
1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on November 16, 2022.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Present were Commissioners Hyken, Berke, Sprague, Riles, Myer and Johnson. Commissioner Kasper was absent with previous notice. Also, present were Marcy Knysz, Village Planner and Mallory Milluzzi, Village Attorney.

4. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA - None

5. CITIZEN CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

From the audience, Mr. Steilen, Acting President of Wheeling Historical Society and Museum came forward and provided some history about the Village of Wheeling. In the mid-1900s, the church was struck by lightning several times which caused the bell on the tower to be moved to the ground. Subsequently, in the early 1970s the congregation relocated to the Presbyterian Church located on Highland Avenue. The congregation moved the bell to the sidewalk on the corner of Highland Avenue and their parking lot. Unfortunately, over the years scavengers have removed most parts of the bell except for the actual bell itself. In 2017, he was appointed President of the Society, and his personal goal was to bring back the bell. In 2022, the church donated the remnant of the bell to the historical museum. They have established three primary goals: 1) to find a good location for the bell, 2) to raise funds to repair it and 3) to increase the image of the museum, society and the Village. He believes getting the Village, Park District, Library, Cultural Centers, Veterans and other organizations involved in their quest may help them fulfill their long-term visions of using the bell as a seed to promote community interest and involvement. The fragments need to be restored to their original displayable condition. Cooperation from local businesses and school children could help with the design. In 1970, the Village did not have a flag when other Villages in the area had one, so the Village created a contest to create the new flag. A high school student won the contest for his flag, and it is currently flying today. He would like to get students involved to help design a structure for the bell. Mr. Steilen felt there were many locations for the bell to be located. The bell cannot go back into the church steeple because of its age and the possibility of being struck by lightning again. The church's property would not be a viable location since it is located 25' from residential so neighborhood kids would be ringing the bell. He felt a more visible location to the community would be better. He mentioned the Village Campus, the Park District or Town Center were all good visual areas. The library and adjacent Horizon Park would also be good.

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Mr. Steilen referred to the bell as Wheeling's liberty bell since it was the first church bell in the Village and should be visible and a remembrance of its heritage. He believes the bell was a seed for creating a new community gathering space where community wide events could be held. He mentioned the fireworks on the far south side of town, the veterans' parades on the west side, lighting of the lights on the far east and Fourth of July parades on Dundee Road. He felt Saint Joseph, the Village campus, the Park District campus, the Town Center and the train station was an area with good lighting, parking and safety that could house the bell. He also suggested including memorial flags, tree plantings, the Village's time capsules and other community wide events in the same area.

Mr. Steilen understands it will take one step at a time, starting with the relocation of the bell. He asked for help in gathering support for the design and build including constructive criticism.

6. CONSENT ITEMS - None

7. ITEMS FOR REVIEW

- A)** Docket No. 2022-42
Apollo Commercial Maintenance
966 Seton Court

See Findings of Fact and Recommendation for Docket No. 2022-42.

Commissioner Myer moved, seconded by Commissioner Berke to recommend approval of Docket No. 2022-42, granting Special Use, as required under Title 19, Zoning, of the Wheeling Municipal Code, Chapter 19-10 Use Regulations, and associated sections, in order to permit a Business Maintenance Service for Apollo Commercial Maintenance, located at 966 Seton Court, in accordance with the Petitioner's Project Description Letter (dated 8/23/2022), Petitioner's response to staff comments (dated 9/26/2022), Plat of Survey with Parking Spaces Exhibit (received by the Village 10/11/2022) and Floor Plan (received by the Village 8/23/2022).

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Myer, Berke, Hyken, Sprague, Riles, Johnson
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Kasper

There being six affirmative votes, the motion was approved.

Commissioner Myer moved, seconded by Commissioner Hyken to close Docket No. 2022-42.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Myer, Hyken, Berke, Sprague, Riles, Johnson

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NAYS: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Kasper

There being six affirmative votes, the motion was approved.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Sprague moved, seconded by Commissioner Berke to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings of October 26, 2022 (including the Finding of Fact for 2022-37 and 2022-38) and November 2, 2022.

On the roll call, the vote was as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Sprague, Berke, Hyken, Riles, Myer, Johnson
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Kasper

There being six affirmative votes, the motion was approved.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting is on December 7th.

The lighting of the holiday lights is on November 20th.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sprague moved, seconded by Commissioner Myer to adjourn the meeting at 6:55p.m. The motion was approved by a voice vote.