| 1 | REGULAR MEETING - ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS | |
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| 2 | CITY OF NOVI | |
| 3 | Tuesday, February 11, 2025 | |
| 4 | Council Chambers/Novi Civic Center | |
| 5 | 41725 Novi Road | |
| 6 | Novi, Michigan | |
| 7 | | |
| 8 | BOARD MEMBERS: | |
| 9 | Joe Peddiboyina, Chairperson | |
| 10 | Mike Longo, Secretary Siddharth Mav Sanghvi, Member | |
| 11 | Linda Krieger, Member W. Clift Montague, Member | |
| 12 | Joe Samona, Alternate Member | |
| 13 | ABSENT EXCUSED: Larry Butler, Member | |
| 14 | Michael Thompson, Member | |
| 15 | ALSO PRESENT: | |
| 16 | Elizabeth Saarela, City Attorney Alan Hall, Deputy Community Development | |
| 17 | Director Sarah Fletcher, Recording Secretary | |
| 18 | REPORTED BY: | |
| 19 | Melinda R. Womack | |
| 20 | Certified Shorthand Reporter | |
| 21 | | |
| 22 | | |
| 23 | | |
| 24 | | |
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- 1 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Good evening.
- 2 Welcome to the Novi Zoning Board of Appeals.
- 3 Today is February 11th at 7 p.m. And we have call
- 4 to the order. Pledge of allegiance by Michael
- 5 Longo.
- 6 (Pledge of Allegiance recited)
- 7 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Please be
- 8 seated and put your cell phones muted. Roll call.
- 9 Secretary, Sarah.
- 10 MS. FLETCHER: Chairperson Peddiboyina?
- 11 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yes, please.
- MS. FLETCHER: Member Sanghvi?
- 13 MEMBER SANGHVI: Yes.
- MS. FLETCHER: Member Thompson?
- 15 Absent. Member Montague?
- MEMBER MONTAGUE: Here.
- 17 MS. FLETCHER: Member Longo?
- 18 MEMBER LONGO: Here.
- MS. FLETCHER: Member Krieger?
- 20 MEMBER KRIEGER: Here.
- MS. FLETCHER: Member Butler, absent.
- 22 Member Samona?
- MEMBER SAMONA: Here.
- MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.
- 25 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you



- 1 roll call. Total we have five cases today. And
- 2 City Manager second case, once we come to the
- 3 second case and today we have only four. Once we
- 4 call anybody up again, you can come to the podium
- 5 and speak clearly, the presenter. And if anybody
- 6 in the audience would like to speak on anything,
- 7 just three minutes timeframe is allowable and
- 8 respect the time. I appreciate that. Anything in
- 9 the public hearing, format and rules and conduct.
- 10 Approval of minutes for January 2025?
- 11 MEMBER SAMONA: I have a comment about
- 12 that before moving for the approval of the
- 13 minutes. I don't know if it needs to be corrected
- 14 for the record, but the minutes stated that the
- 15 board in January approved the minutes from
- 16 December. The board did with the exception of me
- 17 because I was unable to vote in that and there was
- 18 no roll call for the approval of the December
- 19 minutes in January.
- 20 MS. SAARELA: There doesn't have to be
- 21 a roll call.
- 22 MEMBER SAMONA: The minutes say board
- and I didn't vote in the affirmative or nay.
- 24 MR. HALL: So taking out his vote, I
- 25 think we had a majority so I think it still



- 1 carries.
- 2 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay.
- 3 Because he's not there, we'll take him out of
- 4 that. And we appreciate Joe. And make a motion
- 5 for the January meeting minutes. Because I was
- 6 not in the meeting, somebody can make a motion and
- 7 second. Any questions on that?
- 8 MEMBER SAMONA: I make a motion to
- 9 approve.
- 10 MEMBER LONGO: I second.
- 11 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Any
- 12 objections? Okay. Say aye all in favor.
- THE BOARD: Aye.
- 14 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Any nays?
- 15 Thank you. Coming back to the approval of the
- 16 agenda. Today's agenda, as I told you, we have
- 17 five cases. Any changes or any modifications,
- 18 this is the time where you can speak on this.
- 19 MR. HALL: Mr. Chairman, I have a
- 20 request.
- 21 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Please.
- MR. HALL: The second item, PZ24-0065,
- 23 I'd like to table that to the next meeting. It
- 24 needs to be republished.
- 25 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank



- 1 you. Any objections on that one? No? Okay.
- 2 Approval of agenda is approved. Somebody can make
- 3 a motion on that.
- 4 MEMBER LONGO: I so move.
- 5 MEMBER SANGHVI: Second.
- 6 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank
- 7 you. Any objections? Say all in favor aye.
- 8 THE BOARD: Aye.
- 9 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Any nays?
- 10 Thank you. Coming back to public remarks.
- 11 Anybody have any public remarks on this agenda,
- 12 please come to the podium. Spell your first and
- 13 last name clearly. This is the time where you can
- 14 speak on public remarks, please.
- 15 MR. ZACK: Good evening. My name is
- 16 Gary Zack. I live at 359 South Lake Drive and I
- 17 came to comment on --
- MS. SAARELA: Excuse me, Chairperson.
- 19 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Excuse me.
- 20 MS. SAARELA: If this is for a case, it
- 21 should be during the case.
- MEMBER LONGO: We'll have you back.
- 23 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank
- 24 you Liz and Sarah. Okay. Coming back to we have
- 25 first case PZ24-0064 (Justin Gusick) 21494



- 1 Equestrian Trail, north of Eight Mile Road, west
- of Beck Road, Parcel 50-22-32-401-086. The
- 3 applicant is requesting a variance from the City
- 4 of Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 4.19.E.iii to
- 5 allow 2,327 sq ft aggregate total for accessory
- 6 structures (1,500 sq ft allowed, variance of 827
- 7 sq ft). This property is zoned Residential
- 8 Acreage (R-A). Can the presenter please come to
- 9 the podium, spell your first and last name
- 10 clearly. If you're an attorney, you don't need to
- 11 take an oath. If you are not an attorney, you
- 12 need to take an oath on you.
- MR. GUSICK: My name is Justin Gusick,
- 14 property owner.
- 15 MEMBER LONGO: Justin, are you an
- 16 attorney?
- 17 MR. GUSICK: I am not.
- 18 MEMBER LONGO: Do you promise to tell
- 19 the truth in this case?
- MR. GUSICK: I do.
- 21 MEMBER LONGO: Thank you.
- 22 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Please
- 23 go ahead and proceed where we can help you tonight
- 24 on this case, please.
- MR. GUSICK: Okay. So we're requesting



- 1 a variance to the accessory structure to build a
- 2 structure. I don't know what you want to call it,
- 3 but pool house, cabana, whatever, next to our
- 4 pool. Apparently there's only 1,500 square feet
- 5 allowed, but we were told that that included our
- 6 attached garage. But my attached garage is
- 7 already 1,550 square feet so it's already beyond
- 8 that. I don't really understand this ordinance.
- 9 I mean my garage has a full basement underneath
- 10 it. It's really kind of part of the house so I
- 11 really didn't understand the accessory portion of
- 12 that. So we're requesting to build this.
- If I could guess I'd say there's 20 of
- 14 these already in our neighborhood so it's not a
- 15 new concept. That's our case I guess.
- 16 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Do you have a
- 17 presentation where you can present your case?
- 18 MR. GUSICK: I didn't know that was
- 19 required. We had submitted them.
- 20 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Before
- 21 going to that, from the city?
- 22 MR. HALL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
- 23 Yeah. So the ordinance does consider attached
- 24 garages as accessory. They're not part of the
- 25 square footage on the house. So I would like to



- 1 make a correction to the information that was
- 2 submitted. On one document it said there was 680
- 3 square feet, whether it was going to be the shed
- 4 or the accessory structure he's asking for. But
- 5 if you go to the facade drawings where actually
- 6 the dimensions of the foundation, it's 770 square
- 7 feet. So he'll be looking for the variance for
- 8 770 square foot accessory structure. It will be
- 9 35.5 feet in one direction and 21.6, 7 or 8 inches
- 10 in the other direction. So even though the square
- 11 footage is a little different than the submittal,
- 12 the variance is the same. It's still 827 is what
- 13 it is. So it's above the 1,500 square foot
- 14 allowed for accumulation of accessory structures.
- 15 So he's asking tonight for a single variance of
- 16 827 square feet for that accessory structure.
- 17 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you. I
- 18 appreciate it. Correspondence secretary?
- 19 MEMBER LONGO: We mailed out 20
- 20 mailers. One was returned. There are no
- 21 objections. There was one approval. I'm not
- 22 going to read the whole thing, but it was from
- 23 Joel Shabari. And the basic comment was he's
- 24 increasing the value of his property which ups my
- 25 city. That's pretty awesome.



- 1 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
- 2 Public hearing. Any comments you can come to the
- 3 podium and you can speak on this case, please.
- 4 Okay. Looks like none. Open to the board. Dr.
- 5 Sanghvi.
- 6 MEMBER SANGHVI: Thank you. I came and
- 7 visited your property on Saturday. You have a
- 8 nice gated community. When I came back you have a
- 9 beautiful home. Did I see a trailer in your
- 10 driveway? When I came I think there was a
- 11 trailer.
- 12 MR. GUSICK: There is. That's the
- 13 contractor's.
- 14 MEMBER SANGHVI: It's a beautiful home.
- 15 Large home. How big is your home?
- 16 MR. GUSICK: I think 4,800.
- 17 MEMBER SANGHVI: It's a huge home. Do
- 18 you have enough room on your backside to put this
- 19 structure?
- MR. GUSICK: This won't even put a dent
- 21 in it.
- 22 MEMBER SANGHVI: For the size of your
- 23 house you need a little bigger structure then. I
- 24 have no problem supporting you.
- 25 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you,



- 1 Dr. Sanghvi. Joe, go ahead.
- 2 MEMBER SAMONA: Yes. I'm a Realtor so
- 3 I've been through that subdivision more times than
- 4 I can remember. I noticed consistent with other
- 5 homes, although this accessory structure wouldn't
- 6 be within the building of the home, that's
- 7 consistent with a lot of the homes in that area
- 8 just because the unique ways the lot is set up. I
- 9 do have a question. In the photos that you
- 10 submitted, the drawings, seem like there was going
- 11 to be, I don't know, was it a fireplace? Was it a
- 12 stove?
- 13 MR. GUSICK: Fireplace.
- 14 MEMBER SAMONA: Natural wood? Gas?
- 15 MR. GUSICK: I believe that was natural
- 16 wood.
- 17 MEMBER SAMONA: Got it. Okay. Through
- 18 the Chair I guess the city attorney there's
- 19 nothing we have to do with the fire department?
- 20 MS. SAARELA: That's the building
- 21 department.
- 22 MEMBER SAMONA: Is there anything that
- 23 we need to do with the --
- 24 MR. HALL: We would do a building
- 25 permit for it, and then we'll go ahead and look at



- 1 the fireplace there. Is there a chimney to this?
- 2 MR. GUSICK: There is. Full stone
- 3 mason.
- 4 MR. HALL: And it goes through the roof
- 5 and has a proper draft?
- 6 MR. GUSICK: Um-hum.
- 7 MR. HALL: Because natural fire, right?
- 8 MR. GUSICK: Correct.
- 9 MEMBER SAMONA: Otherwise, more homes
- in my opinion there have similar to what you're
- 11 looking to put than don't. I, like Dr. Sanghvi,
- 12 would have no problem supporting this as well.
- 13 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you,
- 14 Joe. Any other board member could like to speak?
- 15 Linda?
- 16 MEMBER KRIEGER: In one of your
- 17 pictures, the hedge is that natural growth or
- 18 landscape?
- 19 MR. ZACK: It's landscaping.
- 20 MEMBER KRIEGER: Thank you.
- 21 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Any other
- 22 board member would like speak on this? Motion
- 23 time. Linda?
- 24 MEMBER KRIEGER: In case number
- 25 PZ24-0064, sought by the petitioner, I move to



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- 1 grant the request. The Petitioner has shown
- 2 Practical difficulty. Without the variance the
- 3 Petitioner will be unreasonably prevented or
- 4 limited with respect to use of the property
- 5 because of the pool area needing protective
- 6 covering. The property is unique because the
- 7 Garage is not attached regarding this variance.
- 8 Petitioner did not create the condition because the pool
- 9 already exists with the property as well. The relief
- 10 granted will not unreasonably interfere with adjacent or
- 11 surrounding properties because 20 other homes with
- 12 similar circumstances with pools and gazebos. The
- 13 relief is consistent with the spirit and intent of the
- 14 ordinance because it's a reasonable request with this
- 15 subdivision.
- 16 MEMBER SANGHVI: Second.
- 17 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you,
- 18 Dr. Sanghvi. Roll call, please.
- 19 MEMBER SAMONA: I've got a question.
- 20 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Please go
- 21 ahead.
- MEMBER SAMONA: So the applicant did
- 23 mention something we need to mention too. The
- 24 current garage doesn't meet he ordinance now.
- 25 It's bigger than 1,500 square feet. So this



- 1 variance that we're offering is going to fix that
- 2 also, so it will fix the garage overage again.
- 3 Just a clarification.
- 4 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
- 5 Linda.
- 6 MEMBER KRIEGER: We have to amend that.
- 7 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah, please.
- 8 MEMBER KRIEGER: Into the motion.
- 9 MEMBER LONGO: Second.
- 10 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Roll call,
- 11 please.
- MS. FLETCHER: Chairperson Peddiboyina?
- 13 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yes, please.
- MS. FLETCHER: Member Sanghvi?
- 15 MEMBER SANGHVI: Yes.
- MS. FLETCHER: Member Montague?
- 17 MEMBER MONTAGUE: Yes.
- 18 MS. FLETCHER: Member Longo?
- 19 MEMBER LONGO: Yes.
- MS. FLETCHER: Member Krieger?
- 21 MEMBER KRIEGER: Yes.
- MS. FLETCHER: Member Samona?
- 23 MEMBER SAMONA: Yes.
- 24 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Motion
- 25 carries.



- 1 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
- 2 PZ24-0066 (Amar Abro) 425 South Lake Drive, on
- 3 South Lake Drive, west of Old Novi Road, Parcel
- 4 50-22-03-477-002. The applicant is requesting
- 5 variances from the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance
- 6 Section 3.32(10)iia to allow a 500 sq ft shed (100
- 7 sq ft allowed, variance of 400 sq ft); to allow
- 8 the shed to have a mean height of 10 ft (max 8 ft
- 9 allowed, variance of 2 ft); and to allow 25% lot
- 10 coverage (5% allowed, variance of 20%). This
- 11 property is zoned One-Family Residential (R-4).
- 12 Please go ahead and tell your first and last name
- 13 clearly.
- 14 MR. ABRO: Amar Abro, A-M-A-R, A-B-R-O.
- MEMBER LONGO: Are you an attorney?
- MR. ABRO: I am not.
- 17 MEMBER LONGO: Do you promise to tell
- 18 the truth in this case?
- MR. ABRO: Yes, I do.
- 20 MEMBER LONGO: Thank you.
- 21 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay, Mr.
- 22 Abro. Please present your case where we can help
- 23 you tonight in this case, please.
- 24 MR. ABRO: Thank you very much for your
- 25 time this evening. My wife and I live at 425



- 1 South Lake Drive, and that is one of the homes
- 2 that sits across the street from the water of
- 3 Walled Lake on the north side of Novi. And the
- 4 ordinance currently allows for up to 100 square
- 5 foot structures on the outlot, or what we call the
- 6 lake lot because we own the lot where our home is,
- 7 and at the small lot across the street to access
- 8 the water as well. And we're requesting a 400
- 9 square foot variance as well as a two foot
- 10 variance to build a new structure to take down the
- 11 existing older small structure that's there. And
- 12 the reasons for the larger structure are that
- 13 storage and items including kayaks, canoes, foam
- 14 lily pad for the kids, skis, lifejackets, boat
- 15 bumpers and a canoe all do not fit in the current
- 16 size shed that is there now. And one of our big
- 17 concerns is safety. I apologize that I didn't
- 18 include these photos in the original packet, but I
- 19 printed out extra if I could hand out would like
- 20 to see. So our house is the first house next to
- 21 Lakeshore Park. And being the first house next to
- 22 the park presents a problem that there is a hill
- 23 and a blind turn immediately next to our home.
- 24 There's a sign that says warning hidden driveway.
- 25 And there's a bit of a speeding problem on South



- 1 Lake Drive. So my wife, myself, family, a lot of
- 2 little kids, we cross that road back and forth to
- 3 get to the lake. So this larger structure would
- 4 allow us to have an opportunity to cross that road
- 5 less and less.
- 6 Our number one biggest concern, our
- 7 neighborhood two houses to the west hit a dog
- 8 recently because a car was coming over that blind
- 9 turn. And we also have dogs that cross the road
- 10 with us. As you can see from the photo here,
- 11 there's a car right here. And it is quite late
- 12 notice to see any cars coming from that side of
- 13 the road. And here is a picture of the current
- 14 shed that's there now, and the shed that we're
- 15 asking for would take the place of this shed as
- 16 well as all that dock equipment that's next to it.
- 17 Other points I'd like to bring up is
- 18 that there's a lot of increased traffic on South
- 19 Lake Drive since the park reopened with all the
- 20 construction that was done there during COVID. We
- 21 love using the park. We take our dogs in the park
- 22 every single day. We're glad the community likes
- 23 to use it. But again, it does cause more of a
- 24 traffic instance and more of a speeding instance
- 25 that's there. With our big family and a lot of



- 1 kids, they're crossing the road and relatives are
- 2 always over because we are the family on the lake,
- 3 we want to reduce the number of times we have to
- 4 cross that road.
- 5 Also being the first house next to the
- 6 park, if you look at this photo right behind that
- 7 shed is the property where the beach is. The shed
- 8 we'd like to build, one of the reasons we like
- 9 that size it will give us a privacy wall from the
- 10 public beach just for more safety that when we do
- 11 have people playing, kids in the yard and whatnot,
- 12 it will allow us to feel a little more secure than
- 13 anyone that can be kind of lurking on that side of
- 14 the fence in the trees won't have access to just
- 15 kind of look into our yard as we're there. So it
- 16 will act as barrier for privacy and safety as
- 17 well. One neighbors on the first street to our
- 18 west obtained a variance to build a larger shed
- 19 because he said that he had a lot of problems with
- 20 people in the park behind him, and that was his
- 21 solution, and it's worked out really well for him
- 22 when he was granted a variance a couple years ago
- 23 to build a larger shed.
- 24 Our lot is a double lot. We do have 80
- 25 feet of frontage down there by the lake which also



- 1 kind of helps the point that we'd like to build a
- 2 bigger structure. Some of the lots on the lake
- 3 only have 30 feet of frontage. So we do have more
- 4 frontage to spread this out over to allocate. The
- 5 biggest nuisance that I think this could be is
- 6 that people would think it might be an obstruction
- 7 of the lake. However, the greatest point I can
- 8 make is there are only two houses on all of Walled
- 9 Lake where the lake lot is 12 feet or lower on
- 10 grade than the road. Ours is one of those. So if
- 11 we build a structure up to 12 feet it will cause
- 12 zero obstructions from the road to anybody walking
- by, walking their dog, driving by who wants to
- 14 enjoy the lake. And the other lot on Walled Lake
- 15 that is below grade that low is 1209 East Lake
- 16 Drive, and they currently have a 510 foot
- 17 structure built. They're good friends of ours.
- 18 When you're on the road, you can't tell it's there
- 19 unless you look down and see the roof of it.
- 20 Again, it causes no obstructions of the lake for
- 21 anybody passing by.
- The design of the new structure we'd
- 23 like to build on included a copy of it in the
- 24 packet. It's a very nice design which I do
- 25 believe will increase the property value for the



- 1 neighborhood and for the city. That's all the
- 2 points I have to make. I thank you for your time.
- 3 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. From
- 4 the city, any comments?
- 5 MR. HALL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do
- 6 you have a photo or a picture of the shed you're
- 7 going to put up?
- 8 MR. ABRO: Yes. I handed it in with
- 9 the packet. So that's kind of a rendering of it.
- 10 The architect had make it. Here is the floor
- 11 plan. I don't know if that's as useful as the
- 12 elevation views. So it will be a very nice
- 13 structure, you know, stone with glass to make it
- more appealing, make the neighborhood more
- 15 appealing. Help increase neighborhood values and
- 16 not drive anything down.
- 17 MR. HALL: So he's asking for three
- 18 variances tonight. One is for a 400 square foot
- 19 increase in the size of the shed, a two-foot
- 20 height increase normally allowed, and he's going
- 21 to have 25% lot cover so he needs a 20% increase
- 22 on lot coverage on the lake side of the property.
- 23 Looking at the photo or the drawings you're
- 24 showing there of the elevations, to the left
- 25 elevation do you see the blank area to the left of



- 1 the window?
- 2 MR. ABRO: That should be stone.
- 3 There's one more photo. I believe it's in your
- 4 packet. I took the liberty of taking a photo from
- 5 the road. So this is just in front of our house
- 6 looking at the lake. The current structure that's
- 7 there now, at it's highest point it's an eight or
- 8 nine-foot structure with a 32-inch cupola. You
- 9 can't even see it from the road. If you're
- 10 standing on the other side of the road and you
- 11 look down you'll see it. So once again, just want
- 12 to prove the point that if we do build a
- 13 replacement structure, it has no obstruction of
- 14 the lake being lucky for us that we are lower than
- 15 the grid of the road on the hill there.
- MR. HALL: Can you put the floor plan
- 17 up for a second? In the top of this view looks
- 18 like poured concrete wall. You just said that
- 19 you're going to have stone that goes around. So
- 20 all the visible surface we're going to see will be
- 21 a stone, so you'll put a brick ledge on there and
- 22 put real stone?
- 23 MR. ABRO: It's cultured stone.
- MR. HALL: So you'll have a ledge, and
- 25 wherever we can see a wall you'll have stone.



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- 1 MR. ABRO: Stone or glass is the plan.
- MR. HALL: And then the doors, the
- 3 double doors that are shown, is that to the lake
- 4 side?
- 5 MR. ABRO: The orientation of this is
- 6 still kind of to be determined, sort of as you
- 7 were right. When you look at this elevation, we
- 8 originally had this idea that we could put a door
- 9 facing the lake so we could put kayaks and
- 10 inflatable objects straight out into the lake and
- 11 a wide door on the side to be able to pull in
- 12 large objects we can take back up to the road off
- 13 season and things like that.
- 14 MR. HALL: Just want to mention some
- 15 stuff. You're going to file a facade ordinance.
- 16 And then because of the lake there's a flood plane
- 17 line and there's going to be setbacks off the
- 18 lake. So that will have to be determined during
- 19 the site plan during the review of this to see
- 20 where it is. It looks like it goes right to the
- 21 waters edge.
- 22 MR. ABRO: It does look pretty close,
- 23 which is again I figured something we could work
- 24 out.
- MR. HALL: It was a big yellow box. I



- 1 think was on the site plan. You saw it on the
- 2 packet. That was kind of a rough sketch, pretty
- 3 accurate in size, where it's positioned. And
- 4 maybe it might become a little longer. We'll have
- 5 to determine where the flood plane is and where
- 6 the setbacks are from the lake and how that
- 7 actually works out. So you're not asking for a
- 8 variance for any setbacks out the lake yet, or the
- 9 water's edge because we don't know what that is
- 10 yet. So if you do come in to the building permit
- and need to do another variance, we may come back
- 12 to the board for that, but just to put that on the
- 13 record so you understand what's going on, okay?
- 14 That's all I have. Thank you.
- 15 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
- 16 Appreciate it. Okay. Correspondence secretary.
- 17 MEMBER LONGO: We mailed out eight
- 18 pieces of correspondence. There were two
- 19 objections, no approvals. Both the objections
- 20 were from the same household, Gary and Maureen
- 21 Zack basically saying some excess of the ordinance
- 22 would be okay, but this is too much. That's
- 23 basically what they've said.
- 24 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Any
- 25 comments on the public please come to the podium



- 1 now speak on this case.
- 2 MR. ZACK: Hopefully I'm okay this
- 3 time.
- 4 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah, please.
- 5 MR. ZACK: Yes. I want to say I agree
- 6 with all of the issues that you have. I live
- 7 right next door.
- 8 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Can you
- 9 please tell your first and last name?
- 10 MR. ZACK: Gary Zack. I live at 359
- 11 South Lake Drive.
- 12 MEMBER LONGO: Gary, are you an
- 13 attorney?
- MR. ZACK: No, I'm not.
- 15 MEMBER LONGO: Do you promise to tell
- 16 the truth in this case?
- 17 MR. ZACK: Yes. So here's a picture of
- 18 the lot. One thing I'd like to point out is this
- 19 lot is kind of unique, as is ours to some degree,
- 20 in that a lot of it is in the water, as you can
- 21 see. So the size is, you know, proportionate to
- 22 actual dry land. It's quite large. This outline
- is an estimate of what the footings of the
- 24 building would be, not including overhangs.
- 25 There's a couple feet overhangs. As you see,



- 1 there's a ten-by-ten foot shed that exists, so
- 2 it's significantly bigger. The property area is
- 3 about 2,500 square feet if you go all the way out
- 4 to these points in the lake and back to the road
- 5 right-of-way, and it's about 2,000 square feet.
- 6 If you just included the dry land, you lose about
- 7 1,500 square feet. We lose some to. Then you see
- 8 there's a retaining wall here which you saw in the
- 9 picture that Amar showed, and there's a seawall
- 10 there. So the building is quite tight to both of
- 11 those. It's probably within a couple of feet of
- 12 both, just the footings, not including the
- 13 overhang. You can see the dimensions on here, the
- 14 lot is actually 25 feet of dry land in the average
- in the middle and get's maybe a little longer on
- 16 the other end, then it's about 80 across.
- 17 There was some mention of some of the
- 18 other buildings on the lake. I actually took a
- 19 look at those because I don't want to really be
- 20 unfair. This is the building at 1209. Pretty
- 21 much the same structure exactly on it. It's
- 22 actually a very similar plan. That lot is about
- 23 2.7 times the dry land area of this lot. The
- 24 building wall is 20 feet from the lake and five
- 25 feet from the nearest property line. This lot is



- 1 5480 square feet, and that's conservative. I
- 2 think they said it was 5,700 when they built it.
- 3 The lot coverage of the 20-by-25 foot building
- 4 would be about 9%. This looks bigger because it's
- 5 got the overhangs. The overhangs are overhangs.
- 6 So that's 1209 building.
- 7 Here's another building on East Lake
- 8 Drive, which is the only other really large
- 9 structure I could find. It's a 400-foot accessory
- 10 structure on a 4,740 square foot lot. These
- 11 walls, as you can see, and again, both those other
- 12 lots have no water or very little land or property
- 13 are in the water. They're pretty much dry land.
- 14 These building walls are 23 feet from the lake and
- 15 14 feet from the nearest other property line.
- 16 This lots coverage is about 8.5%. So again, it
- 17 looks a little bigger from the top because of the
- 18 overhangs.
- 19 I would also like to say that I agree
- 20 with the comment about it's hidden by the road or
- 21 from the embankment. But that's only one side.
- 22 If you're coming up the road from the east, you
- 23 can see everything on that lot, including the shed
- 24 right now. So, you know, that's a little bit not
- 25 quite the way it is, right? But I do agree that a



- 1 lot of it is hidden. It's certainly hidden coming
- 2 from the west.
- 3 So I object to this mainly just because
- 4 I think it's a bit too large for the lot and
- 5 probably a little bit more than a bit. Again,
- 6 this is because 15% percent of the lot is actually
- 7 under water and you can't build on that. And I'd
- 8 just like to say, you need to consider the visual
- 9 impact not only from looking from the houses on
- 10 the other side of the road, which I appreciate
- 11 that Amar and Danielle, but when you're driving
- down the road looking at the size that's put onto
- 13 this lot, I mean it just is going to look pretty
- 14 big. You know, the ordinances are there and, of
- 15 course, from the lake and everywhere else too,
- 16 ordinances are there to protect us from
- 17 overbuilding, and I think reasonable exceptions
- 18 are fine. But I would contend that maybe five
- 19 times the building size, and five times the lot
- 20 coverage, especially the five times the lot
- 21 coverage, you know, going for 5% to 25% is a bit
- 22 much. And I'm also concerned about the precedent
- 23 this would set for smaller lots on South Lake
- 24 Drive and even East Lake Drive. I mean we're
- 25 already having people pointing to the structures



- 1 on East Lake Drive and saying well, you know, this
- 2 is a precedent. You know, I don't know that we
- 3 want to be having a 500 square foot structures on
- 4 small lots. And I have no issue with rebuilding
- 5 the existing shed, even putting it to 200 square
- 6 feet. That seems reasonable to me. But I think
- 7 500 is just unreasonable to me. Thank you.
- 8 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
- 9 Please come to the podium and spell your first and
- 10 last name clearly. If you're not an attorney you
- 11 can take an oath.
- MR. GHANNAM: Good evening. My name is
- 13 David G-H-A-N-N-A-M. I am an attorney.
- 14 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Please go
- 15 ahead.
- MR. GHANNAM: Thank you, sir. I'm a
- 17 neighbor at 797 South Lake Drive. We too came
- 18 last year to get a variance for a structure on our
- 19 lake side because there was nothing there to begin
- 20 with. And realistically 100 square foot is
- 21 inadequate for anybody. My lot sits essentially
- 22 even with the roadway, a little bit lower, but,
- 23 you know, I certainly didn't want to build
- 24 anything to obstruct my view, and anybody driving
- 25 by would certainly have an obstruction. This



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- 1 particular lot of Mr. Abro, it's all the way under
- 2 grade. Can it be seen? I pass it by at least
- 3 twice a day, sometimes four times a day going and
- 4 coming east and west. I go that way essentially
- 5 every single day, including on the way here and
- 6 the way home. When you're coming westbound, can
- 7 you see it? Yeah, maybe the roof. You really
- 8 can't see it. Coming eastbound you can't see it
- 9 at all. It's totally under grade. It's not an
- 10 obstruction. The photograph he showed you from
- 11 essentially the south side of the road looking
- 12 north, you can't see anything. Certainly in the
- 13 summertime with all of the leaves and the trees,
- 14 you can't see anything. I can only see it when
- 15 I'm on my boat in the water looking back, and it
- 16 looks terrible right now the original one. The
- one he proposes to build, I know it mimics the one
- 18 on East Lake Drive, which you mentioned, and that
- 19 is gorgeous, okay? We pass it by. Again, when we
- 20 travel around in our little boat we pass it by.
- 21 We admire that particular structure because it's
- 22 just beautiful. The house is beautiful, the
- 23 structure is beautiful, and I know this one would
- 24 be as well. Obviously, it's in your discretion
- 25 how large you want to give it. But I think it



- 1 does enhance not only this particular property but
- 2 this whole neighborhood. Despite what his
- 3 neighbor says, it does not set any kind of a
- 4 precedence. Every lot is treated differently.
- 5 This lot is very unique on our lake because it
- 6 does sit so far below grade. And all the issues
- 7 he told you about about the traffic, we do have
- 8 traffic, especially when 96 was being rebuilt for
- 9 two years. South Lake Drive was essentially 13
- 10 Mile. People were using it as a thoroughfare.
- 11 But we do have a lot of traffic. I understand all
- 12 the things we all have and he has to try to store
- 13 on that side of the lake. I can see a complete
- 14 need. All the things he said in terms of the
- value, the aesthetics of it, I mean I completely
- 16 agree with it. I certainly support it, so I
- 17 appreciate your time. Thank you.
- 18 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Any other?
- 19 Please come to the podium.
- 20 MR. DUNESKE: Good evening. My name is
- 21 John Duneske. I liver at 357 South Lake Drive.
- 22 I'm not an attorney.
- 23 MEMBER LONGO: Can you spell your first
- 24 and last name.
- MR. DUNESKE: Sure. John, J-O-H-N,



- 1 last name Duneske, D-U-N-E-S-K-E.
- 2 MEMBER LONGO: And are you an attorney?
- 3 MR. DUNESKE: No.
- 4 MEMBER LONGO: Do you promise to tell
- 5 the truth in this case?
- 6 MR. DUNESKE: Yes, I will.
- 7 MEMBER LONGO: Thank you.
- 8 MR. DUNESKE: I live to two doors east
- 9 of Amar's residence and my lot is 45 feet wide. I
- 10 currently have 100 foot, square foot cabana shed
- 11 at my property. And I have a refrigerator there,
- 12 and I have my furniture inside there, and I have
- 13 water accessories inside there, and I store my
- 14 stuff right there on the lake too. I close the
- 15 doors and children, grandchildren have to change
- 16 their clothes, or whoever it is, they change their
- 17 clothes in there and go back out to the water so
- 18 there's privacy. What's nice about where we're
- 19 located at right now from our house looking
- 20 towards the park, you saw a picture. There's
- 21 complete woods covering the beach. So no one from
- 22 the beach can see our homes. We have all that
- 23 privacy there. It's got to be at least 100 feet,
- 24 150 feet away from the property. I did object. I
- 25 don't know what happened to the mail, my letter I



- 1 received from the city, but I objected to the 500
- 2 square feet home. I believe that I would approve.
- 3 This lot is not quite twice as large as my lot.
- 4 It's 80 feet. I'm 45 feet. But maybe 200 square
- 5 feet would suffice. It would be more than
- 6 adequate for privacy for this, to meet all the
- 7 needs that one would need for a cabana for
- 8 entertaining or storage, whatever the case may be.
- 9 So again, I would approve a 200 square foot
- 10 variance based on the fact that I have 100 square
- 11 foot, and it's ten feet tall. I do have to come
- 12 down the slope too. So you see a little bit of
- 13 the cabana, that's not a big deal there. So
- 14 that's all I have at the moment. Thank you very
- 15 much for your time. I appreciate it.
- 16 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
- 17 Appreciate your time. Any other public hearing
- 18 before going to the vote? Okay. Mr. Amar, can
- 19 you come to podium please. How far is your public
- 20 beach and your shed? How far is that?
- 21 MR. ABRO: I actually have it in the
- 22 documents I submitted. I measured it. So the
- 23 sand beach area is approximately 288 feet from my
- 24 current shed, and in between the sand beach and
- 25 there is a wooded area. And oftentimes people



- 1 will wander through that wooded area. Kids will
- 2 play in that wooded area between the beach and our
- 3 property line. And sometimes I'll see people. It
- 4 is wooded, but people like to play in the woods.
- 5 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Okay.
- 6 Now it's open to the board, please. Joe, please
- 7 go ahead.
- 8 MEMBER SAMONA: As I mentioned in the
- 9 previous hearing, I do real estate so I'm familiar
- 10 with these types of properties, properties that
- 11 have parcels across the street, and I'm familiar
- 12 with the challenges that they present. A couple
- of the things that I look at is one of the people
- 14 that objected talked about would it be an
- 15 obtrusion. And I looked to see would it be
- 16 obtrusive to a neighboring property. Obviously,
- 17 everybody has their opinions. I personally from
- 18 as many years as I've been driving South Lake
- 19 Road, East Lake Road, everything around the city,
- 20 I -- one of the notes that I wrote down, which is
- 21 why I kept writing, is that I don't believe that
- 22 it would be visually unobtrusive because of the
- 23 elevation. I actually yesterday and today took
- 24 time on that property. And one of the things that
- 25 I want to say is I actually measured, and I



- 1 believe my measuring tape was correct because I
- 2 kind of had to put my hand where it stopped and go
- 3 up. I was close to nine feet eight inches at the
- 4 highest point of where it is.
- 5 Another thing that I want to point out
- 6 is a lot of the streets on South Lake Drive are
- 7 dead-end streets, so there is a lot of traffic
- 8 that's turning around. And one of the things
- 9 that's I guess a little bit unique about the
- 10 petitioner's property is how flat the actual
- 11 usable space is, and it's not at a slope. And a
- 12 lot of the usable space if you walk down the
- 13 stairs to the property is actually very usable.
- One question I do have for the city is
- 15 if we were to approve as submitted and there was a
- 16 setback to the lake that affected the size of the
- 17 shed that the petitioner would like to build,
- 18 would the petitioner have to come back before us
- 19 again, or would the petitioner wanted to go
- 20 smaller?
- 21 MS. SAARELA: To see if he can get a
- 22 setback variance?
- 23 MEMBER SAMONA: If they do not want the
- 24 setback variance and just wanted to go smaller,
- 25 would they still have to come before us?



- 1 MS. SAARELA: No. You can always go
- 2 smaller.
- 3 MEMBER SAMONA: That's what I thought,
- 4 but I wanted to make sure based on the fact that
- 5 we're discussing setbacks. I might have other
- 6 questions, but notwithstanding -- and another
- 7 thing that I want to point out is the amount of
- 8 lake I guess supplies that people keep on their
- 9 property in the winter and summertime on South
- 10 Lake Drive is crazy. If anything, that is
- 11 visually obtrusive, not something to store these
- 12 items. So I, notwithstanding any other questions
- they have, and obviously notwithstanding any
- 14 setbacks, I would definitely support it as
- 15 submitted.
- 16 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you,
- 17 Joe.
- 18 MR. HALL: Mr. Chairman, I've got a
- 19 question.
- 20 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Please go
- 21 ahead.
- MR. HALL: Just to add to the question
- 23 you asked of us. So if you approve the variance
- 24 as requested by the applicant, he's asking for a
- 25 500 square foot accessory building. It doesn't



- 1 have to be square. So if you approve the size of
- 2 it, it may get narrower because of the setback and
- 3 get longer or something like that. So the lot
- 4 coverage, the size of it and the height, what I'm
- 5 hearing, it sounds like the height isn't an issue.
- 6 So you can approve a lesser variance. You don't
- 7 have to approve the variance that's asked for.
- 8 You can do a lesser one, or you can approve what
- 9 he's asking for and he can build lesser, but he
- 10 can't go over.
- 11 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: As you
- 12 mentioned, one is the size, one is the height and
- 13 one is the percentage.
- MR. HALL: That's correct. Yes. So
- 15 that can be manipulated. Right now he's kind of
- 16 shown a square making the graphic simple. But
- 17 flood planes, as we discussed, as that gets
- 18 manipulated, maybe that building gets elongated or
- 19 something changes the configuration of it, he's
- 20 still stuck with the square footage of lot
- 21 coverage and the height. But what that looks
- 22 like, there's no variance to say what shape it has
- 23 to be, but planned, if that makes sense.
- 24 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Any other
- 25 board member? Dr. Sanghvi.



- 1 MEMBER SANGHVI: Thank you. First, I
- 2 came and visited your place on Saturday and looked
- 3 around, went into the lake, park and saw how close
- 4 you were to the park and other things. I just
- 5 want to point out that I've been familiar with
- 6 this area for 49 years. I used to live on Village
- 7 Lake Road in the old days before I came to Novi.
- 8 You have a big drop from the road. How many feet
- 9 is it, do you know?
- 10 MR. ABRO: From the grade of the road
- 11 to the usable flat land is approximately 12 to 13
- 12 feet.
- 13 MEMBER SANGHVI: How far are you away
- 14 from the public beach there?
- 15 MR. ABRO: 288 feet I believe I just
- 16 stated from the beach itself to the property line.
- 17 Yes, 288 feet to the sand. From the closest point
- 18 of the sand to my property line is 288 feet. In
- 19 between is still part of the property that's
- wooded.
- 21 MEMBER SANGHVI: How far are you away
- 22 from the water you want to put this structure?
- 23 How far is it away from the water?
- 24 MR. ABRO: That will depend on whatever
- 25 the setback requirement is is how far I'll stay



- 1 back, of course.
- 2 MEMBER SANGHVI: I've got another
- 3 question. You don't have to answer it. I was
- 4 just curious when I saw your name. May I ask you
- 5 what's your ethic origin?
- 6 MR. ABRO: I'm Chaldean.
- 7 MEMBER SANGHVI: Considering everything
- 8 what we have learned today, I have no problem with
- 9 what he is requesting. I know it's a large kind
- 10 of shed for the property. They have quite a big
- 11 house. It's a very decent looking place. The
- 12 road is very much higher. They have already room
- 13 between the public beach and their own property.
- 14 And considering all those things, in spite of
- 15 objection from the neighbors, I still feel it is
- 16 justifiable to grant his request. And also I want
- 17 to point out to some of the people sitting there
- is that we don't go by precedent, we go by every
- 19 individual case. So we don't worry about
- 20 precedent setting and all that kind of thing.
- 21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
- 22 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you,
- 23 Dr. Sanghvi. Linda.
- 24 MEMBER KRIEGER: Yes. Regarding the --
- 25 so the setback is what I was wondering about. If



- 1 we approve this variance, then the setback
- 2 regarding towards the water is a whole different
- 3 ball game?
- 4 MS. SAARELA: If there needs to be a
- 5 setback variance, he would have to come back.
- 6 Otherwise, what Alan was saying is he might be
- 7 able to reposition or sort of redesign the shape
- 8 of the building so he can fit within the setback
- 9 as required. So there's multiple options.
- 10 MEMBER KRIEGER: I was wondering from
- 11 the picture I'm concerned about water damage to
- 12 that addition that you're going to build, that
- maybe it's too much. Would you be amenable to
- 14 reducing it a little bit?
- 15 MR. ABRO: I would be. I don't really
- 16 have an intention to come back and ask for a
- 17 variance if it doesn't fit within the setbacks in
- 18 what we would like. I think that what I would
- 19 probably prefer to do is change the shape to make
- 20 it a bit more rectangular and keep it farther from
- 21 the lake. That's one of my concerns as well, so I
- 22 didn't get that far into the planning. I thought
- 23 I don't want to put the carrot before the horse.
- I though I'd get permission first, then make sure
- 25 that we're not doing any damage to the lakefront,



- 1 we're not risking water damage being too close to
- 2 the lake or being with any of the setbacks.
- 3 MEMBER KRIEGER: And the intent would
- 4 also be I guess that there be no grass to cut if
- 5 you're building it up, that this building, that
- 6 the lot will cover everything. You won't have to
- 7 cut any grass?
- 8 MR. DUNESKE: Well, no. The lot will
- 9 still be -- 75% lot will still be grass. I
- 10 believe I'm asking for 25% lot coverage leaving
- 11 75% still grassy.
- 12 MEMBER KRIEGER: Thank you.
- 13 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: My board
- 14 member mentioned about reducing the percentage.
- 15 Are you willing to do it?
- MR. ABRO: I'm here for your approval
- 17 so if need be, sure. We asked for 500 for the
- 18 reason I stated. We do have quite a lot of things
- 19 we like to store and we like to be as usable as
- 20 possible. There's a lot of good intention behind
- 21 wanting it that size. I guess I do have one more
- 22 opportunity to point out. As my neighbor stated,
- 23 I never said the shed itself would be invisible.
- 24 What I said was it would be no obstruction to the
- 25 lake. So if you are heading westbound on South



- 1 Lake Drive, you would be able to see part of it if
- 2 we do build this size. However, what you see
- 3 would not block the lake in any way, shape or form
- 4 from any position anywhere.
- 5 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: For the city.
- 6 At this moment is reducing the square footage he
- 7 has to come back?
- 8 MR. HALL: No. You can actually
- 9 request if you have a size that you feel could be
- 10 approved, you can state that and that would be the
- 11 variance. Okay, Joe.
- 12 MEMBER SAMONA: So I have one question
- 13 and I have a couple of comments, and then I'll
- 14 leave it at that. From the end of the property
- 15 line of the parcel on the lake to the stairs that
- 16 go down from South Lake Drive to the lake, what's
- 17 the distance between that?
- 18 MR. ABRO: 80 feet.
- 19 MEMBER SANGHVI: The stairs are all the
- 20 way down to the property.
- 21 MR. ABRO: Yes. The stairs are at the
- 22 east end of the property line and the park is on
- 23 the west end of the property line, 80 total feet
- 24 of lake frontage.
- 25 MEMBER SANGHVI: What I'll say is today



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- 1 when I drove by there four times again, I saw the
- 2 hidden driveway sign, and I said, what hidden
- 3 driveway are they talking about. So the sign I
- 4 guess really did work because I didn't know as I
- 5 drove by again and again. One of the things
- 6 that's unique, one of the things that I guess I
- 7 have knowledge of this and I'm going so in depth
- 8 is I actually had to turn into two subdivisions
- 9 that were dead-end streets today and got blocked
- 10 off by a FedEx truck, so only God knows how much
- 11 traffic is turning around in the middle of the
- 12 road over there. One of the things that's unique
- 13 about this property is how the actual usable space
- on the lake is flat. It doesn't seem that there's
- 15 elevation issues or leveling issues with the soil
- or with the land there that would, for example,
- 17 cause a traffic jam if someone was there leveling
- 18 the soil where you'd have to get other authorities
- 19 involved. So if he has 80 feet from west end to
- 20 the stairs that go down to the lake, I don't know
- 21 that -- I don't know that I would necessarily say,
- 22 you know, hey, just because of the property size
- 23 we would make it a smaller percentage. I think he
- 24 has the room to finagle around the dimensions of
- 25 the actual shed to make it the 500 square feet



- 1 whether it's 30 by 16 or 16 1/2, whatever it is or
- 2 whatnot. So, you know, we're not making a
- 3 decision on the variance that would -- you know,
- 4 the lake lot setback. I mean notwithstanding
- 5 everything else, we haven't heard, I would make
- 6 the motion to approve it as submitted.
- 7 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you,
- 8 Joe. Clift Montague.
- 9 MEMBER MONTAGUE: I need to ask the
- 10 city. Percentage lot coverage, does that include
- 11 lake water or is that dry ground because that's a
- 12 big difference if the gentleman who spoke is
- 13 correct, the lot is dry land in terms of what are
- 14 being perceived as coverage is much different.
- 15 MR. HALL: I believe percentage is to
- 16 waters edge is what it was calc'ed. It was
- 17 calc'ed on the knowledge that we had. There was
- 18 no site plan or any kind of plotted lines. It's
- 19 calc'ed on the dry land. The waters edge is
- 20 pretty straight. I mean it's not of variance so
- 21 we can measure that. What we did, obviously when
- 22 we get the site plan and he does the engineering,
- 23 there could be some more information given us to
- 24 make better decisions on where that is. I mean
- 25 there was some comments made by some neighbors



- 1 that others were like ten feet, 20 feet off the
- 2 water's edge. You can stipulate to all kinds of
- 3 things too. If you want to do some kind of offset
- 4 that you want, you have the ability to require or
- 5 give whatever you want to grant. Does that make
- 6 sense?
- 7 MEMBER MONTAGUE: Yeah. We can do
- 8 something less than what he's asked for. He can
- 9 always go under but he can't go over what we
- 10 approved.
- 11 MR. HALL: That's correct.
- 12 MEMBER MONTAGUE: It is noted that it
- is a double lot. It is pretty down and you did
- 14 say you would look at a smaller footprint, less
- 15 lot coverage?
- 16 MR. ABRO: My intention is to ask for
- 17 500 square feet. I may end up building smaller,
- 18 but at this time I'd still like to request 500 and
- 19 then deal with whatever we have regarding the
- 20 space after learning what the setbacks are. We do
- 21 have quite a bit of stuff. The unfortunate thing,
- 22 all of our nieces and nephews and our family are
- 23 always at our house. Everyone wants to leave
- 24 their stuff.
- 25 MEMBER MONTGOMERY: Have you kind of



- 1 done a little content analysis of looking at the
- 2 stuff in there and tried to minimize that size?
- 3 MR. ABRO: I have. And as Mr. Samona
- 4 has said, we do have quite a bit of stuff. The
- 5 unfortunate thing is I actually would like to get
- 6 more things. All of our nieces and nephews and
- 7 our family is at our house. Everyone wants to
- 8 leave their stuff. You have the house on the
- 9 lake, you're the fun aunt and uncle and hopefully
- 10 soon to be parents. Everyone wants to leave their
- 11 stuff there and come there on the weekends. I've
- 12 been a member of the Walled Lake community on the
- 13 lake there for a long time. I used to own a house
- 14 on Pontiac Trail on other side of the lake that I
- 15 bought in 2015. I had a pontoon boat on the lake
- 16 for many years. I'm a member of the community. I
- 17 know people on the lake. I understand what it
- 18 means to maintain the lakefront there and have
- 19 everything you want to enjoy the lake without
- 20 having to cross the road with kids and carrying
- 21 things like that often. That's why I felt that
- 22 this was the appropriate number to ask for.
- 2.3 MEMBER MONTGOMERY: Yes. I think
- 24 you've done a nice aesthetic job. I appreciate
- 25 that. Certainly it's much better to have that



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- 1 stuff inside.
- 2 MR. ABRO: Some of the items are
- 3 costly. Definitely don't want to leave any of
- 4 that out.
- 5 MEMBER SAMONA: May I ask one more
- 6 question of the city, if that's okay?
- 7 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Please go
- 8 ahead, Joe.
- 9 MEMBER SAMONA: What is the setback
- 10 from the lake?
- 11 MR. HALL: We have to determine that
- 12 because the property lines are in the lake and
- there's a water's edge, so we have to determine
- 14 what that is. That's why it's vague right now.
- 15 MEMBER SAMONA: So if we made a motion
- 16 to approve the size -- if we made a motion for the
- 17 height, the size and the lot coverage percentage,
- 18 and if we put in there that one of the
- 19 stipulations, if you will, and this question may
- 20 be for Beth, one of the stipulations is that it
- 21 must conform to the -- or it must follow the
- 22 setbacks of the lake then can the petitioner
- 23 actually still come back here for a variance
- 24 request if we're making that part of our
- 25 discussion?



- 1 MS. SAARELA: No.
- MEMBER SAMONA: So that as I understand 2.
- 3 it, correct me if I'm wrong, if we made a motion
- 4 to approve as submitted regarding the height, the
- 5 size and the lot coverage, however, the variance
- would be granted subject to the lake lot setback, 6
- 7 then they can't come back here and ask for another
- variance at that time, correct? 8
- 9 MS. SAARELA: Correct.
- 10 MEMBER SAMONA: So that's an option for
- us as well that we can grant it and say it's 11
- subject to the lake line setback. If that's one 12
- of our concerns, we can grant that as well. 13
- MEMBER MONTAGUE: Already subject to 14
- 15 that. That goes without saying. He could ask for
- 16 a variance. That's his problem, not ours.
- 17 MS. SAARELA: What he's saying is
- you're conditioning your variance on him not doing 18
- 19 that.
- 20 MEMBER SAMONA: If we approve, which
- I'm inclined to do, then if he came back and asked 21
- for a variance for the lot line, then this 2.2
- 23 variance would be null and void. This variance
- 2.4 wouldn't even be there.
- 25 MS. SAARELA: He just wouldn't be able



- 1 to come back and request it because it's a
- 2 condition of this variance.
- 3 MR. HALL: To add some light on that.
- 4 So you're right. The flood plane setbacks are
- 5 right. So that's something that you'd have to
- 6 abide by, and he's already agreed to that. What
- 7 it could do, it could make the building
- 8 rectangular in shape and make it drawn from that
- 9 retaining wall, that corner area there toward the
- 10 east more. So maybe it goes longer down the road
- 11 and maybe it becomes more visible because it is
- 12 dropping as you go by that site there. So it may
- 13 come further down that way for a 500 square foot
- 14 shed and still maintain those setbacks. So what
- 15 you're approving is not a configuration, you're
- 16 approving size, lot coverage and height. And he
- 17 has the leeway to design within those parameters
- 18 and not have to come back to the board.
- 19 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank
- 20 you. Any other board? Linda.
- 21 MEMBER KRIEGER: I'd be willing to
- 22 support a 300 foot shed considering all the
- 23 variables.
- 24 MEMBER SAMONA: I'd be willing to
- 25 support a -- I'd be willing to support it as



- 1 submitted.
- MS. SAARELA: Somebody should make a
- 3 motion.
- 4 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: I appreciate
- 5 for your time. Any other board member would like
- 6 to comment on this case, please? Please go ahead.
- 7 MEMBER LONGO: So 500 is significant
- 8 larger than 200 feet. But you have to look at
- 9 this lot and where it sits. He's not obstructing
- 10 the lake. He's not obstructing the road. It's a
- 11 unique situation where the 500 feet is not an
- 12 issue. I mean it's not a negative issue. The
- 13 reason that ordinance is there so we don't block
- 14 views of people seeing the lake, the street.
- 15 That's why the ordinance is there. So the fact
- that he's exceeding that significantly really
- 17 doesn't bother that -- really doesn't affect what
- 18 we're trying to accomplish in the first place.
- 19 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. I want
- 20 to ask a quick question. As we saw the discussion
- of our board members, you are requesting the 500
- 22 square feet. And how much you'd like to go lower?
- MR. ABRO: Well, I wouldn't like to go
- 24 any lower if possible, sir. I mean I suppose 400
- 25 square feet might work as well.



- 1 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank
- 2 you. 400 square feet. Okay. I appreciate it,
- 3 Amar. Thank you for your nice presentation. You
- 4 worked very hard on this case and answered so many
- 5 questions. It's wonderful. And it's motion time.
- 6 Please, Clift Montague.
- 7 MEMBER MONTAGUE: I move that we grant
- 8 the variance in case PZ24-0066 sought by Amar Abro
- 9 for, and I would like to amend it to 400 square
- 10 foot and a variance for a mean height of 10 feet,
- 11 and I think that will result in a 20% lot
- 12 coverage, that needs to be verified. Petitioner
- 13 has shown a practical difficulty because of lake
- 14 storage requirements and especially dangerous
- 15 location of the site. Without the variance he
- 16 will be prevented to use of the property because
- 17 the lake equipment would require transport across
- 18 a busy street with a large elevation drop. The
- 19 property is unique because it is below grade quite
- 20 a bit. It is a double lot and it's in a
- 21 particularly dangerous place with the road
- 22 interaction. Petitioner did not create the
- 23 condition because it is an existing lot. The
- 24 relief granted will not unreasonably interfere
- 25 with adjacent or surrounding properties because of



- 1 low visibility, vegetation screening. The relief
- 2 is consistent with the spirit and intent of the
- 3 ordinance because of the setbacks back from the
- 4 road, the height, the topography and the
- 5 vegetation. I guess we'll say the variance should
- 6 be granted subject to conformance with the
- 7 setbacks, the lake setbacks.
- 8 MEMBER SAMONA: Second.
- 9 MR. HALL: Can I add one thing?
- 10 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Please go
- 11 ahead.
- MR. HALL: For your motion I believe
- 13 you're asking for a 300 square foot variance and
- 14 the lot coverage will follow suit.
- 15 MEMBER SAMONA: I'll second that
- 16 motion.
- 17 MS. FLETCHER: Member Samona?
- 18 MEMBER SAMONA: Yes.
- MS. FLETCHER: Member Krieger?
- 20 MEMBER KRIEGER: Yes.
- MS. FLETCHER: Member Longo?
- 22 MEMBER LONGO: Yes.
- MS. FLETCHER: Member Montague?
- 24 MEMBER MONTAGUE: Yes.
- MS. FLETCHER: Member Sanghvi?



- 1 MEMBER SANGHVI: Yes.
- 2. MS. FLETCHER: Chairperson Peddiboyina?
- 3 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yes, please.
- 4 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Motion
- 5 carries.
- 6 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: PZ25-0001
- 7 (Quick Pass Car Wash) 24555 Novi Road, on Novi
- Road, north of Ten Mile Road, Parcel 8
- 9 50-22-22-400-010. The applicant is requesting
- variances from the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance 10
- Section 3.10.1.A to allow an overhead door to face 11
- 12 a major thoroughfare and Section 5.3.11 to
- 13 eliminate the required separate by-pass lane.
- 14 This property is zoned General Business (B-3).
- 15 The applicant is here please? Please come to the
- 16 podium and spell your first and last name clearly.
- 17 If you're an attorney, you don't need to give an
- oath. If you're not an attorney you need to give 18
- 19 oath to the secretary.
- 20 MR. BURKE: Jamie Burke, Quick Pass Car
- 21 Wash, J-A-M-I-E, B-U-R-K-E.
- 2.2 MEMBER LONGO: Are you an attorney?
- 23 MR. BURKE: No.
- 2.4 MEMBER LONGO: Do you promise to tell
- the truth in this case? 25



- 1 MR. BURKE: Yes.
- 2. MEMBER LONGO: Thank you.
- Thank you. 3 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA:
- 4 Please go ahead, Jaime, where we can help you
- 5 tonight on this case, please. If you have a
- 6 presentation, you can put it on the presenter,
- 7 everybody can view that. If you have a package,
- 8 but you need to present the packet.
- 9 MR. BURKE: Do you have the packet
- though as well? 10
- 11 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah. We
- 12 have it, but we want to see it.
- MR. BURKE: I don't have one. 13
- 14 engineer just called a couple hours ago says he
- 15 can't make it.
- 16 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Please
- go ahead and present your case. 17
- MR. BURKE: So we're looking to build a 18
- 19 car wash on B-3 zoning on Novi Road. We're
- proposing a car wash. And the main door faces 20
- 21 Novi Road where we have a 30-foot berm with
- 22 landscaping. And then we have another I think 65,
- 23 70 feet before the car wash actually starts. The
- door will be open the majority of the day. We 24
- 25 open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. It's zoned general



- 1 business. We're looking for a variance on the
- 2 door. Then we're looking for -- there's an escape
- 3 lane. There's a passthrough lane, right? So we
- 4 have three lanes in. And then as you come around
- 5 to come into the car wash, if for some reason the
- 6 car wash is broken or somebody doesn't want a car
- 7 wash for some reason, there's an opening where we
- 8 pull six or seven cones, really nice fancy ones,
- 9 we pull them aside and they can pull right back
- 10 out and leave. That's what we do at all our
- 11 locations. They're escape planes. Rarely use
- 12 them. Rarely use them. So -- but if in case we
- 13 need them, we have them. But usually when someone
- 14 comes in, they want a car wash. And if they
- 15 realize they're pulling in a car wash, there is
- 16 the vacuum area where they can turn into prior to
- 17 getting locked into that cue and they can go back
- 18 and forth. All our gates, they're breakaway
- 19 gates. They're meant to break off. In high
- 20 winds, they'll actually blow off, right? So they
- 21 manually go up. We have gate attendants, so we
- 22 run a pretty tight crew. There's always an
- 23 attendant there. They're never off of that
- 24 station. So someone stands out. We have a side
- 25 booth that they stand in, and they're there to



- 1 help process payments, sell memberships, questions
- 2 for the public or anything like that. So there's
- 3 always somebody there. They can hit manual
- 4 button, gate goes up, they pull some cones, let
- 5 them go. So other than that, I'm sure my engineer
- 6 would have worded it differently, but that's what
- 7 I got.
- 8 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank
- 9 you. Like to speak on any other thing?
- 10 MR. BURKE: No. We're just looking
- 11 forward to developing a property. It's a unique
- 12 shape. It's very narrow and long. So the options
- of turning, just what is. It's very deep. I
- 14 think it's 1,500 square feet deep.
- 15 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
- 16 From the city.
- 17 MR. HALL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
- 18 You mentioned a berm that's in front of the
- 19 property. Does that block the view of the
- 20 overhead door from the road?
- 21 MR. BURKE: It's going to obstruct it,
- 22 yes. With the landscaping that planning is make
- 23 us put in because I think you guys have an
- 24 ordinance on landscaping out front with certain
- 25 types of trees. You're not going to be able to



- 1 see it see it.
- 2 MR. HALL: And then what is your door
- 3 make of? Is it a speed door?
- 4 MR. BURKE: Yeah. It's like a regular
- 5 rollup door, but it's white and it's insulated.
- 6 It's really nice. It goes up. We throw it up all
- 7 day long. Then we have a speed door that can go
- 8 up and down in the winter months. But typically
- 9 you can set them to go up and down. So it goes up
- 10 and down in between each car. We don't do that.
- 11 We try to leave it up for 45 seconds. After 30,
- 12 45 seconds, depending on the weather. And if
- 13 you're steady, it's up all day. It just saves on
- 14 accidents. It's a mechanical feed. So the more
- 15 it goes up and down, more problems you got. I'd
- 16 rather spend an extra few hundred bucks on heat
- 17 than the pileup.
- 18 MR. HALL: So what you're saying is
- 19 that it's pretty much a hole most of the time, and
- 20 then when you're closed --
- 21 MR. BURKE: Yeah. It will be the white
- 22 door.
- MR. HALL: It will look like a glass
- 24 door wall or something?
- MR. BURKE: It's not a see-through one,



- 1 it's an actual white panel just like a garage door
- 2 at home.
- 3 MR. HALL: Vinyl type plastic?
- 4 MR. BURKE: No. It's a real insulated
- 5 door, steel door. You can do the brown ones, but
- 6 we upgrade them to match the building to look
- 7 nicer. It's a nice door.
- 8 MR. HALL: He's asking for two
- 9 variances tonight. One he's asking the door to
- 10 face 10 Mile, and then to eliminate the bypass
- 11 lane. We have discussed with the fire marshal.
- 12 He has no issue with this. That would be a main
- 13 concern of his, but you could remove the cones and
- 14 you could get coverage for the fire for this case.
- 15 I do have a question for the bypass. What happens
- if someone is in line and there is an emergency?
- 17 What happens?
- 18 MR. BURKE: We have a situation in our
- 19 training. You put the gates up, pull the cones
- 20 and just start pumping people out. And God forbid
- 21 we haven't had one yet, but yeah.
- 22 MR. HALL: So you can evacuate pretty
- 23 easily.
- 24 MR. BURKE: Yeah. You're getting out
- 25 of that site fast. And we run a pretty heavy



- 1 ship. Like we have staff. We're customer service
- 2 oriented so we're happy to load it. They know
- 3 what they're doing. Pump them through and get
- 4 them out.
- 5 MR. HALL: What about the irritated
- 6 client who just wants to leave? Does he have to
- 7 wait in line, or do they have to go backwards?
- MR. BURKE: No. We pull the cones. We
- 9 push the button. Some people are like hey, this
- 10 is too much money, and we tell our staff just put
- 11 them through the car wash for free. We're not
- 12 getting you out. Try it out. If you like it,
- 13 come back. Try our free vacuums, our free towels.
- 14 We don't like inconveniencing people. There's
- 15 certain business that count pennies. We don't.
- 16 We want everybody to have a good experience. So
- 17 they can use it at their discretion.
- 18 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Secretary,
- 19 correspondence?
- 20 MEMBER LONGO: Yes. We had 18. We've
- 21 mailed out 18 notices. None were returned. There
- 22 was an objection by a company that applied for the
- 23 same overhead door facing the street and it was
- 24 denied many years ago. I have no idea what that
- 25 was about. That was the objection.



- 1 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Any comments?
- 2 Anybody would like to speak on this case now is
- 3 the time. Looks like none. Okay. Are you the
- 4 owner of the business?
- 5 MR. BURKE: Yes.
- 6 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Alan. Thank
- 7 you for the question you answered already for the
- 8 fire marshal. Already done. I appreciate that.
- 9 It's open to the board. Joe.
- 10 MEMBER SAMONA: Are we able to put what
- 11 the petitioner has submitted on the screen? I
- 12 know he was kind of thrown in here last minute
- 13 because of an illness. What I'm wondering is
- 14 because I don't quite understand, I'm very
- 15 familiar with the property. I've driven by a
- 16 couple times since yesterday, and on my way here I
- 17 drove by it. I did notice that it is very narrow
- 18 and I noticed that in your packet you put that you
- 19 would essentially have a lot of the property
- 20 unusable if you had to reposition it. One of the
- 21 things that I'm having I guess a little bit of
- 22 difficulty with is understanding how this is laid
- 23 out. So my understanding over here, this is Novi
- 24 Road over here.
- MR. BURKE: There's the drive when you



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- 1 enter off Novi Road. It's got the two arrows.
- 2 There's three lots here. There's going to be two
- 3 more lots here above the drive. To the north of
- 4 this drive, that's going to be a drive there, and
- 5 then there's one in the back. So there's going to
- 6 be two businesses, two lots on Novi Road, and
- 7 that's going to be a lot back there.
- 8 MEMBER SAMONA: So where are people
- 9 coming into I guess pay for their car wash?
- 10 MR. BURKE: Right down here by the
- 11 vacuum area. Right here. They come in through
- 12 here. You come down in here. And then you enter
- 13 the car wash. As you exit, you go through 23
- 14 vacuums and towels, and then you go back out this
- 15 way.
- 16 MEMBER SAMONA: That's actually a
- 17 perfect explanation because I just didn't fully
- 18 grasp it at first. Basically you're going to
- 19 drive around from front to back, and then you're
- 20 going to when you come out, you can only go one
- 21 way, which is to the right and around.
- MR. BURKE: What happens in the car
- 23 wash business, it's all about the flow. You want
- 24 it easy for customers. There's a lot of cars
- 25 involved. The easier it is the better it is for



- 1 everybody's safety and experience, right? It's
- 2 all about experience. You give a hard in and out
- 3 and people don't want to come, and that can make
- 4 or break your business. So it's like a flow.
- 5 It's an S shape they call it. You're in, you're
- 6 out.
- 7 MEMBER SAMONA: I don't particularly or
- 8 for any reason have an issue with it. I guess the
- 9 only question I have is eliminating the bypass
- 10 lane, how are you going to manage the flow of
- 11 traffic to make sure that the people coming in off
- 12 the Novi Road aren't self-creating two lanes, two
- 13 lanes going into the car wash so people can't get
- 14 out so now you've created a traffic jam?
- 15 MR. BURKE: You're not going to turn
- into the car wash unless you want a car wash,
- 17 because when you come in off of Novi Road, you
- 18 can't turn in to the very end of the property.
- 19 You follow me. By that time, you probably made
- 20 your mind up. And even if you did pull in, you
- 21 can turn into those vacuums. And some people like
- 22 vacuuming prior, and some like after. So that's
- 23 why the vacuums are there. So if you come in, you
- 24 can vacuum first, pull back out and then go back
- 25 around and go into the car wash.



- 1 MEMBER SAMONA: Or we can pull up to
- 2 the attendant and say we don't want a car wash and
- 3 got a free one. That makes perfect sense. Thank
- 4 you for the explanation. I apologize. I just
- 5 didn't understand it at first.
- 6 MR. BURKE: No problem.
- 7 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank
- 8 you, Joe. Any other board member, please?
- 9 Please, Dr. Sanghvi.
- 10 MEMBER SANGHVI: I think I've seen this
- 11 property changing different kind of things over
- 12 the years. Lot of things. I don't know whether
- 13 you were around when it used to be a goat farm.
- MR. BURKE: That's what everybody is
- 15 saying. I wasn't.
- 16 MEMBER SANGHVI: And most of the
- 17 decision of the city were taken in goat farm. My
- 18 only question was if you have two places, one to
- 19 go in and another one to come out, it might have
- 20 been a little easier for people to go in and out
- 21 of the place. Apart from that, I have no problem.
- 22 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you,
- 23 Dr. Sanghvi. Any other board member? Okay.
- 24 Looks like none. So I went to your car wash. You
- 25 guys did a good job.



- 1 MR. BURKE: Thank you.
- CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah. 2.
- 3 no objection on this. It's motion time. And
- 4 Michael Longo.
- 5 MEMBER LONGO: Yes. I move that we
- 6 grant the variance in case number PZ25-0001 sought
- by Quick Pass Car Wash for an overhead door facing 7
- 8 thoroughfare and eliminating a bypass lane.
- 9 Because petitioner has shown practical difficulty
- requiring the orientation of the structure on this 10
- 11 lot. Without the variance the petitioner will be
- 12 unreasonably prevented or limited with respect to
- 13 use of the property because the bypass must be
- 14 oriented as proposed. The property is unique
- 15 because it is a quite narrow lot. Petitioner did
- 16 not creat the condition because the lot dimensions
- 17 and the location are pre-existing. Relief granted
- will not reasonably interfere with the adjacent or 18
- surrounding properties because the door and the 19
- absence have no problem with or adverse view of 20
- 21 the neighbors.
- 2.2 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
- 23 Michael Longo. Make a second somebody?
- 2.4 MEMBER SAMONA: Second.
- 25 Thank you. CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA:



- 1 Thank you, Sarah, for the presentation and your
- 2 laptop. Roll Call.
- 3 MS. FLETCHER: Member Montague?
- 4 MEMBER MONTAGUE: Yes.
- 5 MS. FLETCHER: Member Longo?
- 6 MEMBER LONGO: Yes.
- 7 MS. FLETCHER: Chairperson Peddiboyina?
- 8 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yes, please.
- 9 MS. FLETCHER: Member Sanghvi?
- 10 MEMBER SANGHVI: Yes.
- 11 MS. FLETCHER: Member Samona?
- 12 MEMBER SAMONA: Yes.
- MS. FLETCHER: And Member Krieger?
- MEMBER KRIEGER: Yes.
- 15 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Motion
- 16 carries.
- 17 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: PZ25-0002
- 18 (Oak Pointe Church) 50200 Ten Mile Road, on Ten
- 19 Mile Road, west of Wixom Road, Parcel
- 20 50-22-19-400-012. The applicant is requesting
- 21 variances from the City of Novi Sign Ordinance
- 22 Sections 28-1 and 28-5(a) to allow an additional
- 23 wall sign on the south elevation which is a
- 24 3-dimensional metal sign set atop a parapet
- 25 overhang (without illumination). This property is



- 1 zoned Residential Acreage (R-A). Please go ahead
- 2 and spell your first last name clearly, ma'am.
- 3 And if you're not an attorney, you need to take an
- 4 other from the secretary.
- 5 MS. POWERS: My name is Beth Powers,
- 6 B-E-T-H, P-O-W-E-R-S.
- 7 MEMBER LONGO: Beth, are you an
- 8 attorney?
- 9 MS. POWERS: I am not.
- 10 MEMBER LONGO: Do you promise to tell
- 11 the truth in this case?
- MS. POWERS: I do.
- 13 MEMBER LONGO: Thank you.
- 14 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Please go
- 15 ahead and present your case where we can help you
- 16 tonight on this.
- MS. POWERS: So we are petitioning on
- 18 behalf of Oak Pointe Church. We are requesting
- 19 approval for a signage on the front of the church,
- 20 the main opening. These letters across the top of
- 21 the canopy, metal letters, and then their logo on
- 22 the wall. The reason, from my understanding that
- 23 it is outside we need to seek a variance is
- 24 because of the placement of the letters being on
- 25 top of the canopy instead of being flush against



- 1 the wall, is that correct?
- 2 MR. HALL: That's correct.
- 3 MS. POWERS: So it's really the
- 4 location of the signage. We are within the amount
- 5 of signage required. We need setbacks.
- 6 Everything else about the sign meets the
- 7 requirements, it's just the location of where we
- 8 want to put the letters.
- 9 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay, Beth.
- 10 Are you done?
- MS. POWERS: Um-hum.
- 12 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank
- 13 you. From the city.
- MR. HALL: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Yes.
- 15 I believe you're seeking two sign variances, one
- 16 is for the definition of the sign. This is unique
- 17 because of the configuration. They're three
- 18 dimensional letters. They don't have a background
- 19 and they don't have any kind of attachment to a
- 20 wall so they're attached to the parapet as the
- 21 applicant suggested.
- 22 Also the second one is having an
- 23 additional sign on the south. So there's an
- 24 additional sign variance and then the unique
- 25 character of the sign is what it is. Couple



- 1 questions for you. How is the sign illuminated.
- 2 Are the letters illuminated?
- 3 MS. POWERS: No, they're not.
- 4 MR. HALL: So at night they'll be
- 5 obstructed by the parapet? How do you see them at
- 6 night?
- 7 MS. POWERS: So there's some lighting
- 8 on the building but they're not internally lit.
- 9 They're not themselves internally lit.
- 10 MR. HALL: So where is the lay in the
- 11 building? Is that on the wall that has the
- 12 windows that I see on the building?
- MS. MIDDLETON: Naomi Middleton,
- M-I-D-D-L-E-T-O-N.
- MEMBER LONGO: Are you an attorney?
- MS. MIDDLETON: No I'm not.
- 17 MEMBER LONGO: Do you promise to tell
- 18 the truth in this case?
- MS. MIDDLETON: I do.
- 20 MEMBER LONGO: Thank you.
- 21 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Please go
- 22 ahead.
- 23 MS. MIDDLETON: Yes. So there's
- 24 lighting under the canopy at night so to light the
- 25 sidewalk and stuff. If there's something going on



- 1 in the building, the entire like all of the
- 2 windows are lit up from inside the building so you
- 3 can see that very clearly. There's not any
- 4 lighting directly shining onto the building.
- 5 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay.
- 6 MS. MIDDLETON: And the majority of the
- 7 things happen in the building are during the day.
- 8 There's not a lot that happens at night in the
- 9 building.
- 10 MR. HALL: So there's no intention to
- 11 lighting the letters.
- MS. MIDDLETON: So we just opened a
- 13 playscape and a cafe inside the building. It's a
- 14 ministry of the church. But there's a lot more
- 15 people coming in the building during the day. So
- 16 we just wanted to make sure that building is
- 17 clearly marked for people.
- MS. POWERS: You see this top view
- 19 here, this is the entire church. When you come in
- 20 there's two entrances. But the church itself,
- 21 there's the main entrance, which is on an angle, a
- 22 little bit unique, and that's where they're trying
- 23 to drive most of the public traffic into that main
- 24 entrance. To the left of the building is the
- 25 administrative entrance that's more flush to the



- 1 parking lot. And so this one is a little bit
- 2 unique because they didn't want to put the
- 3 building, the signage flush against the brick part
- 4 of the building because they wanted to make sure
- 5 people understood exactly where they'd like you to
- 6 enter. So that's why the angle of the sign makes
- 7 the most sense, and the location.
- 8 MR. HALL: So way finding of the site
- 9 so they can actually see it. So there's no
- 10 intention to lighting the letters individual,
- 11 there's no intention for any animation or any kind
- 12 of lighting effects or any kind of strobe lighting
- 13 at all.
- MS. POWERS: No.
- 15 MR. HALL: That's I'll have. Thank you
- 16 very much.
- 17 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you. I
- 18 appreciate it. Correspondence secretary.
- 19 MEMBER LONGO: Mailed out 54 notices.
- 20 One was returned. There were no objections and no
- 21 approvals.
- 22 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you so
- 23 much. Any public? Anybody? Hearing none. Thank
- 24 you. Thank you so much for your presentation and
- 25 seeking your two things. I have no objection on



- 1 that, and it's open to the board.
- MR. SAMONA: For the first time I have 2.
- 3 nothing.
- 4 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you,
- 5 Joe.
- 6 MEMBER SANGHVI: I love this place. Ιf
- 7 my memory serves me right, Chuck Gaidica was
- connected with this church. He used to be the 8
- 9 weather forecaster for Channel 4 many, many moons
- ago. Anyway, this particular sign, you think it's 10
- going to be visible from Ten Mile Road? 11
- 12 MS. POWERS: No. Definitely not.
- 13 MEMBER SANGHVI: So what's the purpose
- 14 of the sign?
- 15 MS. POWERS: It's to drive traffic into
- 16 the entrance once people are inside. So there is
- a monument sign out front. So there is one on the 17
- 18 road. Once they turn into the parking lot,
- 19 there's quite a setback. I actually have a
- picture of that too. If you look at the site plan 20
- here, this is when you turn into the road and 21
- there's a small monument sign out there, so it's 2.2
- 23 quite a big setback. You go through the parking
- lot through an entrance. 2.4
- 25 MEMBER SANGHVI: I've been there



- 1 umpteen times in the past. I have no problem
- 2 finding the place. Anyway, thank you. I have no
- 3 problem with the sign, anything.
- 4 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you,
- 5 Dr. Sanghvi. Any other board member, please?
- 6 MEMBER KRIEGER: I have a question.
- 7 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Linda, go
- 8 ahead.
- 9 MEMBER KRIEGER: Can you explain the
- 10 emblem sign?
- 11 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: The emblem.
- 12 What is significance of the emblem?
- MS. MIDDLETON: It's our logo.
- 14 MEMBER KRIEGER: And then like for the
- 15 darker times of the year in wintertime when you
- 16 want to light, you don't have activities that you
- 17 want to spotlight on the sign.
- 18 MS. MIDDLETON: So the majority of the
- 19 traffic that we're trying to direct to that
- 20 entrance is only during the day because the
- 21 playscape and cafe are only open from 9 until 4 so
- 22 it's during lit times. So the other times of the
- 23 day when people are coming in, they can come in
- 24 either entrance so it doesn't matter as much. So
- 25 no, we're not planning on lighting it.



- 1 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you,
- 2 Linda. Okay. I have no objection as I told you.
- 3 I know this church. It's on 10 Mile, so it's a
- 4 long way to go inside the church. Okay. Thank
- 5 you so much. And time for the motion. Linda.
- 6 MR. HALL: Mr. Chairman one more
- 7 question just to add. So at the building
- 8 department we will be looking for a permit for the
- 9 sign. We will be interested in how the letters
- 10 are attached to the canopy. You don't have to
- 11 explain it now, but that will be decided by the
- 12 structural floor. We want to make sure because
- 13 there's going to be insulation. We want to make
- 14 sure to tap into the structure.
- MS. POWERS: And we did provide
- 16 engineering drawings with attachment details so
- 17 we've already provided that to the city.
- 18 MR. HALL: Okay. Thank you.
- 19 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
- 20 Linda.
- 21 MEMBER KRIEGER: I move that we grant
- the variance for case number PZ25-0002, sought by
- 23 Oak Pointe Church. The Petitioner has shown
- 24 practical difficulty requiring the need for this
- 25 signage for directional signs. That This will be



- 1 a 3D sign and I'm sure secured with the city's
- 2 assistance. That The building is far back from
- 3 Ten Mile and it needs direction and identification
- 4 for foot traffic into the building since it's a
- 5 larger size. The grant of relief will not result
- 6 in a use or structure that is incompatible with or
- 7 unreasonably interferes with adjacent or
- 8 surrounding properties, will result in substantial
- 9 justice being done to both the applicant and
- 10 adjacent or surrounding properties, and is not
- 11 inconsistent with the spirit and intent of this
- 12 chapter because of it being a church and needing
- 13 identification on the building.
- 14 MEMBER SANGHVI: Second.
- MS. FLETCHER: Member Longo?
- 16 MEMBER LONGO: Yes.
- 17 MS. FLETCHER: Member Krieger?
- 18 MEMBER KRIEGER: Yes.
- 19 MS. FLETCHER: Member Samona?
- 20 MEMBER SAMONA: Yes. However, I want
- 21 clarify. It's both variances we are granting.
- MEMBER KRIEGER: Yes.
- 23 MEMBER SAMONA: Okay. Yes:
- MS. FLETCHER: Chairperson Peddiboyina?
- 25 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yes, please.



- 1 MS. FLETCHER: Member Montague?
- 2 MEMBER MONTAGUE: Yes.
- 3 MS. FLETCHER: And Member Sanghvi?
- 4 MEMBER SANGHVI: Yes.
- 5 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Motion
- 6 carries.
- 7 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA:
- 8 Congratulations. Thank you, Sarah. Before we go
- 9 again other matters, I would like to welcome, I
- 10 was not there on the January meeting. I was on a
- 11 business trip. Joe Samona, welcome to the board.
- 12 MEMBER SAMONA: Thank you.
- MEMBER SANGHVI: I just want to thank
- 14 Joe for helping me getting out of this building.
- 15 It was pretty icy last month walking there and he
- 16 held my hand and took me to the car. Thank you,
- 17 Joe.
- 18 MEMBER SAMONA: You're welcome. I'll
- 19 do it again.
- 20 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Dr. Sanghvi
- 21 and Joe before I adjourn, any matters, please?
- MEMBER KRIEGER: Yes. Regarding the
- 23 president -- chair, vice-chair and secretary to do
- 24 the yearly election, and I guess that would be
- 25 next month. That's it.



| 1 | MS. FLETCHER: You guys want to do it |
|----|--|
| 2 | next month, we can do it next month. March? |
| 3 | CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Let's put it |
| 4 | on April. |
| 5 | MEMBER KRIEGER: No. Mike will be |
| 6 | here. |
| 7 | CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Then put it |
| 8 | in March. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Linda. |
| 9 | Any other, please? Okay. |
| 10 | MEMBER LONGO: I move that we adjourn. |
| 11 | MEMBER SAMONA: Second. |
| 12 | CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Any nays? |
| 13 | Any objections? Okay. Looks like none. Thank |
| 14 | you. And drive safe. |
| 15 | (The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.) |
| 16 | |
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| CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY |
|--|
| |
| STATE OF MICHIGAN) |
|) SS |
| COUNTY OF OAKLAND) |
| |
| I, Melinda R. Womack, Certified |
| Shorthand Reporter, a Notary Public in and for the |
| above county and state, do hereby certify that the |
| above deposition was taken before me at the time |
| and place hereinbefore set forth; that the witness |
| was by me first duly sworn to testify to the |
| truth, and nothing but the truth, that the |
| foregoing questions asked and answers made by the |
| witness were duly recorded by me stenographically |
| and reduced to computer transcription; that this |
| is a true, full and correct transcript of my |
| stenographic notes so taken; and that I am not |
| related to, nor of counsel to either party nor |
| interested in the event of this cause. |
| Melencle R. Woman |
| Melinda R. Womack, CSR-3611 |
| Notary Public, Oakland County, Michigan |
| |



25 My Commission expires: 06-22-2025

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