



**EXCUSE MR. HASELEY AND MR. GRISSOM**

Mr. Huffman - Can I have a motion to excuse Mr. Haseley and Mr. Grissom

Mr. Barth – I move to excuse Mr. Haseley and Mr. Grissom for just cause.

Mr. Stankewicz - Second.

Roll Call: All Ayes Approved

Mr. Huffman – I would also like to recognize Mayor Perciak and Mr. Biondillo are present.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Huffman – You have had a chance to review the minutes of August 28, 2007. If there are no additions or corrections they will stand as submitted. I would like to state that there is a correct necessary on page one of the minutes. Mr. Ice's name should reflect Mr. Huffman. Other than that the minutes will stand as submitted.

**STRONGSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT/ Bowen & Associates, Agent**

Site plan approval for the 23,218 SF renovations and addition to the Strongsville Police Department located at 18688 Royalton Road, PPN 396-10-014 zoned Public Facility

Mr. Huffman – Item Number One, Strongsville Police Department. Please state your name and address for the record.

Mr. Uher – Scott Uher with Bowen and Associates, 13000 Shaker Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44120.

Mr. Huffman – Why don't you give a brief presentation of what you are planning.

Mr. Uher – These are more versions of what you have already been looking at that have been made a little more presentable. I will just review the site plan. This is a little more updated than what you have because we were putting some clarifications and finishing touches on here for Planning Commission as well. As you mentioned, the water tower was not indicated on those plans but it is now on this plan. Also the mention of the Graves House and how we are utilizing this site. Pretty much everything else is what you have seen on the plans that you have. We have updated it slightly with some of the revisions that we have made through our Civil Engineering processes. That is a couple

of months old but there is nothing substantially different between that and this. Actually one of the additions that we do have is, as you mentioned, with the addition of the new rotunda piece for the combined Council and Police entrance. We have the main entry plaza. It works out the public commons here. We have tried to reinforce this access that may come, people coming from the Library or from this parking lot for Council meetings. We have introduced kind of a diagonal sidewalk here. A cross walk here that helps to give a little more way of finding than you currently have coming into this rear entrance that is currently the Council Chambers entrance, right now. There was mention of where is the Police Offices. When you enter through the front door, as the Mayor mentioned, you come into this main public space here, which will have kind of focusing walls that will have interior signage on them that announce Council Chambers entry and that is essentially is pretty an access with this door and then you come into the building. Same as when you come into the Police Station, when you come in it will be really clear, once you are inside the building, where you are supposed to go. That is one of the challenges with the facility right now, both from an interior and an exterior point of view, is where you go. We feel that both with the exterior plaza here how you celebrate that entry, we created the axel approaches both from the Westwood Drive parking field that extends further in this direction as well as the parking that would be at the Graves House, as well as this parking that it should be really clear as to how to get into the facility and how to use it. The new addition is essentially demarked. The existing Police Station comes to this point and jogs back around this way. The new addition is right here and is about 20,000 SF. The existing Police Department is about 18,000 SF. A new firing range building and the vehicle garage is over on this side of the parking lot.

Mayor Perciak – The firing range building was something that we really needed to do, whether we wanted to do it or not because what happens is all of our Officer's are required so many hours of range shooting or whatever you want to call it and we have been paying other cities for that. So if we were going to build this facility at this time, that was one of the things that Charlie wanted most of all. The other thing is that the way the whole thing is laid out, we tried to keep the jail facility towards the back of the building with the Sallyport, for the sake of safety and for everything else that we wouldn't have this showing from the street. Scott, do you want to show them where the new driveway is coming in.

Mr. Uher – Right, the new entry that we have right now, with the Fire Station and the Police Stations there is currently probably a lot of confusion on Royalton road as far as what you can do. We are going to restrict the entry to this with signage that essentially restricts this to Police entry here and there will also be restricted entry here with signage as well that keeps this section of the facility secure and closed off and even this crosswalk here will help to divert that traffic so that all the traffic and all the parking and

service of these buildings is restricted to Police vehicle traffic and service vehicles. We do have a service entrance for deliveries, we have a masonry wall and ornamental gated enclosure for the dumpster which would make service for garbage and trash as easy as possible and direct without having to do a lot of site circulation. We also have a vehicle Sallyport which is where inmates, prisoners will be brought in, in a secure environment. They essentially pull in through the garage door, the door opens up they pull in, the garage door closes behind them. There won't be any instance where you will have a prisoner that is being transferred from the vehicle, it is actually a 2 lane vehicle Sallyport so you could have two vehicles that they could process people through. That way you won't have any of that traffic outside the walls of the building.

Mayor Perciak – Scott let me interject here. You can see why when we started with this plan, we originally tried to take the old Fire Station to save a few bucks and incorporate it into this. It just wasn't going to work because ingress and egress would have just been horrible. It wouldn't have been safe, it was a nightmare. That is when we finally made the determination, that has to come down and those garages and everything else that is there in order to make this work where it is. Now, the flip side to this was, I think everyone in this room knows this, Walter tried twice, I tried twice to get a levy passed. The people simply just said "no" each time. Basically what we were left with is how much money we can afford to spend on what we have to work with on a day to day basis. You can't make a statement to the public, time after time after time, telling everybody that we have to update a Police Facility that is 50 years old and show the world how bad it is and show how it is out of code and show how we weren't getting our detention for the jail. We had to do something whether I wanted to or not as Mayor, I had to do something so we said Okay, we are going to make due on what we have. This was the very best that we could come up with to make due with what we have. We are actually taking 20,000 SF with the Council Chambers and making it into an over 40,000 SF facility that will work.

Mr. Uher – We feel very comfortable that this solution has been addressed very well and the Police Department from a functional standpoint is very happy. One of the things as the Mayor mentioned with the Fire Station, a Fire Station and a Police Station, we obviously have a lot of Civic buildings that are service intensive. Obviously you have a Fire Station, it is undeniable that you have garage doors. One of the opportunities that we had here by raising the Fire Station building is that even though we still have service entrances and this building, unfortunately there has to be a front side and a back side, just because there is a service requirement for the building. We have had the opportunity to dress up the more public exposure façade of this building and to make it more appealing civic presence. With that if there are any other comments on the site plan.

Mayor Perciak – Just remember and I know that everybody has a concern and I know Tim, you have yours and everybody has called me. This is our downtown and we have done our very best to try and make it work because we are going to look at this for the rest of our lives, those of us who live in town here. We try to make it aesthetically appealing, we try to blend the old with the new but a lot of everything, when it is all going to come together, it how we are going to finally finish up probably with the landscaping and the exterior, whoever is going to get that job. I think by and large it works well. I think.

Mr. Uher – We think so too.

Mr. Stankewicz – Scott a quick question, when you come in the entrance, are we going to have a reception area on the court side for the court's paying your fines and tickets and then on the other side, a reception for the Police, similar to what we have now? You can go either way and they will have a person there that will address the public needs?

Mr. Uher – When you go through the front door, it is essentially within this volume that occurs. There is a payment area that is back in here, there is the Mayor's Court function and the Mayor's Conference Room that is back in here. Essentially we have taken the spaces that were here in the front and shifted them back towards the back so that the public presence and the direct access into the Council Chambers is more immediate. We have essentially taken all those entrance spaces that were back in this side off of here and shifted them around this way, taken what was here in the middle and shifted it towards the back.

Mr. Stankewicz – I would assume that you are going to dress up the Council Chambers and fix that up a little more.

Mr. Uher – Yes, I am not sure how many discussions as far as the Council bench approach but we are going to be taking the revised, everything is going to get a cosmetic face lift within the entire Council Chambers. We have all new lighting, all new wall finishes, the mill work of the benches is going to be updated. We are probably going to build over the top of what is there and give everything a face lift and doing what we feel is cost effective solution. Not ripping it all out and starting new but essentially building over the top of it and giving everything a fresh appearance to it. New ceilings, new lighting, new Council seating for the gallery.

Mayor Perciak – I think for the first time we have to address the fact that the administration, its not their meeting, it's a Council meeting so I think that the administration will be removed from the front and they will be placed on the side like

with most Council Chambers with computers there. We are going to take all the Directors out of the line of fire and since it is a Council meeting and it is their meeting, they should be the ones that the residents are asking questions to. If they want to consult with the administration they can consult with the administration. So many times the people are interacting with all the Directors instead of the Councilmen.

Mrs. Hawk – Where will the Caucus room be?

Mr. Uher – The Caucus room will be in the same place.

Mrs. Hawk – Upstairs?

Mayor Perciak – No, Caucus room is downstairs.

Mrs. Hawk – What is the one upstairs?

Mayor Perciak – That one will no longer be there.

Mr. Uher – Unfortunately the way the building is currently constructed, the codes that it was originally constructed under allow different things to have been done than what is allowed now. For us to continue with the add on to the building, we have to bring the whole building up to compliance of code and there is a lot of wood frame construction in the building that has to be removed and replaced with new, non-combustible construction.

Mr. Stankewicz – One concern I have is with the changing society is with the security of that building. Is there going to be a way or a place in the back, corner or I am not sure where that an Officer could be stationed.

Mr. Uher – We had some discussions with that just this past week about providing, if not immediately, as a long term plan or near term to provide metal detectors and scanners at the front entrances to both Police Department. Police Department will be a little further back for those that would be coming to visit an in-mate because inherently that facility is more secure. Just by nature of you are in a building with people that have guns so it is just that is a given. The plan with Council Chambers is that we would provide a metal detector in the front lobby before you even get in the facility and that would be a place where immediately that person would be manning, somebody from the PD might be manning those meetings and that presence would be felt from the second that you walk into the building and then once the meeting was in process, that Officer would move back into the Council Chambers.

Mayor Perciak – This shooting that they had in St. Louis, you have to remember what happened, three weeks ago, this was a suburb of St. Louis. This was not inner city, this was a suburb very similar to who we are and when you get people who are that disorientated to come in and kill either 4 or 5 people, something has to be done. This is not the first time that this has happened so, we are doing this, we might as well incorporate that at this time. The cost of that when you incorporate it into the size of the building is minimal so we might as well put the security there now.

Mr. Stankewicz – Mayor, the cost should not even be a factor in that situation. We have situations here sometimes where some people come in and scare the people here and I think over there, especially some of people today with crazy issues with the neighbors come in and I am just glad to hear that you are doing that.

Mr. Uher – To get into both of these facilities you do through this common lobby so the traditional public route, the hope is once people come in this lobby and they see this signage identifying Council Chambers and Police that they won't have, I hate to say that the Police staff won't be bothered by the citizens that come in there for a Council meeting or Mayor's Court but it does happen right now because of the shared lobby and because of the confusion there. The route that you would normally send somebody back, if they came to the wrong site, you send them back out through the front door and through the back through this way into this Council Chambers court. We also have a secondary door that comes through with easier access from the Police Department through the Council Chambers, back by the payments area so that should there be a need to address a safety issue the Police could quickly come through that route. Also if there was the need to transfer or move somebody from the jail area, which actually comes as far forward as into here, it is a very quick and direct path from there into Mayor's Court. We do have kind of a back service door that allows ready response for any sort of incident like that. Obviously we hope that any of those incidents don't occur because they happen too quickly. At least having somebody there is the right answer. Any other questions?

Mrs. Hawk – I know that you have to provide a space for airing prisoners, where they can be out.

Mr. Uher – This is the detention area, it's a 12 day.

Mrs. Hawk – To get outside?

Mr. Uher – Oh, for recreation? No there is actually in this type of facility there is not a recreation requirement so there is no outdoor facility. Because this is a 12 day facility and it is not a long term stay, they don't have outdoor recreation.

Mayor Perciak – The other side of it is, by and large most of the people that are in that jail are our neighbors. Those are the people that have rough weekends at home with each other. These are the people that decide that they want to take things from the stores in the mall and not buy them. We do have some no good-nicks from time to time in there but by in large maybe with an exception here and there; we do not have hard core criminals in that jail there. We can never guarantee that because you never know what is going to go on in today's day and age but by and large no.

Mrs. Hawk – Is that bell moving?

Mayor Perciak – You can do whatever you want with that. It is in the lobby there.

Mrs. Hawk – Is that going to be put any where?

Mayor Perciak – I don't know, we haven't even thought about that. It is in that back lobby, we need to go out there and see, maybe we could make some kind of landscape with that.

Mr. Huffman – What is the bell?

Mrs. Hawk – Its from the Old Town Hall. That is the bell from the Old Town Hall.

Mayor Perciak – Why aren't we putting it across the street then?

Mrs. Hawk – That is fine.

Mr. Biondillo – We can incorporate it into the Old Town Hall.

Mayor Perciak – That is costing us additional \$120,000.00 that we have to go back to Council with.

Mr. Stankewicz – Jennifer will have a great time with that garden. That is going to be beautiful.

Mr. Uher – If you have a garden club that likes to participate in things like this. When we did the Bedford Municipal Center that is one thing that we did. We did a lot of larger plantings but they actually came and most of it we just left as mulch beds and then the garden club participated in basically planted the whole thing out. Certainly now because of cost considerations we are showing, we haven't even really developed at this time is an extensive landscaping plan. We have done it very conceptually to say where planting areas might be, certainly we have identified the existing building as how

it interfaces with the ground, which essentially just goes into the ground. That is an opportunity for some nicer things to happen than just having grass go right up to the building.

Mayor Perciak – Scott, can I have a copy of that so that I can have it for the State of the City, so when people come to the State of the City Address they can see it.

Mr. Uher – Do you want a full size?

Mayor Perciak – I need it for March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Uher – What I will do is use these for Planning Commission and for ARB and depending on where we go with things, you can either have this one or I can give you another one.

Mayor Perciak – I just need one that big.

Mr. Uher – No problem at all.

Mrs. Hawk – In the drawing, where are the benches that exist right now?

Mayor Perciak – No we aren't changing the front much.

Mrs. Hawk – Okay but they would be beyond this drawing?

Mr. Uher – Yes, they are actually beyond that.

Mayor Perciak – Those are cosmetic things and we are trying to stay, when you are talking Pearl Road, we are trying to stay as much where we are with the facility. We don't want to encroach on the Commons. We are trying to stay off the Commons as much as we can. We went east instead of west.

Mr. Uher – What we have done with this and it gets a little obscured by the trees, we have incorporated two of the relocated lamp posts that were originally in this area, back into the configuration. We also have taken the flag pole which does not read here because it is so tall from over here and putting it in this main central bed so that it is a main focal radial point of the feature. We will up light that pole.

Mayor Perciak – Just remember that Veterans Memorial that is there to. We have to reincorporate that.

Mr. Uher – There are a number of different things on the site that we are going to incorporate into the various plantings and what have you around the front. I have a new rendering that you probably haven't seen yet. This is kind of more of an overall shot standing back essentially at the southwest corner of the building. This is the existing building here. This part here is existing, the Council Chambers component is existing, and you can see how we have nestled that new focal piece at the front. All of this is existing up to this point and then the addition is down here. You can see what we have done is obviously when the comments that was made earlier, we wanted to pick up on the vocabulary of the existing building and being that it is a historically sensitive area and that the existing building is not a historically sensitive building and yet poses a challenge that you can't deny what is there either. When you add on to it, you don't want the addition to look like its an addition. You want the whole thing to look like it was meant to be there from the beginning, that it is all one uniform, unified building and I shouldn't say uniform but unified building. It kind of tried to create what I refer to as architectural bookends to the building. By framing it with the new entrance piece, allowing this to be what it is and then add accent banding to kind of cap the building because the building does not have a base and the building really doesn't have a top. It is just a mass of brick. We've taken these entry pieces, these alcove components here, these little ditches in the building and we've brought some of that architecture, we've created a more modern version of these little niches. That is all that was done to carry that through. If we repeated that all the way around the building then it wouldn't have any fresh modern details and interpretations. Then we kind of bracketed the building with these bookends by taking a piece that is here, this is actually where the roll call is, this is where the detectives are and we have created more banding of buff brick, pourable brick on these bands as well as here. We are using as a feature essentially cast stone units at the base of these bookends as we have done at the main entrance as well. We are taking those cast stone units and we are taking them an applying them to the major bookends of the building and then we are allowing the infill pieces to essentially continue that architecture and the lines through, picking up on the horizontal lines and establishing some ribbons across the building.

Mr. Huffman – The new banding on the existing building, will that be a precast stone?

Mr. Uher – What we are planning to do is, if you look at the Library there is a lot of cast stone that is used at the top in that building and one of the challenges with that is that weathers, if you don't get the right product, theirs is already beginning to weather. We are proposing to replace the copings on the building, the existing building with a metal band, this is an aluminum band that gets applied to the brick so we don't have to take a part, as soon as you get into reworking the brick you introduce the possibility of leaks or

structural problems with that. We are applying a band to the surface of this to essentially cap the building and then that will continue across and all the way around the building. We are proposing right now for that to be aluminum.

Mr. Huffman – So both bands on the existing will be aluminum?

Mr. Uher – Yes, this will be the aluminum coping and this will be the aluminum band that is applied to the building as well, just to keep, it is a little less labor intensive, it is a little less costly as an ultimate solution.

Mr. Huffman – You brought up the Library which does have some of that same banding which I thought was a good touch and that brings those two buildings together.

Mr. Biondillo – As Scott said, we are trying to be responsible with this too. The Library was not limited with what their budget was as much as we are so that was a big concern of ours. To maybe get away from the cast stone on that upper top band and put it at the areas where you will really see it. The front entrance so that you have a grand entrance.

Mayor Perciak – When we look back, where the Library is, that really handicapped us as we are doing all this right now. That Library should never have been there. It is in the middle of everything. It just made things difficult for us trying to make this work with parking and everything, ingress and egress. It should have been somewhere else, it is in the middle. At least the rec center is pushed back and this being right there is difficult. Lets face it, it is staying there.

Mr. Uher – So that is what we've done with the primary façade of the building. This is another view from the southeast and once again we have enclosed the dumpster with an ornamental metal fence enclosure.

Mr. Huffman – How tall is the wall around it?

Mr. Uher – This is about 12' tall right now. I think that is 10 or 12 feet tall. Enough to hide a dumpster.

Mr. Huffman – How about rooftop units?

Mr. Uher – Everything with respect to the rooftop units, everything is, we have kicked these bookend features up to get things higher and to hide all the rooftop units. There is also this feature here, this is from essentially the parking lot along the side of the vehicle garages from the Library and we are using this higher mass here to hide a lot of

the rooftop units that are associated with the . . . Our thoughts, our plans are not to have anything that shows or at least minimal.

Mayor Perciak – Show them where the Sallyport is where they are going to bring in the prisoners.

Mr. Uher – The Sallyport is right here. Essentially its really hard to see because there are all these jogs to this building. It has many undulations to it. The police cars or the vans would come around through the Sallyport and come out this way. This is a jail service door for the garage. A lot of this, we are not showing a lot of trees in here, there will be trees in this buffer between them.

Mayor Perciak – What we didn't want to do was make the same mistake our neighbor to the east made North Royalton put a big sign up, North Royalton Facility or whatever and we want people to know that this is our Police Facility but we certainly don't want to be advertising on a full time basis that we have this jail sitting on the center of town. We really dressed it down, you are going to have to look for this place.

Mr. Uher – One of the features of this building that we are doing here, you can see these openings, nobody would guess that there were jail cells behind these. We have provided essentially a double window treatment so that the detention window sits up in this upper section and its behind this more ornamental window if you will. These look like regular office windows and then we have another window that is on the inside that is actually the detention grade security window. It actually has in it louvers so that if I'm in the jail and if I so happen to want to climb up on top of my bed and try to look out, which they are high up windows anyway, they are louvered so that they can't see to the outside. There won't be anybody in the jail making faces at the people at night and they won't be looking at anybody through the parking lot and creating any issues. That is what we have done here is really try to down play the fact, it looks very un-jail like.

Mayor Perciak – You have done a great job with that.

Mr. Uher – Thanks, I think that is all I have.

Mrs. Peacock – I just have one question, getting back to the windows, and the concern about security. Is that just regular tempered glass in those windows. If somebody tried to get in different parts of the building. . .

Mr. Uher – On which ones?

Mrs. Peacock – On any of the windows?

Mr. Uher – For the most part, it is pretty standard that within the detention area there is not going to be any breach of security so everywhere around, if I could even describe how jail construction works, its very solid. It is all concrete masonry, fully grouted so its concrete at every core of the masonry. There is a half inch diameter steel bar every 8” on center vertically and every 8” on center horizontally all the way around that jail perimeter.

Mrs. Peacock – I wasn’t specifically speaking of the jail. All along the building there are windows.

Mr. Uher – Yes, the entrance doors for the most part it is a fully manned 24 hour facility. For somebody to break in, that would probably be their last dumb mistake in the City of Strongsville.

Mrs. Peacock – Okay.

Mr. Uher – Here you don’t have a high level of security into a facility like this. Its not manned 24 – 7, that is the standard that you would pretty much see. In the jail perimeter you are going to have a really high level, they can’t break in, they can’t break out. Within the Police that is pretty typical. There are people around all the time. It would not be an intelligent prank. We have even talked about people trying to cut through here an everything, we talked about secured gates at one point in time an ultimately the Police Department determined for the purposes of response time and everything else that they would rather have free access. They joked at times about don’t come through this way, we dare you. We have a nice building that you could have a nice stay in if you don’t believe us.

Mayor Perciak – Charlie and Bob Satterwaite have worked extensively on this, they have spent most of their waking time with Scott and his crew in trying to make sure that this thing works correctly. What we didn’t do here, we had the old plans for the buildings that we hoped to build. Those were completely scratched. We did a complete study of what we needed here which too months to get that completed before they were able to put that on paper. It wasn’t like we just took the old plans and tried to incorporate it because it wouldn’t work, it would not do everything. There was a lot of thought put into this by everybody who had something to say about this plus most of you know the jail facility in itself, the Ohio Department of Corrections pretty much dictates what we are and are not going to do there. We had to bring them in on most of this and I think they pretty much agreed.

Mr. Uher – They come in periodically through, they have five different phases that we take the project through with them so they’re oversight goes from the programming

phase to the schematic design to design development. All the way through construction documents and then they do inspections after construction is complete before the City can move in and then yearly after that.

Mayor Perciak – They pretty much dictate what the standard is going to be inside there.

Mr. Huffman – I just had a couple of comments. First of all I do appreciate what you have done here with the front entrance and putting the jail toward the back. Not against Royalton Road and it kind of keeps everything in. One thing that I am going to make a suggestion that you may want to consider and cost might be an issue but, from that parking lot, the striping that leads to the front door, I think there is a way to texture that pavement so that you know that you don't drive there. What I am seeing is you are going to have a bunch of signs there saying "do not enter" and if there is some way to make that person driving not or feel like that is the wrong way to go without a bunch of signs. It might be a nicer experience for the person walking across there instead of a bunch of painted stripes.

Mayor Perciak – I would agree with that.

Mr. Huffman – I am not sure how far you would take it but just enough to kind of know that you are in the wrong place. You have crossed a barrier that you don't think you should have crossed. I don't think you are going to have a gate or anything there.

Mr. Uher – Originally we had a gate back in here so that, the challenge with it is, even if you do a raised burm, almost a speed hump sidewalk, crosswalk to it and I think people still have the natural tendency to roll right over those if they think there is a direct, if they think they are going this way. One of the challenges is I would have taken this and tilted this back down to that original sidewalk here or even in here but that it too far. It is a challenge to start to deter that and I think that you probably still will need the signage because at least there is the threat if you will of what happens to you if you go this way but there may be some consequences associated with it. It is definitely a challenge, the planning of this site has been one that frankly I have to say, we got lucky I think when we did it because it all fit. It is a very tight sight for as much program as is on here. It was definitely a challenge. We will look at that. Certainly we will do that, I don't know if that is going to address the problem in its entirety. That is one thing that I said, lets make it a little more ceremonial if you will so that if I am coming this way, I raise it up and maybe I do a dyed and stamped concrete brick cross walk or something. That is maybe what you do but I think you will still need to supplement that with some signage that kind of makes it absolute.

Mr. Huffman – I agree its just that sometimes you put all these big signs, do not enter or whatever and it is unattractive. I think that would help and it keeps person driving on the asphalt on that curb drive on the curb drive, just feels psychologically they just want to stay there, they don't want . . .

Mayor Perciak – I am sure that we can get something done.

Mr. Huffman – Might even do something over toward the Royalton Road side to, you don't want people pulling in there either.

Mr. Uher – I think the reality to is that even though the Police Department wants people to stay out, they are not that adamant about it. I don't want to speak for them but if it really 100% gated security, we did that in Bedford, we have done that elsewhere, if they really wanted to keep people out we would make sure that you wouldn't get in. Certainly if somebody makes a mistake, you could circle back around here, here you are into the vehicle garage area. There is not a lot of traffic frankly going on here even from the Police standpoint. The cruisers come in this way and leave this way. The may come back around this way and respond out.

Mayor Perciak – These a Mayor's Court days and we try to eliminate the Mayor's Court and incorporate it with the Berea Court but we have some issues with how the Berea Municipal Court handles their fines. I just couldn't bring myself to the point of fining the violator on, for example if he is speeding or crosses the centerline and doesn't have a seatbelt on, the get Court costs plus 3 separate fines. Here in our Court you get a fine and Court costs period. How would I justify to our residents that I am not so concerned as to the people that are visiting us but the people that live here that in our Court you pay one fine and we go to Berea Court and you pay 3 fines plus Court costs. We tried to even eliminate the Mayor's Court so that we could free up more space but that situation didn't work and when we spoke to the officials at the Berea Court they weren't willing to change how they operated and I wasn't willing to submit our residents to those fines. People make mistakes sometimes. To triple fines or double fines, that would be a hard sell.

Mrs. Hawk – Over here is there going to be any signage or anything so that people don't drive around and out that way?

Mr. Uher – We haven't studied that in any, part of this is there is a larger command vehicle that has to park back in here so that this opening is a little bit larger than you might normally have on a traffic isle. We might add some more signs but once again it is another one of those. . .

Mayor Perciak – Can I interject? This is going to be such a Police compound that when people are going to go there they are not going to horse around because they are going to see and they are going to be Police vehicles, there is going to be security there. I don't see a lot of people just recreating around the place.

Mr. Huffman – There are a lot of cruisers sitting there and that would deter it already. Landscaping will be an issue, it would be nice to do whatever you can to enhance the Commons and not expose the parking lot to the north as you get into it further.

Mr. Stankewicz – I am sure that we will bring in Jennifer and get her involved because of the things that we are planning to do over the next 3 or 4 years with the Commons that we can just incorporate that into this and make it all consistent.

Mr. Huffman – Any other comments?

Mrs. Peacock – No, you did a great job.

Mrs. Hawk – I am glad it is happening. I really am.

Mayor Perciak – As the wife of a former Police Officer.

Mrs. Hawk – Yes, I remember how that Police Station was at that time.

Mr. Uher – Thank you for your time.

Mr. Huffman - Thank you. Any other questions, or comments? If not, I would entertain a motion.

Mr. Stankewicz - I move to give favorable consideration for Site plan approval for the 23,218 SF renovations and addition to the Strongsville Police Department located at 18688 Royalton Road, PPN 396-10-014 zoned Public Facility.

Mrs. Hawk - Second.

Mr. Huffman – Secretary, please call the roll.

Roll Called

All Ayes

APPROVED

Mr. Barth Abstained from voting.

**SHRI SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE/ Linda Kaminski, Agent**

a) A new 10' x 22'-5" (220 SF) non-illuminated plastic formed dimensional letter Wall Sign having red copy with red and orange graphics, background to match building for property located at 13354 Pearl Road, part of PPN 392-30-008 zoned Public Facility; and;

b) A new 4'-9" x 9'-3" (44 SF) non-illuminated Ground Sign having red and blue copy, gray background and blue graphics for property located at 13354 Pearl Road, part of PPN 392-30-008 zoned Public Facility.

Mr. Huffman – Item Number Two, Shri Swaminarayan Temple. Please state your name and address for the record.

Ms. Kaminski – Linda Kaminski, with Sign a Rama, 15131 Pearl Road, Strongsville.

Mr. Patel – Rocky Patel, 18336 Cook Avenue, Strongsville, Ohio 44149.

Mr. Harper – Jim Harper from the Historical Society, 17178 Drake Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44149.

Mr. Huffman – Please tell the Board what you plan on doing.

Ms. Kaminski – Are we doing the building sign first?

Mr. Huffman – Either one, the wall one first would be fine.

Ms. Kaminski – Originally we want to have the name and the religious symbol on here just like that on the wall but then using the existing brick we also wanted to do the ground sign. If we could have everything that we wanted then that is how we would want to have the sign. Just like that, with the name and the symbol and the name on the ground sign.

Mr. Huffman – Okay. Ben.

Mr. Stankewicz – I guess I will do it a little bit backwards, starting with the ground sign. A thought that possibly take the address off here and put it down the end of the sign facing the street. That would clean that up some. I had a question, is this where it says under whatever is that something symbolic or something that had to be there or could the sign potentially be like this, and space appropriately?

Ms. Kaminski – Without that line? Could that be taken off?

Mr. Patel – Yes, if necessary. Or we could take off symbol either way.

Mr. Huffman – What does that say?

Mr. Patel – This religion has a lot of different way, there is one in Brunswick as well but that is called BAPS so that is like the same Swamarian Temple but it is a different part. That is why this particular part of the Temple so that they can recognize that this is this part.

Mr. Stankewicz – Would that be more important to you then the symbol if you had a choice?

Mr. Patel – Right.

Mr. Stankewicz – Okay, the other question that I had or thought was, is there anything symbolic about the red color?

Mr. Patel – No.

Mr. Stankewicz – It could be lighter or possibly something different, it is not something that is part of the religion or the thing has to be red?

Mr. Patel – That is what we use in every temple and that is the red color that we use for everything.

Mr. Stankewicz – The other question I had was the possibility, for instance the symbol for me with the cross was sort of clean and I kind of like you symbol and the thought would be the possibility of maybe the symbol larger and eliminating this because you have it on the sign here and that way it would look cleaner.

Ms. Kaminski – I tried to do it up two different ways. This one is a little bit smaller, this one is obviously a little bit bigger. Just doing the symbol but you really liked the words on the building if possible.

Mr. Patel – If it is possible, that would be because it won't look bad when it is done and there would be a spotlight there facing that one even at night.

Mr. Barth – Most of those buildings in that area church wise don't have any names on the buildings.

Mr. Stankewicz – That was my thought, only the fact that if you have it right out front, people driving by are going to find it pretty easily and the symbol I thought that would be kind of neat, I thought that would be clean but yet complimentary and is that the lettering that you are looking to use? A plastic like that?

Ms. Kaminski – Yes.

Mr. Stankewicz – Okay, I would say again for me that the idea being that if you could either eliminate that or they symbol, clean that up. Put the address on the end and maybe simplify a little bit what is here, for me I think that would be better.

Ms. Kaminski – The address on the side, would you want individual letters, 4” high right on the brick or would you like it mounted?

Mr. Stankewicz – No, just even running down the brick. I think there are some legalities with the Fireman, they need that. I think it is our sign right out here, we just put the numbers right down the brick and its clean, it looks nice, people can find the address if they need to but I think with the sign, if they are looking for this, that is the stuff that interests me.

Mrs. Hawk – If that were enlarged, how big would that one be?

Ms. Kaminski – I did three because originally I was trying to fix it at the 12 SF but literally on a building that size it looks like a speck. It is really so tiny. This is the 12 SF size. The cross that was on there, I did take measurements of the cross, it was over 400 SF, the whole area that he used. This would not be this big. This one is 63 SF and this one is actually 19 SF. These are maybe happy mediums. Maybe we could go with one of these. We were just trying to go with how it would look.

Mr. Huffman – Just for everyone’s information, there are some guidelines for signs and I know that Linda has obviously looked at them because you mentioned the 12 SF. For a wall sign, like you say 12 SF and for a ground sign it is 12 SF, although the ground sign is a special case because you already have an existing sign there. We need to take that into consideration.

Mrs. Hawk – The cross was put in, in the 60’s. That was before there were the regulations on the Town Center area.

Ms. Kaminski – Okay, we are way under the cross size. That was huge.

Mr. Huffman – When you calculate the cross size, will you calculate a rectangle around all of it or will you just take the area of the cross itself?

Ms. Kaminski – I took the actual cross from top to bottom and maximum, a rectangle, that maybe makes it sound worse then what it really is.

Mr. Huffman – That is what I would think too because . . . .

Ms. Kaminski – That would make it really large.

Mr. Barth – Is the symbol also in plastic, like that right there?

Ms. Kaminski – Yes it would be. These would be the colors, this would be the red center and even though it looks yellow, it would actually be orange going around it.

Mr. Huffman – The “U” shape would be orange?

Ms. Kaminski – Correct.

Mr. Huffman – Not this yellow?

Ms. Kaminski – Right, not that yellow, my printer did that.

Mrs. Hawk – Those are the color symbols of the . . .

Mr. Patel – The religion, yes.

Mr. Huffman – Regardless of that, yellow tends not to, especially in that white background, yellow would not show up very well. The orange would certainly show up more. That is all plastic, it is not internally lit? You have a light on the ground.

Ms. Kaminski – There are flood lights, right on the ground.

Mr. Huffman – Do you have any other questions on either the ground sign or the wall sign?

Mr. Barth – I have a question on the building itself, right now where the cross was, now it has been taken down and you can see that the color of the brick is different. I am sure that you are going to do something to power wash it or whatever.

Mr. Patel – Yes.

Mr. Huffman – Is that brick or stone on the front? I was thinking stone.

Mr. Patel – It is the same brick as the ground sign.

Mr. Huffman – I would have guessed the ground sign is this other color brick on the sides there. Are there any other questions?

Mrs. Hawk – Is the writing in the parentheses have to be on this sign?

Ms. Kaminski – We would prefer that to stay and eliminate the symbol if something had to go.

Mrs. Hawk – The writing above ISSO, you mean the name of your Temple?

Mr. Patel – International Shri Swaminarayan Organization, it is a short form. We just put the short form.

Mrs. Hawk – I see, the initials, alright.

Mr. Huffman – Any more questions or comments? Pam.

Mrs. Peacock – My only question is, the symbol, can you tell me about this as opposed to this symbol?

Mr. Patel – That is the symbol of the religion like a cross. This is a symbol of the organization.

Ms. Kaminski – ISSO is the religion.

Mrs. Peacock – Okay, so you couldn't use this symbol in place of this?

Mr. Patel – You might see people wearing that symbol on the head because of religion.

Mrs. Peacock – These are the colors? They can't be changed. So it would be orange and red.

Mr. Patel – Right.

Mrs. Peacock – I don't have anything else. Welcome to Strongsville, I am sure you will enjoy it here.

Mr. Patel – I have been living in Strongsville since 2000. I moved from New Jersey.

Mr. Huffman – Okay I will add my comments. After listening to the Board and my thoughts are, on the ground sign; what you have done is you have actually made the sign smaller than what is there today. I would like to see those colors muted a little bit. Maybe if they are not so strong.

Ms. Kaminski – These are too bright?

Mr. Huffman – Yes, I think they are very bright.

Ms. Kaminski – If we put it against a grey background, if that helps anything, it would not be against the white.

Mr. Huffman – Would you object to having a white sign with green and gold or something like that, that would fit more along with the other Historical signs that are across the street, wood signs that don't have a lot of color to them?

Mr. Patel – Okay.

Mr. Huffman – Does that work?

Mr. Patel – We can work with it.

Ms. Kaminski – The blue and red are not set, we could change the color of this.

Mr. Patel – Sure.

Mr. Huffman – Part of this Historical District and it's a small area but I think we are trying to retain some of the older history, the earlier 1900's look as opposed to a modern look. Some of those wood signs have been nicely done across the street and for some of the other buildings.

Mrs. Hawk – Goldie's, the Pomeroy House.

Mr. Huffman – Especially the Historical Village across the street. If it could be kept in line with that it would be our preference.

Ms. Kaminski – If we used green and gold what would be the green and what would be the gold?

Mr. Harper – I was going to say that green and white are Strongsville colors pretty much.

Mr. Huffman – Yes and that is why I am partial to that also.

Ms. Kaminski – Do the red with the green and this could be gold. What is blue on here would be gold and what is red would be green.

Mrs. Hawk – If they could make this bigger. Is it possible to make this symbol bigger? Eliminate the writing underneath.

Ms. Kaminski – Keep the symbol, make it bigger and get rid of that line.

Mr. Patel – The line underneath?

Mrs. Hawk – Is this very important? The parenthesis writing?

Mr. Patel – Yes, to make it separate from others. So people know.

Mr. Huffman – I think it would be okay as long as it doesn't, I am thinking of some of the other signs that we have where there is substantial amount of text on it but it doesn't jump out at you as much if it is toned down, the colors aren't as bright. I am trying to think which one of those Historical Village but there are several lines of text on those but that is okay, I think that reads alright. When you get into the whites, the blacks, the greens, gold's tend to work good for trim but I'm not so sure about the lettering how it will stand out against the white background. You might want to think about that. Maybe it is a use of black.

Mr. Patel – What other choice of color do we have so that we can decide.

Mr. Huffman – I think that the key is not to get into the brighter colors. It is more of the grays, the beiges, the earth tones. I know that you need some sort of an accent whether it is the green, black or gold.

Ms. Kaminski – We would be able to outline the gold in black.

Mrs. Huffman – I think you want to have that royal look to it. Something that feels like it is special as opposed to very plain sign or a very modern retail type sign.

Mrs. Hawk – I like the gold.

Mr. Huffman- Maybe use it for trim. Trim would enhance it quite a bit I think. The one on the building, I agree, I would rather not see the lettering, the logo would be enough. The Congregational Church does not have any big sign on their building or any sign at all.

Mrs. Hawk – St. Joseph’s doesn’t have a sign on the building. It is out in the front. As you come up the street you see that.

Mr. Huffman- I don’t think that you want to bring a whole lot of attention to that sign. You are not trying to attract people based on that sign. That is just a symbol of your religion and I think that is appropriate.

Mrs. Peacock – I have a question in regard to that. Is the plastic lettering the only option in doing that? In other words if you could come up with something that wasn’t so ...

Mr. Stankewicz – It is almost commercial, it looks more like that would be the lettering on a store by the Mall or by a strip center than significant a place or worship.

Mr. Huffman – Apparently the ground sign is made out of a wood or something that looks like wood.

Ms. Kaminski – It is going to be wood, the panel would be a panel.

Mr. Huffman – Actual wood or is it fiberglass, wood grained or MDO board.

Ms. Kaminski – It is MDO.

Mr. Huffman – It needs to look like wood. I don’t want to encourage wood so much because it rots and then you have to replace it and it looks bad after a few years. It needs to look like wood. I realize with today’s technologies you can get products that look like wood. The one on the wall, I don’t know if that one could look a little more like wood as opposed to plastic. Those look very plastic.

Mrs. Hawk – This is orange right?

Ms. Kaminski – Right.

Mr. Huffman – It should be wood, you wouldn’t want a metal, aluminum. It would be better than plastic at least.

Mr. Patel – The color is going to be better because sun light fades out on other things. This holds the color for a long time.

Mr. Huffman – Painted MDO board, would that work up there?

Mrs. Peacock – Is there any way of dulling that finish?

Ms. Kaminski – I was trying to think if there was another finish that wasn't so shiny.

Mr. Barth – Like a matte red.

Mrs. Peacock – These are all the samples?

Ms. Kaminski – Yes.

Mr. Barth – The problem with plastic is it always has a sheen to it. A high gloss finish.

Mrs. Hawk – There isn't any other material that you could use for that?

Ms. Kaminski – The nice thing about this is that it is light weight so putting it up, it is just easier, when you are putting up something of this size.

Mr. Barth – Are you saying that a plastic doesn't fade as much as other material?

Ms. Kaminski – These are lifetime guarantee.

Mrs. Peacock – What about your cut aluminum?

Ms. Kaminski – That could be a possibility too, between that and the wood, just not this plastic material.

Mr. Barth – Is there a way that you could tone that red color down with a matte finish? Is that a possibility?

Ms. Kaminski – I didn't think it was but I can definitely find out. What size as far as the wall sign?

Mr. Stankewicz – The one that is 19.25 SF, that is 105" right?

Ms. Kaminski – Yes.

Mr. Stankewicz – That would be 8' something.

Mr. Huffman – Just under 9 feet.

Mrs. Peacock – What is the dimension of the wall?

Mr. Huffman – I think assuming, we need to consider proportion and I would agree, assuming these are shown properly to scale. That looks very small.

Mrs. Peacock – I would like to know what the dimension is across the front.

Ms. Kaminski – I think I left that back at the office.

Mr. Stankewicz – The difference is that at 63 SF, 131 high versus 105 so its 25" or 2 feet higher which is not that big of a deal if you went that large. It doesn't seem like it would be, it would be larger on the building but I don't think it would be gaudy.

Mr. Huffman – I think large one is too large. The 131" high one, I think that is too big. So I think we are coming to a happy medium might be the 19.25 SF.

Mrs. Kaminski – Where the letters start, I believe that was down 9' from the top.

Mrs. Peacock – Was it, okay.

Mrs. Kaminski – Yes.

Mr. Stankewicz – The other one is 8' out of 30' that is . . .

Mrs. Hawk – Do you ever light your symbols or it flush against a wall? Do you ever for instance on this right here there is gold on this, do you ever highlight your symbol with another color? It is always just those two colors?

Mr. Patel – We can.

Mrs. Hawk – I am talking about the one on the wall.

Mr. Patel – The wall, no.

Mrs. Hawk – That has to be that way, okay.

Mrs. Kaminski – I have seen it on the forehead just like that.

Mr. Barth – You said that there is another Temple in Brunswick?

Mr. Patel – Yes.

Mr. Barth – Where is it at?

Mr. Patel – It is on 303 past I-71. I don't know what street is that. Past I-71 on 303 going, I have never been to that Temple.

Mr. Stankewicz – Is it east or west? Oh, you don't know.

Mr. Patel – I don't know I have never been to that Temple.

Mr. Huffman – Alright so the sunrise and correct me if I am wrong, the one on the wall would want to be just the symbol and approximately the 19.25 SF, is there anyone who disagrees with that? Then the ground sign, we need to put the address on the side and revise the colors using a little more Strongsville Historic look to it. To do that, we would want to see that sign before we give them their Certificate of Appropriateness.

Mr. Stankewicz – Will you be taking that symbol off and leaving this underlying writing here? It would be ISSO this and then the blue underneath it? That was his preference more than the symbol.

Ms. Kaminski – The symbol itself is 12” though, it is still a pretty good size. You want the panel to be that size.

Mr. Stankewicz – I have no problem with the panel refitting in there. It's a little bigger than what is allowed but to me its grandfathered and it was what was there. Not an issue. Just between one of these to go, it seems that it would be a little cleaner. . .

Mr. Patel – With the underneath?

Mr. Stankewicz – Either one of the two and that way it would be a little cleaner, more identifiable sign then like driving by and trying to read all this stuff versus this is what it is.

Mr. Barth – What about the possibility if he does take out what the parentheses and putting the address on there, you can see it from both the north and south.

Mrs. Hawk – Should it read 13354 Pearl Road? Or just the number?

Mr. Patel – Just the number because Pearl Road is existing nobody needs to know Pearl Road.

Mr. Barth – I think most of the places you see just have the numbers.

Mr. Huffman – I think we would rather not have the extra words on it.

Mr. Barth – What is more important, the symbol or what is in parentheses?

Mr. Stankewicz – Would it be in parentheses or would it just be written?

Mr. Patel – I can find out what we can get rid of. You want either one to take it off.

Mrs. Peacock – I think the symbol looks very nice.

Ms. Kaminski – I like the symbol. We can take off the ISSO. Take off the parenthesis.

Mr. Barth – Move everything up.

Mr. Stankewicz – Put the address on the end it will keep the sign really clean.

Mrs. Hawk – Put the address on the brick on the front.

Mr. Stankewicz – It is going to look really classy.

Mrs. Peacock – It is going to look very nice.

Mr. Huffman – When are you moving in or are you already in?

Mr. Patel – No still under renovations.

Mr. Huffman – What is your schedule? When would you actually open?

Mr. Patel – Our opening ceremony starts on April 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Huffman – I think what we would like to do is, assuming everyone agrees, we vote on the wall sign and we would like to have the ground sign come back so that we can see what the final looks like. That way you could get that wall sign on and this one here personally I would like to see what it looks like before. The other issue goes before the ARB. After you go through the Town Center then Architectural Review Board takes

over. I'm on that Board also so at least I can update them as to what we talked about here.

Mr. Barth – Are we looking at using a high gloss color or are we going to try to mute it down.

Ms. Kaminski – I am going to see about getting a more flat, I am going to see if there is another material that we can use that is not so shiny.

Mrs. Peacock – The same is going to be used for the lettering on the sign, were you going to use that?

Ms. Kaminski – The lettering for the sign we were going to use vinyl on the MDO. The vinyl does have a gloss to it but we will be using gold and green, dark forest green.

Mr. Barth – That is adhesive on there? When you say vinyl?

Ms. Kaminski – It will go right onto the wood, right.

Mrs. Hawk – This sign, what colors now?

Ms. Kaminski – White background with green and gold lettering.

Mrs. Hawk – Will you have black to outline the gold?

Ms. Kaminski – I am going to do my best. How late are you here today? Can I go back and do this really quickly and bring it back? I could be back in an hour.

The Commission agreed to let Ms. Kaminski revise her signage and bring it back.

Mr. Harper – I have worked in polymers and plastics for 30 years and I also did construction things and decorating. There is another color, I don't know if you have ever seen the terracotta plastic pots. That can be duller. If you go with a MDO or MDF, it is very heavy; it is not going to be doable. This stuff is very light; it will be very easy to adhere to the building. I don't think that the Historical Society will have any problem with it. You want to make it look classy.

Ms. Kaminski – We can do cut outs and stuff so maybe from a distance up on the wall it may not be bad.

Mrs. Kaminski – I couldn't wait for the printer it is too slow. The colors again don't print right so I brought the green and I brought gold and we made the outline of the symbol in the gold. He did get rid of the text.

Mr. Stankewicz – That looks nice and clean.

Mrs. Hawk – Will that be okay with your congregation?

Mr. Patel – Sure.

Mr. Barth – It is more presentable.

Mr. Huffman – Tell me where the black the gold and the green are.

Ms. Kaminski – The green is the ISSO and the symbol in the middle will be gold but to make it stand out more we would use a black outline.

Mr. Huffman – What is the border here?

Ms. Kaminski – That is just a text box that was made too thick. You won't see that. It will be white all the way to the end.

Mr. Barth – So this will all be white?

Ms. Kaminski – We could dress it up we could put a gold border all the way around, I think that would look real good.

Mr. Huffman – Would you want just a little bit of black with the gold?

Ms. Kaminski – With the border?

Mr. Huffman – The gold and the white, I just worry about how that, those two colors will be . . .

Ms. Kaminski – We could use just a little bit of black to complete it.

Mr. Huffman – As an accent.

Ms. Kaminski – Right, we are going to tie it all in with the symbol.

Mrs. Hawk – Could it be black with a little gold on the . . .

Mr. Stankewicz – On the inside of the black.

Mr. Patel – You could use a black stripe then gold then black stripe like a border.

Mr. Huffman – What I am getting at is, I think that the gold and the white . . .

Mr. Barth – The gold may not show up as well.

Mr. Huffman – Right. The black brings out the gold.

Ms. Kaminski – Instead of the black border well will have gold in addition to the black.

Mr. Huffman – That is what is going to help with the emblem too, like you say with black and gold it makes the gold stand out. What do you think about the numbers green or maybe that should be black against that beige brick.

Mr. Stankewicz – If you look out the window we have green on the brick, I think it is a reasonably light brick. It stands out very well and we have the numbers right on the end there too. It is pretty pronounced.

Mr. Huffman – It is the Fire Department that is mainly looking for that.

Mrs. Hawk – How big will that emblem be? Oh, I am sorry it is right here 12" x 13.7". They stand out more now.

Ms. Kaminski – They do I think because there is not as much there.

Mr. Barth – There is not so much verbage to read.

Mrs. Hawk – I think that all of the things stand out better.

Mr. Huffman - Thank you. Any other questions, or comments? I think it looks a lot better. I appreciate you running back and making those changes.

Ms. Kaminski – I appreciate you letting me do that today.

Mr. Huffman- We want to get your sign up and going too. I would entertain a motion which would include the size for the wall sign, the 19.25 SF and I guess we are okay with as submitted with gold border.

Mr. Barth – Are those two separate issue to vote on?



Mr. Huffman – Item Number Three, Charles Moscarino Salon. Please state your name and address for the record.

Mr. Moscarino – Charles Moscarino, 13309 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136.

Mr. Huffman – I think it is pretty obvious what you are doing but maybe just explain what you are planning to do.

Mr. Moscarino – Pretty much that is the plan right there. I just want to have a sign up over my door on top of my salon and it is a pretty simple sign. Just based on the parameters you guys gave me with the sheet. I think it was 12 SF was all it could be on wood, painted and basically just to have a sign up there.

Mrs. Hawk – Is it wood or is it a composite that looks like wood.

Mr. Moscarino – No, its wood.

Mr. Huffman – It could be a composite.

Mrs. Hawk – It would last longer.

Mr. Huffman – As long as it looks like wood, that is the key.

Mr. Moscarino – Okay that is even better yet. I thought you guys were specific on that it had to be wood.

Mr. Huffman – Well, we have to allow for today's technology. In the old days that is what they had to do. I will go around the table again. Pam.

Mrs. Peacock – No I don't have any comments other than, who is the owner of this strip center?

Mr. Moscarino – Bill DeGraves is the guy's name.

Mrs. Peacock – Is there anything in the future where he could possibly coordinate or maybe face the building to update a little bit like they did for example down by Chau's Garden was. They put a new face on that.

Mr. Huffman – That would be nice but the owner would have to . . .

Mrs. Peacock – The City has no way of asking him?

Mr. Huffman – I guess we could approach him and see what we can do about it.

Mr. Stankewicz – Over at Catan’s Italian Village he did a phenomenal job over there.

Mrs. Peacock – I know, it looks so nice and this area really needs that.

Mr. Barth – Yes, but did he do that on his own or did the City request it?

Mr. Stankewicz – I think he did it on his own but that might be a great point to talk about and just send him a letter and say it would be nice.

Mr. Huffman – It could use some upgrading there is no doubt about it.

Mr. Moscarino – I noticed that a couple of signs there could use some painting. Do they after a while do something?

Mrs. Oprea – It can be a maintenance issue if the Building Department sees that something is falling apart, they can site them. They give them a 30 day period to comply with whatever they want them to do or they can take them to Court.

Mr. Huffman – I believe that in the guidelines of Town Center that there is a paragraph about the maintenance of signs. “Signs should be kept painted and kept looking neat. Signs must be taken down if the tenant moves.” It doesn’t talk about the procedure.

Mr. Stankewicz – Are you going to have any lighting on this?

Mr. Moscarino – I might, I haven’t checked out to see if there is lighting up there for the previous sign that was there.

Mr. Stankewicz – Did we approve lighting for the guy that was before him for the same space?

Mrs. Hawk – It has to be exterior lighting it can’t be interior.

Mr. Moscarino – I think if there is lighting out there, I didn’t check it yet.

Mr. Stankewicz – I just wondered what you were going to do at night, if it was illuminated or not.

Mr. Moscarino – There are the emergency lights there now and the parking lot lights and that lights it up.

Mr. Barth – I looked at some of the lights and there are some lights above them.

Mr. Moscarino – The couple of emergency lights or whatever they are.

Mrs. Peacock – I think it's a nice sign.

Mr. Huffman – Okay, Mike.

Mr. Barth – I went and looked at what is up there now and the other signs, I like the sign and as long as the red coloring is not a real bright red, a matte color.

Mr. Huffman – Okay, Eve.

Mrs. Hawk – I had no problem with the sign I think its clean and it tells them what he has there.

Mr. Huffman – Thank you. Ben.

Mr. Stankewicz – I agree.

Mr. Huffman – I have no issues with it either. I think it looks fine and you have adhered to the guidelines of the Town Center. Any other questions or comments? If not, I would entertain a motion.

Mr. Stankewicz - I move to give favorable consideration for A new 2'-6" x 4'-9" (12 SF) non-illuminated wood box Wall Sign having red copy, white background and black graphics, for property located at 13309 Pearl Road, part of PPN 396-10-001 zoned General Business.

Mrs. Peacock - Second.

Mr. Huffman – Secretary, please call the roll.

Roll Called

All Ayes

APPROVED

Mr. Huffman – Some of the things that I was thinking, we all have Chapter 1212 and the Guidelines for signs. You probably saw our purpose and basically what I am seeing is to summarize, we are here to preserve, protect, enhance and perpetuate improvements to the architecture of the site, the landscaping etc. of just this District. You probably saw the map of the boundaries of this district so we basically have from the south, Town Hall, the Chamber Building, Grand Fiesta Restaurant, to the east, not CVS it is not in

our area, we have the Police Station and the Library to the east and to the north it goes to the Historical Village, this Church is the northern part of it, we have Goldie's.

Mrs. Hawk – The school.

Mr. Huffman – The school is outside of it. To the west we have the Pomeroy House, the white house used for insurance and attorneys and then the church on the corner. The Congregational Church on the corner. I don't believe that the sign across, in front of Huntington, I don't believe that is in our center. The Chamber sign.

Mrs. Oprea – That is not us.

Mr. Huffman – That is our boundaries. What we do here is I guess is issue a Certificate of Appropriateness, almost like a permit and they need to come before us, they get their Certificate from this group and then they go on to ARB and through the regular process that everybody else goes through. This is one extra step. Really what it comes down to, some of the questions, where do we want to go from here with this group? I think in the past we have pretty much, I have been on 2 years or so. We just rule on signs and there has been very little new construction. There are properties that are going to come up, lets say where the Strong House, next to the Strong House, just north of that. There are going to be new buildings coming into play and how do we approach that as far as fitting in with the Historical part of this. How do we make things better for the Town Center, what are we really protecting? I think there are certain buildings there that we definitely want to protect. The Town Hall, the Strong House, Pomeroy, the Church, the Congregational Church. There are certain buildings that you definitely want to preserve.

Mr. Stankewicz – By the other side, that corner facing the front of the Café, that strip center where Charlie is at those two areas are bad.

Mr. Harper – Is there any way possible that you can force them to do something with that Café? It is an eyesore.

Mr. Barth – Is that building owned by the people who own the Café or is that somebody different?

Mr. Stankewicz – Aren't they leasing that from somebody?

Mrs. Hawk – Doesn't Judy Cart own it?

Mr. Stankewicz – Well Mike from Mike and Jan's, he still had I thought, he passed away so I don't know what happened to the family but I thought he would stay, him or him and

his son-in-law or him, there were two or three involved, I am really not sure right now. That would be a place that I would love to be able to send a document or letter saying based on the City is there any way you could look into the future of putting on a new facade based on there. It looks bad.

Mr. Barth – Even next door to the Strongsville Café, they fixed that up.

Mr. Harper – That is a old brick building underneath that. That was a store of our founder.

Mrs. Hawk – He put the brick on there with tar. Is there a way of getting that tar off of those under bricks?

Mr. Huffman – I would imagine that there is.

Mr. Harper – If you contacted somebody like VIP Restorations or something, they do a good job with things like that. Replacing brick and all kinds of things, keeping historic things.

Mr. Huffman – You can see on the north side of that building, you can see the brick and it would be very nice to get that back especially if it matched the Strong House across the street. That would be ideal for that corner.

Mr. Stankewicz – Carol, is there anything in our codes or something we can look at where sometimes business were given some type of incentive or tax credit or something if you invested the money in something, is that anything that Strongsville does?

Mrs. Oprea – Gene Magocky would know about that.

Mr. Barth – Is there grant money for that?

Mr. Stankewicz – There should be grant money available for that.

Mrs. Oprea – You as a Board can not approach business owners, only the Building Commissioner has the right to site people if there is an issue on building maintenance.

Mr. Stankewicz – I will talk to Jennifer who does grant writing and in fact she is going to a really neat seminar very soon on new things that are available, maybe just off the record have her look into the Historical areas, is there any types of grants available that if there are, then we can get all the information on it, maybe then we can approach the owner and see hey, if you want to remodel this and it costs you \$70,000.00 then you

can get this percent and maybe it is something that the City through encouragement through Building or the Mayor waive the Building Permit costs as an incentive to fix your building. I would certainly like to look into with Jen to see if in the Historical areas that there is something that we could get.

Mrs. Peacock – Does someone live upstairs there?

Mr. Stankewicz – Yes.

Mrs. Hawk – Szentpetery used to live there, the people that own the bar.

Mrs. Peacock – Is that right?

Mrs. Hawk – Yes.

Mr. Huffman – That is the one building that I noticed that really enhanced this town.

Mrs. Hawk – It has to be saved.

Mr. Stankewicz – That part, not only that strip center but the gas station on the corner. He is taking out the pumps, my understanding he is going to be just automotive repairs like that other guy down the street that took his pumps out and just did that. Again there maybe somebody looking at that whole piece. It is the same thing there and incentive to have that guy do landscaping or something, that is just a horrible site.

Mrs. Hawk – Isn't it Holland Oil Company?

Mr. Stankewicz – Yes.

Mrs. Hawk – That is a big company. You should see some of the Holland Oil Company buildings are in other towns.

Mr. Stankewicz – Again could we as a group say we are unhappy and lets say we try to look into getting a grant or do something to help the Café and at the same time write this company a letter and say, Pomeroy House, Strong House and whatever, is there any plans or anyway to look at this as a key component to our downtown Historical area. We have the Historical Village here to, while it is there at least, put some islands in, put some trees in, maybe do something because it is horrible and an embarrassment.

Mrs. Hawk – I understand that person owns that corner? The vacant lot next to it which was the Schneider House and then the place where the florist is.

Mrs. Peacock – So they very well might sell that whole piece if they were offered something.

Mr. Huffman – That is a building that would need to come down, that corner one. What ever they sell . . .

Mr. Harper – I can get you old pictures of what it originally looked like. We also have some pictures of the gas station without everything and you can actually see what it looked like then.

Mr. Huffman – I would like to see a lot of photos of the original commons and the area around it. Just so we know what that historical era is that we are trying to preserve.

Mrs. Hawk – That little cottage where the florist shop is, that used to have a great sweeping porch all the way around and of course that was all enclosed but it was this little cottage with this huge porch all the way around.

Mr. Huffman – Which building?

Mrs. Hawk – Where the florist is.

Mr. Stankewicz – Have you been inside the florist place?

Mrs. Hawk – Yes.

Mr. Huffman – That front is not original.

Mrs. Hawk – That was the porch.

Mr. Huffman – Okay, I drive by it and I was thinking . . .

Mrs. Hawk – It is a little brick house inside of all of that.

Mr. Harper – Have you never seen any of our books, our historical books?

Mr. Huffman – Probably not.

Mr. Harper - Would you like me to bring them to you?

Mrs. Peacock – It would be interesting.

Mr. Huffman – I would love to see them.

Mr. Stankewicz – You should get it to me and what I can do is pass it around to each member over a period, one will get it and we will pass it on to the next guy and we can all kind of look at it and if necessary we can copy some pictures out of it. I would appreciate it if you could bring it in.

Mr. Harper – I will do that.

Mr. Huffman – What I am getting at is trying to bring it up for discussion, maybe we should be a little more pro-active on what we want to do with this Town Center instead of being passive and just reviewing things as they come in and saying yes or no. Maybe there is a plan that we want to get to and I am sure that we can identify which buildings need to stay forever and then like Goldie's for example, that was a newer building, we are not trying to match anything to that, that is not really part of the history in my mind.

Mr. Barth – Even the Police Station is not that historical, the Senior Citizens building there, Westwood Tower.

Mr. Huffman – That is not what we are trying to replicate.

Mr. Stankewicz – I think it is a great idea especially with the fact of what could happen with that gas station on down, maybe doing something with the Café and that is something that is going to happen at some point. At some point something is going to happen with that whole strip there. We could be pro-active and set some maybe firmer guidelines that are reasonable but even the type bricking at the Strong House, the Pomeroy, an office building with that kind of bricking would look beautiful.

Mr. Huffman – The materials are important. You get some of the older looking materials whether it is brick or wood, you don't want someone coming in with a bunch of big glass store fronts.

Mrs. Hawk – May I tell you what Walter had in mind for that corner? He on Westwood that corner there where the gas station is, he wanted that gas station to be made into a Strong House would be the focal point and behind that over on the side a little meeting house. In other words a small place for people to meet with gardens and trees and benches and he wanted to brick in that Westwood area right there that goes to City Hall with brick.

Mr. Huffman – Pavers I can see.

Mrs. Hawk – That would be a walk area. He did have that in mind for that corner.

Mr. Harper – I have a 1987 plan for the City for the Square and it has numerous pictures in of all the things, none of those things were done. It has all different businesses down Pearl Road, I can bring that in.

Mrs. Peacock – That would be very interesting.

Mr. Huffman – I think we all need to get more educated on the history of Strongsville which I admit that I am not.

Mr. Harper – We can certainly help you do that. Is there anyone here that has been to our Historic Village? I meet people all the time that have never been there. It is very interesting, we do a lot of things there and Eve is very involved in opening up our doll museum and we had the houses painted this summer and it is coming along with the trains down there. I will bring you a lot of material that you can pass around.

Mr. Stankewicz – Why don't we make that part of our next meeting Tim, we get some information from him, we will all maybe think and look and drive and get some ideas and then at the next meeting at the conclusion or the caucus we can discuss a little more of where we want to go and I think that is a good thing to look to the future and be a little more pro-active.

Mr. Huffman – I think so too.

Mrs. Hawk – The Chamber building as it exists now; there is a space there where there is a lot of cement to that corner. Is there any way of softening that up in that area?

Mr. Stankewicz – You mean the parking lot?

Mrs. Hawk – Yes.

Mr. Stankewicz – Jennifer, when we get the Town Hall done, we were going to try to continue something with a wrought iron fencing across the chamber area and across the Old Town Hall. Something that would be conducive with everything that she is doing by the Clock Tower. We did get an okay from the CVS folks to pretty much, along those wrought iron and kind of anything we want to change, add flowers, seasonal, annual flowers, it is kind of like fine, go ahead and do it. We are going to try and take that whole thing and make it very . . .

Mrs. Hawk – It is not CVS's position to do that, it is the City's?

Mr. Stankewicz – They will and within some reason, they even said if we talked to their landscapers they will put some of their money, they may do but anything that we would like to add, like annuals and stuff in the beds, we want to do it so go ahead and do it. I am hoping that we are going to do some new stuff this year and perk that up. They are going to finally fix their sprinkler system which has not worked since they moved in but they assured us that they were going to fix that which would make a huge difference. They went through; I think he said 3 landscapers last year so they just haven't had a lot of luck. We said call Jen and she can give you some locals if you have an issue. They sort of have to use their corporate guy who does the division and about a dozen local stores in the area. I haven't seen any CVS that is really maintained well there. If we have to go in and throw in some flowers. . .

Mr. Barth – The one on the corner of West 130<sup>th</sup> and Boston, at least their sprinkler system works and there is grass in the summer time. They have no flowers, no trees, nothing.

Mr. Stankewicz – I will tell you, my wife, something will get done, she drives by, she hits me in the shoulder and tells me to do something about it.

Mr. Harper – Are you involved in the Town Hall restoration?

Mr. Stankewicz – To a degree.

Mr. Harper – We have to original copula for the Old Town Hall, we are going to restore it this summer and we are looking for a building, someone to donate space in a building to get it in and restore it, maybe you could help us find someone that would do that.

Mr. Barth – A warehouse to do that, you mean?

Mrs. Hawk – It has to have a door that is tall enough to get that copula in.

Mr. Harper – A semi could get in it, we could get in it. We need a space where we can get it in and restore it. That corner by where that intersection is where you go by the Library and across from the playground there is some pine trees there. We are going to put in a foundation . . . he just built Catan's house, Colabianchi. I have been working with him and he is going to do like a foundation for us and I have been working with Tony Cerny, he is helping us out. If you could help us find a building somewhere. While we restore it.

Mr. Stankewicz – I would throw together a letter saying how much space you need, there are quite a few businesses in here that are vacant and I know one of them they are going to rent to put our Police stuff in temporarily, nothing that has to be real secure while they renovate that building. There are a lot of other ones that might tell you, if you want to store it in there; I think even with the Olympic Candy, they might have some space back there. I would put a note to Gene Magocky and say I am looking for a temporary space for a year or 18 months, a space to put this thing in.

Mrs. Hawk – We wanted to get it completed so that it would kind of go together with the opening of the Town Hall.

Mr. Harper – We are going to do the same colors and everything like the Town Hall.

Mrs. Hawk – The bell is to be put . . .

Mr. Barth – It is in the Council Chambers when you walk in.

Mr. Huffman – You could put it back in the copula.

Mr. Stankewicz – That or another bell so that people could actually see how it looked.

Mr. Huffman – That is pretty big, I saw it there in the village so you would need a pretty good size space to put that in. There are no plans to put it back on top though?

Mr. Harper – No it is too heavy that is why they built a new one.

Mr. Huffman – Kalfas?

Mr. Stankewicz – He just did some of the roof work.

Mr. Harper – The building is 8 x 9 and the roof is 10 x 11.

Mr. Huffman – You need a warehouse to put that in.

Mrs. Peacock – Yes, for sure.

Mr. Harper – It is in really bad shape.

Mr. Huffman - Hearing no further business. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

*Timothy E. Huffman* *ss*

Timothy E. Huffman, Chairman

*Carol M. Oprea* *ss*

Carol M. Oprea, Administrative  
Assistant

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Approved