

Village of Howard City
Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2021

Mr. Falcon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Crater, Parker, Gebhardt, Bassett, Thomas, Wabanimkee arrived 6:02 pm. Absent: MacTavish.

Others Present: Falcon and Kuzmik

The pledge of allegiance was given.

Motion by Thomas seconded by Bassett to approve the agenda as presented. Motion CARRIED (5-0)

Motion by Thomas seconded by Parker to approve the minutes from August 19, 2021. Motion CARRIED (5-0)

Public Comment: None.

Motion by Bassett seconded by Gebhardt to open the Public Hearing for a Special Land Use Variance at 131 E. Edgerton Street, Parcel #59-047-116-015-00 at 6:02 p.m. Motion CARRIED (6-0).

Public Comment: Several business owners attended to ask questions. What are your plans for this organization? What do they plan to do? Is there supervision for the kids while they are at the building? What is the long-term plan for downtown? Will sheriff be around more on patrol? Has anyone spoken with other communities where they are located? Will parking be an issue? If a social district is established, will that conflict with a youth center? This is a faith-based youth center that is going to offer a place for kids to go and to try to teach them life skills. There will be supervision for the kids while they are at the building at all times. Mr. Falcon has spoken with developers who are not yet ready to commit to investing in our downtown at this time. The sheriff department is contracted with the Village. When sheriffs are not available the state Police are available to be dispatched as needed. Mr. Falcon has spoken with Cedar Springs in which another youth center is located and run by the same organization. Cedar Springs is very happy to have them in their community. Parking is available – people may just have to walk to get where they want to go. It doesn't matter who is in the building, parking will always be an issue. The social district, if it is approved, will be limited to events in which the street will be closed and would have to be coordinated with the youth center to make sure no conflicts occur.

Motion by Parker seconded by Thomas to close Public Hearing for a Special Land Use Variance at 131 E. Edgerton Street, Parcel #59-047-116-015-00 at 6:38 p.m. Motion CARRIED (6-0).

Motion by Gebhardt seconded by Parker to approve a temporary, one-year Special Land Use Variance at 131 E. Edgerton Street, Parcel #59-047-116-015-00 with a six (6) month review from City Impact and Planning Commission and with the suggestion of adding a storefront for teaching kids how to run a business. Roll Call Vote: Bassett, nay; Crater, aye; Gebhardt, aye; Parker, aye; Thomas, aye; Wabanimkee, aye. Motion CARRIED (5-1).

Motion by Thomas seconded by Bassett to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m. Motion CARRIED (6-0).