

BZA MINUTES

MAY 16, 2023

Members present: Jason Allen, Jason Hawley, Drew Cleveland, Bill Davis, Jon Peacock

Members absent: Don Calhoun, Jim Hufford

Legal Representation: Jason Welch, absent

Staff present: Debra Johnting, Area Planning Director and Recording Secretary

Others present: Sharon Beshears, Scottie Harvey

Chairman Hawley: It is now 7 o'clock, my name is Jason Hawley, and I am the Chairman of the Board of Zoning Appeals. Today's date is May 16, 2023. I would like to call this meeting to order. If everyone on the board would please state your name for the record so we can have people translate that if it needs to, Jason Allen, Bill Davis, Drew Cleveland, Jon Peacock. Thank you very much. Has everybody had a chance to look at the minutes from our last meeting April 18, 2023?

J Allen: I make a motion to accept minutes as presented.

B. Davis: Second.

Chairman Hawley: All those in favor of accepting the minutes as presented say aye, all those opposed? No one opposed. Motion is approved, minutes are accepted as presented. As part of the rules of the BZA, Board of Zoning Appeals, I'd like to remind petitioners they will have 15 minutes to present their petition. During this time there will be no interruptions or questions. After the presentation, the Board may ask questions. After that anyone wanting to speak for or against will have three minutes each and then the petitioner will have an additional five minutes. On tonight's docket we have BZA2023-19-V for the Town of Lynn, presented by Brad Fisher. Location is 101 South Main Street, Lynn, Indiana, 47355. The request is a variance for an electronic message sign in front of the City Building, zoned C-2. Do we have anyone in attendance tonight that would like to speak in favor of this petition? Would you please come up to the table and state your name and address for the record please?

S. Harvey: Well, I'm not Brad Fisher, I am Scottie Harvey, I am the Randolph County Tourism Director. The Town of Lynn would like to put in an electronic message center sign where the current monument style sign is. It is 7 feet x 3 feet and it will be placed on the base where it is now. It is a fairly small sign but will make a big impact on the community and with sharing events and what's happening around the surrounding area. It will also be connected to the electronic broadcast system so when there is an Amber Alert or a Silver Alert it will switch over immediately. And it will inform of missing children and adults. There is a community interest with birthdays and so on, that's already on there, but now these ladies won't have to go out in the snow and rain to do the changing. It will have the video capability; it will be dimmed at night, and I think that's what the variance is for because of the video capabilities of it, that's my understanding. That's about it.

Chairman Hawley: When we are talking about the video capabilities are we talking about the strobing and real fast messaging or will there be a bit of a delay so people have a chance to read it?

S. Harvey: Will it do what?

Chairman Hawley: Will the message stay fixed so that you can read it for awhile so people have a chance to read it?

S. Harvey: I think it can do anything you can program into it.

Chairman Hawley: I guess my concern is, when you start having messages going by real quick, you start having that strobing effect and so this just might, personally thinking out loud, I do not speak for the Board on this.

B. Davis: Is it going to be disco lights?

S. Harvey: You can dance if you want to.

Chairman Hawley: Yeah, that's just, we've had complaints on signs in other places in the county where it just scrolls by so fast.

S. Harvey: I'm going to, of course we did the sign at the hotel, and I can do the pictures and race cars and so on. I don't because I'm not that smart, but it has the capabilities of doing that. I just kind of stick with lettering. But it will be up to the Town of Lynn. They will be the ones to decide to do whatever. I'm sure Sharon will share that as far as the strobing effect.

Chairman Hawley: This is just me again, I see the sign has an overall height of 4 feet, is that, are we raising it up anymore or are what are we talking?

S. Beshears: Sharon Beshears, Lynn City Building, it's 7 feet x 3 feet.

D. Johnting: 21 square feet is the actual sign, and I think because there is a monument it will lift it up a just a little more.

J. Allen: But it's going to be 25 feet in the air?

D. Johnting: No.

Chairman Hawley: That's what the variance is, that's what they are asking for.

D. Johnting: No, that's what they would be allowed to do, that's not what they are doing.

J. Allen: So, you're only going 4 feet, basically it's going to take the position of where the current one is?

Chairman Hawley: So, where the current sign is, this is pretty much what they are asking for?

J. Allen: Yeah, I know, I didn't know if you were putting that 25 feet in the air.

S. Beshears: Oh no.

J. Allen: So, it's going to be on that monument? It's not going to be like the race track sign?

S. Harvey: No, that would be up in the air.

J. Peacock: So, this will be at the stop light?

S. Harvey: Yes.

J. Peacock: So, people will be stopped and look at the sign changing instead of driving down the road and distracted, is that it?

S. Beshears: You have to stop anyway.

D. Johnting: And it's 20 miles per hour through there? 20 or 30? Okay, it's 20 miles per hour.

J. Allen: But the nice thing about where that sign is at, it's not really facing anybody's direct windows or residents either. Because it's facing, you know, the sign itself is facing north and south on each side and all the residents are on the east and west side so it's not going to shine in somebody's window per say. I mean, the only window it might shine into would be Franky's and they are usually closed in the evenings so it's not going to matter.

S. Beshears: You've got the lights from the filling station anyway.

J. Allen: If anything, it's going to be a safety thing too, because it's going to let people know that the stop sign is coming so they don't blow through. It will be a little more lit up.

Chairman Hawley: And that with Amber Alert and Silver Alert process definitely serves the community interest. Are there any other questions by the board? Is there anyone else here that would like to speak in favor or opposition to the proposition tonight? Okay, I'm not seeing anybody so I recommend that the board have a roll call vote on the petition.

B. Davis: I second or whatever I need to do to move forward.

J. Allen: Second.

D. Johnting: Jason Allen, yes, Jon Peacock, yes, Drew Cleveland, yes, Jason Hawley, yes, Bill Davis, yes, Don Calhoun and Jim Hufford are absent. Motion is approved.

Chairman Hawley: Congratulations, thank you so much. Next on our agenda we have old business. Is there any old business that needs to come before the board? Not seeing any, any new business that the BZA needs to address?

D. Johnting: We do have petitions for next month.

Chairman Hawley: Alright, reports from officers, committee and staff? Seeing none, I motion that we adjourn for the evening.

J. Allen: Second

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Chairman Jason Hawley

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Debra Johnting, Recording Secretary