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REGULAR MEETING - PLANNING COMMISSION
CITY OF NOVI
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January 25, 2017

Proceedings taken in the matter of the PLANNING COMMISSION, at City of Novi, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan, on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Pehrson, Chairperson Ted Zuchlewski

David Greco
Robert Giacopetti
John Avdoulos
Tony Anthony
ALSO PRESENT: Barbara McBeth, City Planner Rick Meader, Landscape Architect, Kirsten Mellem, Planner, Thomas Schultz, City Attorney, Darcy Rechtien, Staff Engineer Certified Shorthand Reporter: Jennifer L. Wall



of Grand River between Beck and Wixom Road.
Once that PRO is drafted and approved by Council, the preliminary site plan will return to the Planning Commission for their consideration.

Council also approved the second reading for two text amendments. The Planning Commission recently recommended the Text Amendment to allow drive-thru restaurants in the Town Center district and the amendments intended to accommodate the use for residential developments in that Main Street area. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON PEHRSON: Thank you, Barb, appreciate that.

We come to our first and only public hearing.

It's the Learning Experience, JSP16-19. It's a public hearing at the request of Lockard Development, Inc. on behalf of the Learning Experience for special land use, preliminary site plan, storm water management plan.



Mile Road.
There is an existing sidewalk along Town Center Drive and an existing pathway along Eleven Mile Road.

Traffic has noted that the entrance island is below the required 15-foot radius and fire has noted that the south end of the parking lot does not meet fire department standards to insure that large trucks and emergency vehicles can maneuver throughout the site.

The applicant has responded they will adjust the radii to meet the minimum requirement on the final site plan submittal.

The applicant is also
requesting a traffic waiver for same side, opposite side driveway facing to permit less distance between entrances along the private drive to the north. It should also be noted that the ingress, egress issue has also been resolved.

The landscape plan shows the
applicant is providing a landscape berm along Town Center Drive and Eleven Mile Road as required by ordinance.

There are a couple of landscape waivers the applicant is requesting which is supported by staff.

The first one is to permit fewer parking lot perimeter canopy trees than required, 18 are required, three provided. And second is to permit less building foundation landscaping and to allow foundation landscaping to be located away from the building foundation and away from the play area due to conflicts with the children.

The facade elevations show that the applicant is requesting a Section 9 facade waiver of the overage of asphalt shields on all sides. The required minimum is 25 percent and the applicant is providing between 40 and 42 percent.

This is supported by staff because it is consistent with overall design


MR. RIORDAN: We just want to thank you for your time tonight and we are available to answer any questions that you may have.

CHAIRPERSON PEHRSON: This is a public hearing.

If there is anyone in the audience who wishes to address the Planning Commission on this matter, please step forward.

Seeing no one, we will close the public hearing at this time and turn it over to the Planning Commission for their consideration.

Anyone? Member Anthony.
MR. ANTHONY: This is for the applicant. In looking at the site plan, I see that there is a proposed fence that's around the play area.

What would that fence be constructed of, are there plans now?

MS. SCHWEIKER: Good evening. My name is Charlotte Schweiker. I am with


understanding that it's 19 and 19.
MR. ZUCHLEWSKI: Then, what do we do with that 17-foot?

MS. DAHLIN: The 17-foot is
because --

MR. ZUCHLEWSKI: Overlap --
MS. DAHLIN: The sidewalk is a four inch curb. Typically there is a two foot --

MR. ZUCHLEWSKI: Overhang?
MS. DAHLIN: Overhang.
MR. ZUCHLEWSKI: Then that really cuts the sidewalk down to five feet then, is that correct?

MS. DAHLIN: Correct. It is a seven foot walk. So with the two foot overhang it would be a five foot walk.

MR. ZUCHLEWSKI: All right. And the dumpster location, is there any other place to put that dumpster? Could it go parallel with the front of the building only in the green space to the south, instead of having the traffic run all the way around it,
and enter vehicles -- you know, for that dumpster to come in and the truck to come in here and pick that up and be pumping the asphalt there, it would just seem it would be better if it was in a green belt to the south, is there a potential for that?

Is there any reason it was put where it is?

MS. DAHLIN: You are talking
about moving it south?
MR. ZUCHLEWSKI: Moving it south and anywhere along that south property on the other side.

MS. MELLEM: If I can interject,
that requires a $Z B A$ variance since it would be in one of the exterior side yards. We do prefer the location where it is. They did have it along the east property line, but there was some -- it would have been in the building -- or the parking setback too close to the property line, so the location where it's at now works best.

> If they were to put it south



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| 1 | travel, we can get more space for mobility on |
| 2 | the lot moving around? |
| 3 | MS. DAHLIN: I wouldn't be |
| 4 | opposed to doing one way traffic, but that |
| 5 | would kind of tie into the question or the |
| 6 | concern that the fire chief had in regards to |
| 7 | being able to get a fire truck circulated |
| 8 | through the parking lot. |
| 9 | MR. ZUCHLEWSKI: I would almost |
| 10 | think it would be easier to circulate, with |
| 11 | coming in here, being able to go around, then |
| 12 | exit not having two-way traffic on both |
| 13 | sides. Just tossing it up really. |
| 14 | CHAIRPERSON PEHRSON: It's really |
| 15 | just a radius for the trucks that we care |
| 16 | about. |
| 17 | MR. ZUCHLEWSKI: It wouldn't |
| 18 | matter one way or the other? |
| 19 | CHAIRPERSON PEHRSON: Unh-unh. |
| 20 | MR. ZUCHLEWSKI: It wouldn't |
| 21 | matter one way or the other if it was or was |
| 22 | not? If you could take a look at that, I |
| 23 | think it would make for better traffic flow |

and people not having to back out because you are going to have -- you got 120, 150 children is that the number?

MS. SCHWEIKER: We actually show 162.

MR. ZUCHLEWSKI: We have got how many parking --

MS. SCHWEIKER: Forty-four is in the total parking count. Yes, 44.

MR. ZUCHLEWSKI: That's an awful
lot of backing in and people going against traffic or holding up people coming in. MS. SCHWEIKER: I think as people start to use the facility, they kind of create their own traffic pattern as to what's easier to come in --

MR. ZUCHLEWSKI: I was just
trying to help them out in creating a flow. It's kind of like salmon. If that could be considered, changing the flow, so it's circular and not going against itself. Those are my only comments.

CHAIRPERSON PEHRSON: Thank you, Member Zuchlewski.

Anyone else? Member
Giacopetti.
MR. GIACOPETTI: I have a question for the applicant in regards to this special land use permit requirement.

What aspect of this site, as far choosing for the development?

MR. RIORDAN: I was not part of the land selection process, but we typically go through a pretty thorough voting process of the locations that TLE selects. So as far as why we actually selected this site, I don't have that information.

MR. GIACOPETTI: The reason I ask is, this group has spent a lot of time, looking at plans for a -- to develop a unique center, the Town Center, and a walkable district, you know, a downtown environment.

And this doesn't seem to
conform with $I$ think the intent of that zone, hence why the special land use permit is
required.
And it just seems a little
unusual that I think a day-care would be wedged between two hotels and Wal-mart. It just seemed like an unusual site.

I just wasn't sure what sort of business leaders was here to sort of shed some light on why this site was chosen over say other available sites.

MR. RIORDAN: I don't know the answer to that question.

CHAIRPERSON PEHRSON: Thank you, Member Giacopetti.

Anyone else?
Member Greco.
MR. GRECO: Just one question for our landscape architect, Mr. Meader.

The biggest deviation here has to do with the trees and the canopy trees.

I read your report, you're
comfortable with this as far as being appropriate for the location?



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MR. GRECO: In the matter of the Learning Experience, JSP16-19, motion to approve the storm water management plan, based on and subject to the following: The findings of compliance standards in the staff and consultant review letters, and the conditions and items listed in those letters, being addressed on the final site plan.

This motion is made because the plan is otherwise in compliance with Chapter 11 of the Code of Ordinances, and all other applicable provisions of the ordinance. MR. ANTHONY: Second. CHAIRPERSON PEHRSON: Motion by Member Greco, second by Member Anthony.

Any other discussion?
Kirsten.
MS. MELLEM: Chair Pehrson?
CHAIRPERSON PEHRSON: Yes.
MS. MELLEM: Member Zuchlewski?

MR. ZUCHLEWSKI: Yes.
MS. MELLEM: Member Avdoulos?
MR. AVDOULOS: Yes.

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| MS. MELLEM: Member Giacopetti? |  |  |  |
| MR. GIACOPETTI: Yes. |  |  |  |
| MS. MELLEM: Member Anthony? |  |  |  |
| MR. ANTHONY: Yes. |  |  |  |
| MS. MELLEM: Member Greco? |  |  |  |
| MR. GRECO: Yes. |  |  |  |
| MS. MELLEM: Motion passes six to |  |  |  |
| zero. |  |  |  |
| CHAIRPERSON PEHRSON: All set. |  |  |  |
| Thank you. |  |  |  |
| Next on the agenda is matters |  |  |  |
| for consideration, item one, Landscape |  |  |  |
| Ordinance Amendment 18.283, it's to set a |  |  |  |
| public hearing for Text Amendment 18.283 to |  |  |  |
| consider amending the City of Novi's zoning |  |  |  |
| ordinance in order to modify Section 5.5 of |  |  |  |
| the zoning ordinance and accompanying |  |  |  |
| landscaping design manual. |  |  |  |
| The changes are proposed to |  |  |  |
| make the ordinance requirement more |  |  |  |
| achievable and realistic given the restraints |  |  |  |
| of most sites and to promote the visibilty of |  |  |  |
| buildings and the health of the planted |  |  |  |

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landscape requirements.
The assumption was in
creating them, I think that people were always going to have long islands throughout every parking lot, they would have room for extra trees, which typically most parking lots don't. Typically there is -- you know, it's smaller, they just don't have room for that kind of island.

So, these are focused primarily -- these changes are focused primarily on commercial industrial projects and affect -- with residential I haven't seen any major problems with residential, but I think it's an issue in the commericial and industrial situations.

If you look at the example, this is showing the existing that we follow them completely on the top, how many trees would be required for around the parking lot as well as screening in front of the building, in the commercial -- the proposed there is 105 trees required in that
situation.
The one below with the proposals, it's 64 trees. You can see it's still well landscaped, it still has enough to decorate the site as well as screen the parking lot from the road.

But it opens up the building
a little bit more to the road and it just makes it feasible to really to support -- to enforce the rules that we have.

Now it's really hard for me to enforce the rules that we have and not have trees on top of each other.

So, you know, I like to
enforce rules and rather have rules that $I$ can enforce, then say, I know you can't, do your best. That's kind of the situation we are in right now.

So if you look through the rules, there is changes for commercial, there is changes for industrial, then there are some other rules as I mentioned.
Please take a look at it, I
will be glad to answer any question you might have. There is a lot there. I am sure you will have questions.

CHAIRPERSON PEHRSON: Very good. Turn it over to the Planning Commission for their consideration.

Member Avdoulos.
MR. AVDOULOS: Thank you. I was part of a similar process back my first tour of the Planning Commission. We were looking landscaping and we had -- I remember, brought in also -- some landscape architects came in to discuss their concerns and what benefits there would be to readjust what we have at that time.

And the projets that you're looking at, there are a lot of variances being requested and are you also -- with the information that you're presenting in consultation with some of the landscape architects that bring in the project or is this just something that you have just been noticing, you know, the last year or so?

probably five or six that work with the districts, send it onto them once it became public to get their comments.

MR. AVDOULOS: I think the last go-around that was the issue, too, we had quite a few landscape architects that did a lot of work in the city and they provided their comments and feedbacks, and if we can maintain an ordinance that will allow us to, you know, continually enhance our sites, but also limit the amount of variances that come forth, then that's a win for all of us because the one thing -- even from a architectural standpoint, just looking at building the projets and then there is a variance, a variance, variance, you know, requested all the way along, that means, either our process is too tight or nobody is willing to follow the rules, and they just want to, you know, go through the process of getting what they want.

But landscape is a good way
to do it, a lot of projects. It's a low
hanging fruit for value engineering so they can reduce costs.

But I think if we provide something that's reasonable and can stick to it, then it will really help out, you know, what we have already got started.

I think it's done well, you know, in the last ten years or so.

So I think this is a good process and I appreciate your going through this and helping us streamline it.

MR. MEADER: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON PEHRSON: Anyone else? Member Greco.

MR. GRECO: Yes, I would like to make a motion to set the Landscape Ordinance Amendment 18.283 for a public hearing.

MR. ANTHONY: Second.
CHAIRPERSON PEHRSON: We have a motion by Member Greco, second by Member Anthony.

## Any other discussion?

Kirsten, can you call the


Greco and second by Giacopetti.
Any other comments?
Kirsten, please.
MS. MELLEM: Member Avdoulos?
MR. AVDOULOS: Yes.
MS. MELLEM: Chair Pehrson?
CHAIRPERSON PEHRSON: Yes.
MS. MELLEM: Member Zuchlewski?

MR. ZUCHLEWSKI: Yes.
MS. MELLEM: Member Anthony?
MR. ANTHONY: Yes.
MS. MELLEM: Member Giacopetti?
MR. GIACOPETTI: Yes.

MS. MELLEM: Member Greco?
MR. GRECO: Yes.
MS. MELLEM: Motion passes six to zero.

CHAIRPERSON PEHRSON: Thank you.
Any matters for discussion? Supplemental issues?

There is no one in the audience, close the last audience participation.

| Look for a motion to adjourn. <br> MR. GRECO: Motion to adjourn. <br> MR. ZUCHLEWSKI: Second. <br> CHAIRPERSON PEHRSON: Thank you, gentlemen. We are adjourned. <br> (The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.) |
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STATE OF MICHIGAN )
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    ) ss .
    COUNTY OF OAKLAND )
I, Jennifer L. Wall, Notary Public within and for the
County of Oakland, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the
meeting was taken before me in the above entitled matter at the
aforementioned time and place; that the meeting was
stenographically recorded and afterward transcribed by computer
under my personal supervision, and that the said meeting is a
full, true and correct transcript.

I further certify that I am not connected by blood or marriage with any of the parties or their attorneys, and that $I$ am not an employee of either of them, nor financially interested in the action.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand at the City of Walled Lake, County of Oakland, State of Michigan.

2-28-17


