

Minutes For Planning Commission
Wednesday, February 2nd, 2022
7:00 PM

Attendance: Russ Bresser; Mike Koronka, Terra Deming, Steven Hartz, Gint Gaska, Sean Mason, Cole Muzyl

Absent: None

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Deming at 7:00.

Corrections, Deletions, or Additions to the Agenda

None

Minutes

Motion by Hartz and supported by Koronka to approve the previous meetings minutes after correcting the spelling error of "Harts to Hartz".

Unanimously approved

Public Hearing

1. Michigan Secure Trucking (400 W. Mitchell)

Communications

3 letters submitted and disbursed to members

Public Comment

Danny Cruz, 912 Strawberry Lane-Is the whole committee here? Will there be meeting minutes?

Kristi Catt, 2656 Vantyle Rd-I see too many risks being right next to a school as the majority of these facilities employ armed individuals that are ex-military or ex-police officers. You have to weigh the pros and cons and as we see it, the cons definitely outweigh the pros especially given that there are numerous other locations that this business could go.

Romone Skola, 11085 Sprucedale, Elmira-School zones are drug free and can't believe we are even discussing this. I'm disgusted we are putting a dispensary there.

Kelly Connell, 2221 Marquardt Rd-It's nice to see a local company doing business here. I analyze safety risks and our concern is the bullseye on these businesses. It's bullshit that this is even being discussed. It's high risk. There are more spots than just this.

Lewis Juett, 795 Knollwood lane-At any time will there be marihuana at the building? Is it illegal for kids under 18 to smoke marihuana?

Scott Connell, 2221 Marquardt Rd-The applicant stated at the last meeting that they might store product in the event of an emergency.

Adam Respecki, 888 Woodcrest Dr-This is more about optics and not product. What message are we sending our children? While the owner may be safe and on the up and up, it doesn't always mean that the employees are.

Jerry Balenger, Principal St. Mary's School-Our parents are very concerned. I would like to resubmit our previous letters as well for council review. Safety should come first.

Chris Morris, 711 Dover Rd-There are many physical and mental disadvantages to marihuana. We need to keep the temptation away from our children. It's not a positive thing near schools.

Dan Smith, 1519 Big Lake Rd-Never have I ever been concerned about my kids safety at that school until now. Please make the decision to not approve this at this location.

Jessica Freeman, 2966 Wilkinson Rd-I have no issue with marihuana but there are so many nice things that our community is known for. Is this something that we want to be known for? This will not be a positive memory going forward.

Steve Wisniewski, 316 Berkshire-The optics are not good. It lowers the expectations of our kids. This is the dumbest things we can even consider. Who's it going to hurt? Kids.

Tom Morris, 1157 Estelle Rd-This area is mostly residential. It's dark and not secure. Can they have signs? I have an issue with the security potential. There can still be instances for security problems.

Rob Pallarito, 725 Softwood Trl-We've heard good testimony and we need to use common sense. We have to protect our most precious asset....our kids.

Scott Connell, 2221 Marquardt Rd-Is there any financial benefit to this business going at this location to the City?

Cody Lawnicheck, 6295 Sparr Rd-I read a study and 50% of people are ok with pot but 70% said they aren't ok with it being close to a school. We can't deliver to a school but we can deliver next to a school?

Erin Matts, 8488 Mapleridge Ln and Kay Rogel, Johannesburg-It's our privilege to be with these kids. State laws change and what will stop this on from allowing them to have signage eventually? It's foolish to not consider other locations. We have to remember that we have to keep the kids safe.

Heather Korte, 543 Felshaw St-I agree with everything that has been said so far. Why would this company want their business right by a school?

Danny Cruz, 912 Strawberry Ln-An environmental impact study needs to be submitted before a recommendation is made. Was there a traffic study completed? Is there paraphernalia on site? Is there cash operations? Was there a compatibility use zone study completed? Risk has two components, right? The probability of something happening and the severity of that thing happening. It's my opinion and my family's opinion that the introduction to unnecessary risk to our community and the immediate residents to this site and moreover to our children is unnecessary risk. Will firearms be on site? Rule on NIMBY. Would you want this next to you? There is a better solution-please consider this.

Tracy O'connell-Johannesburg-Thank you for supporting our children. Our students exit the school and stand in front of this building. I respectfully ask that you recommend that it not be approved.

Tom Marquardt, 6626 Wilderness-We watched the school for one year and we were very impressed with the continuing effort by everyone to make it better. This will threaten the enrollment of the school. Criminals don't read minutes and will assume that there is product there.

Jay Maufort, 2662 Ordway-Did you read this report? It states that paraphernalia can't be visible. The optics are unbelievable and people shouldn't have to be here to defend this.

Nancy Jacob, 1269 W Martin Lk Rd-My problem is not just being by St Mary's school. This should go for any school. It's up to us to keep our family's safe and we have to defend what we all enjoy.

Syl Mazzella, 2583 S Otsego Ave-What does the ordinance say for setbacks? In Michigan a transport can become a retail business. A school has more at stake so the ordinance shouldn't allow for this near a school.

Danny Cruz, 912 Strawberry Ln-Where are they parking? The goal is to increase business and think about it. This business will grow. Consider that when you make your recommendation.

Carrie Cruz, 912 Strawberry Ln-If they are putting in this security then they know that are a target. Common sense says not to.

Sara Gapinski, 6393 M-32 E-Our business is located behind Ponderosa. Sketchy people have been frequenting our area asking for a jump. I'd like to think that our community is safe but it isn't. Those people are here casing businesses and buildings.

Kristi Catt, 2656 Vantyle Rd-There is a reason that the State of Michigan requires all of this security.

Kelly Connell, 2221 Marquardt Rd-It's not a bad thing to be in a different location.

8:23 Public hearing was closed

Old Business: None

New Business:

Motion by Gaska, supported by Bresser, to recommend the denial of the site plan and special use permit application for Michigan Secure Trucking at 400 W Mitchell St because the perception of marihuana and cash storage at the proposed location would increase violent crime risks, and is therefore incompatible with the adjacent land use of a private school.

Koronka abstained due to being employed by St. Mary's School

Approved 6/0

There being no further business before the Commission the meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.
Travis Hewitt/City Treasurer