

CITY OF PORTAGE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Minutes of Meeting – February 8, 2021

The City of Portage Zoning Board of Appeals virtual meeting was called to order by Chair Finch at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Finch, Jay Eichstaedt, Linda Fry, Alexander Philipp, Lynn Haddow, Lena Jomaa

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

IN ATTENDANCE: Jeff Mais, Zoning & Codes Administrator; Catherine Kaufman, City Attorney.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Fry moved and Eichstaedt seconded a motion to approve the December 14, 2020 minutes as submitted. Upon roll call vote, the motion was approved 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

ZBA #20-09; 6701 Portage Road: Mais summarized the request for a variance to erect a 21 square-foot wall sign on the northwest elevation where no additional wall signs are permitted. Jason Headley, of RWL Signs, was present on behalf of the applicant to answer questions. Finch inquired if the applicant was aware when they erected the existing sign on the southwest elevation that the wall sign would only be visible to northbound traffic and not southbound traffic. Mr. Headley stated he believed it was simply an oversight.

A public hearing was opened. No one spoke for or against the request. The public hearing was closed.

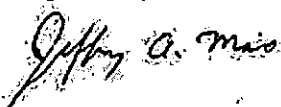
After additional discussion, a motion was made by Eichstaedt, seconded by Philipp, to grant a variance to erect a 21 square-foot wall sign on the northwest elevation where no additional wall signs are permitted for the following reasons: there are exceptional or extraordinary conditions applying to the property that do not apply generally to other properties in the same zoning district, which include the building's diagonal orientation, the variance is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of a substantial property right similar to that possessed by other properties in the same zoning district, identifying the building to southbound traffic; the immediate practical difficulty causing the need for the variance request was not created by the applicant; the variance will not be detrimental to adjacent property and the surrounding neighborhood, and; the variance will not materially impair the intent and purpose of the zoning ordinance. In addition, the application and supporting materials, staff report, and all comments presented at this hearing be incorporated in the record of this hearing and the findings of the Board, and that action of the Board be final and effective immediately. Upon roll call vote: Finch-Yes, Fry-Yes, Eichstaedt-Yes, Philipp-Yes, Haddow-Yes; Jomaa-Yes. Motion passed 6-0.

OTHER BUSINESS: Fry inquired when the Board might again meet in person. Attorney Kaufman responded the State has extended covid restrictions until at least March 31, 2021.

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Mais
Zoning & Codes Administrator