do that. It's more of an experience than, you know, check off your list type of thing; it's very -- a lot of hot lather/straight razor shaves versus other barbershops in town which are maybe 1 percent shaves and mostly just haircuts.

MEMBER McLEOD: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank you. Any other --

MEMBER LONGO: Yeah. I'm a customer of the pet store a couple doors down and I never noticed you were there. To your point it does say barbershop, but I
also know if I see that thing -- if I see that thing
I'll know immediately what it is, Number 1.
Number 2, it's kind of mentioned Novi doesn't
want these things that attract, particularly out on
Grand River, you can't see -- well, you can see that
from Grand River but you're not going to be distracting.
It's a very -- it's called animated but it's not really
animated.
I really see absolutely no problem. I think
that it will help you. You will get a few more
customers. Like you said, you're going to get Google
and all those other things but this is just another way.
And I personally would notice that even though I didn't notice the barbershop thing running in and out of the pet store. I have no problem with this.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank you. Linda.
MEMBER KRIEGER: For clarification, on one of the parts of information that were given to us the pole model number 88 , 60 -watt bulb, so that would be -- it could go for LED because it would be less expensive which is smart, but for clarification of it's the LED light, the bulb light on the interior and then the red Page 37 and blue swirls around it?

MS. MILAN: Right.
MEMBER KRIEGER: And then would that be on just your opening hours?

MS. MILAN: That's correct, yeah.
MEMBER KRIEGER: Okay. And, also, for --
Olga's is right there and people coming -- going to Home
Depot, it would be an attraction for more customers, and then the majority of people coming in and out of the Olga's have grubs so they're coming from across the street as well, so that would be an enhancement and attraction so I would be in support as well.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you, Linda.
Any other Board Member, please.
Okay. Motion.
MEMBER McLEOD: I'm outvoted on this one. I move that we deny the variance in Case Number PZ23-0068 sought by V's Barbershop for an extra sign that is animated because the petitioner has not shown practical difficulty because the sign that currently exists is plenty visible to customers even from the street. The new sign would be very low on the building and seems
duplicative and unnecessary.

neighbors.
The grant of relief would be offset by other improvements or actions such as increased setbacks or increased landscaping such as a net effect resulting in improvement of the property. It's a well-known symbol for a barbershop. It will be unobtrusive with no strong LED flashing lights or -- and on during working hours.

The construction of a conforming sign would require the removal or significant alteration of natural features on the property. A conforming sign would probably be bigger or not as helpful.

The grant or relief will not result in the use of structure that is incompatible with or unreasonably interferes with adjacent or surrounding properties, will result in substantial justice being done to both the applicant and the adjacent or surrounding properties and is not inconsistent with the spirit and intent of the chapter because it will increase traffic flow by its nature. It will -- the neighboring ones, the people coming and going from Olga's across the street, Home Depot, all the neighboring ones, it will draw them to there as well, and then people that are at this barbershop also could go next door to the other and help their neighbors.

That's it.
MEMBER LONGO: I second.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you. Okay.
MS. FLETCHER: Chairperson Peddiboyina.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yes, please.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Krieger.
MS. KRIEGER: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Longo.
MEMBER LONGO: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Montague.
MEMBER MONTAGUE: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Member McLeod.
MEMBER McLEOD: No.
MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Motion passes.
MS. MILAN: Thank you so much.
MEMBER KRIEGER: Yeah, thank you very much.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Today's final
case, PZ23-0070 (Colucci Properties, LLC), 40255 Grand
River Avenue, south of Grand River Avenue, east of
Haggerty Road, Parcel 50-22-24-451-005. The applicant is requesting a variance from the City of Novi Zoning
Ordinance Section 4.19.2.f.iv to allow the location of a
dumpster enclosure within the required 10 feet rear yard
setback. The existing dumpster from the adjacent
property encroaches 2.5 feet onto the property. This
variance would clarify the location of the dumpster for
any further project proposal. The property is zoned
Non-Center Commercial (NCC).
Okay. Please go ahead and spell your first
and last name clearly for the record and if you're not
an attorney and my secretary will take the oath.
MR. COLUCCI: Certainly. My name is John
Colucci. I am an attorney and I'm appearing in
connection with the variance request.
MS. SAARELA: Is there someone -- my understanding is someone might have a conflict so it should be disclosed at the beginning of the case if there is one.

MEMBER MONTAGUE: Yeah, whenever you want to do it.

MS. SAARELA: It has to be the beginning of the case.

MEMBER MONTAGUE: Okay.
MS. SAARELA: You need to disclose it to the Board

MEMBER MONTAGUE: Yes, it's a repeat from last
month. My brother-in-law. I understand. I got to go
in the back room. So somebody let me back in when it's over.
(Member Montague left the Dais)
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you. Thank you so much.

THE COURT REPORTER: Sir, could you spell your last name.

MR. COLUCCI: Certainly. I'm John Colucci, C-O-L-U-C-C-I. And I'm appearing in connection with the requested variance for 40255 Grand River.

This variance request is really a continuation of the variance request from December's meeting in which the front portion of the dumpster enclosure --

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah, John, it takes time a little bit. Just leave it.

MR. COLUCCI: Ah, there we go. (Document displayed)
MR. COLUCCI: -- in which the front portion of the dumpster enclosure depicted here is very faint but the property line comes across the back 2.4 feet of the dumpster enclosure so you can see the two dumpsters
in the enclosure, and the enclosure encroaches upon 40255 Grand River, and the property which has the predominant portion of the enclosure is 40245 , both of which have been owned by the Colucci family for many years.

We are preparing to sell the properties independently and, therefore, want to clean up a common use area which is the dumpster corral. So in our last meeting we did point out the things that make this a very challenging site to locate a dumpster. In order really to service a dumpster we need a runway to get to the dumpster and lift the containers, so on and so forth, and, really, the best and perhaps only spot available once the adjoining property was developed, which was developed after, was in this area and there really isn't 10 feet between the curb and the back of the dumpster corral.

So in our last presentation the Board did approve the front approximately 10 feet of the dumpster corral but we needed to re-notice with respect to the 40255 property that there was the encroachment, so it really encompassed both properties and the original notice only covered one, so we're back now to handle the
remainder of the same corral.

For the reasons we discussed last time on the record, it's a very unique site, very challenging. The dumpster corral has been there for about 30 years without disruption to the community. It doesn't decrease surrounding property values. It really has been a benefit to both properties, and we are looking at selling the 40245 property, which is this one here, to a veterinarian who is in the process of going through his expected use and site planning and all of that, and that would put a veterinarian clinic there.

In this particular building, we have a dentist, Novi Dentist. They're been there for close to 30 years. They're the original tenant in the center section and over time they've expanded really into the whole building so they want to purchase that building. And the preference is that we use the dumpster in common. We have developed and had approved by engineering and legal a cross easement to facilitate use of the dumpsters as well some utilities that crisscross back and forth across the property line.

It's a little hard to see but in this area there's a very significant DTE transformer and that
1
supplies power to both the buildings so the power comes underground to the transformer and goes back out to each of the buildings.

So for all the reasons that we stated before, the additional encroachment of $21 / 2$ feet would be part of our request for an overall variance that allows us to keep the sited dumpster in its current location with the hope that it continues to be shared in the future. Although I will say we have been asked to see if we can put a dumpster corral on the other property also, so we sent a little drawing over to Planning for that purpose, nothing other than an inquiry at this point.

But we did at one point since our initial submission have a nighttime issue with people trying to get into that transformer, and they were actually caught by the cleaning crew who came in at midnight and they hid in that dumpster corral. So now the cleaning lady is a little bit afraid of going into the dumpster corral for reasons that I think we can all figure out, so they've kind of thought about maybe we should have our own directly under the lights in the parking lot. So that's a possibility for the future, but none of that would affect the need to have the variance that is at
issue tonight and which was approved in part last
meeting.
So I'm happy to address any questions that the Board may have.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. John,
appreciate it. Thank you so much for your explanation
on this project and the presentation.
And I'll ask the City.
MR. HALL: Mr. Chairman, this is a follow-up
hearing of the previous meeting. The dumpster does sit
on the property line, so the first hearing was the
granting of a 0 lot line for 40245 . This now -- it
wasn't advertised at that time so now we're doing 40255
for the 0 lot line which would be consistent with what
we looked at last time. And the dumpster does reside in
the easement. We have no objections.
Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank you so much. I appreciate it.

And the secretary, correspondence, any ....
MEMBER LONGO: Sixty-seven were mailed out, six were returned, no objections and no approvals.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you so much.

) SS

COUNTY OF OAKLAND

I, Cynthia Ann Chyla, hereby certify that I reported stenographically the foregoing proceedings and testimony under oath at the time and place hereinbefore
set forth; that thereafter the same was reduced to
computer transcription under my supervision; and that this is a full, true, complete and correct transcription of said proceedings.


Cynthia Ann Chyla, CSR 0092
Notary Public
Oakland County, Michigan

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