

Grand Rapids Plan Commission

Minutes 2/13, 2012 6:30 P.M.

Meeting: Grand Rapids Municipal Building, 2410 48th Street South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Present: Chairman Arne Nystrom; members: Rodney Dorski, David Alft, Jason Grueneberg, Justin Conner, Jim Scott, and secretary: Larry Gilles

1. Dorski moved, Alft second, unanimously dispensed with reading and approved January 9, 2012 minutes as presented.
2. **Kim Kizewski, 1921 46th St. S., Dog exemption for three dogs.**

Discussion: Kim was present to answer any questions. She was asked if the dogs were mainly kept inside or outside. She stated that they are mainly inside dogs. 1 neighbor was present and stated that he had no issues with her dogs.

Motion by Grueneberg moved to approve the exemption as presented. Seconded by Dorski.
Unanimously approved.

3. **Catherine Hughes, Off Yer Rocker, Home Décor store, 1011 Whitrock Ave., Conditional-use permit for an off-premise sign located at the NE corner of 8th St. and Whitrock Ave.**

Discussion: Catherine was present to answer any questions. She made a brief presentation in regards to the proposed sign. The sign would be replacing a previously approved sign (Gracie's Gallery) that is attached to the Mid State Upholstery sign. She submitted a letter to the commission from the owner of the property where the sign is proposed giving her permission to erect the new sign. She stated that she had not committed to a company on the exact sign but the dimensions would remain the same (roughly 32 sq. ft.) She was asked about the sign as to whether it would be attached to the existing sign or free-standing, and she stated it would be attached, but with an additional support on the opposite end of the proposed sign. The vision triangle was discussed. Catherine stated that the sign would not be lighted when asked. State approval from the D.O.T was discussed and the Commission advised her to check with them as to the need for a sign permit from the D.O.T also.

Dorski moved to recommend to the Town Board that the sign be approved as presented. Seconded by Conner.
Unanimously approved.

4. **Paul Wilbur, 3522 28th St. S., Conditional-Use permit for a home occupation for selling firearms and related items and to include a pick up location for special and internet firearms sales.**

Discussion: Paul was present to answer any questions. Paul told the Commission about his intentions which include retrofitting the garage. He intends to start out being a pick-up point for guns sold on-line with a few items on-site for sale. He told the commission about the plans for the existing garage in order to make it more secure. He was asked if he had the FFL license now and he stated that he needs zoning approval in order to have a physical location for the license before applying. He was asked more about what would be on-site for sale. He stated some ammunition, handguns, long-guns, and other relat-

ed small items would be available. He was asked more about the structural integrity of the garage as far as anyone possibly breaking into it and he explained what he intended to do. Standard construction methods would be used with deadbolts and keypad for the doors. He was asked about a safe in the building and Paul stated that he would be purchasing a safe/s in order to lock up all guns at night. He was asked about insurance and Paul stated that he had looked into insurance specifically for this type of operation as recommended by the NRA. He was asked about neighbors opinions and stated that he had not spoken to many of the neighbors since they are not out in the yards much during the winter. The neighbors had not been notified by the Town for this meeting but will be for the public hearing at the Town Board level. Paul was asked about others in the area with an FFL license and he listed several that he had found on a map of this area. He stated that about 8 yrs. ago, The BATF required that applicants for the FFL license prove that the location is zoned properly for the sale of firearms and this was done in his opinion to limit the license's to person's actually interested in selling guns and not just adding to personal collections at a reduced cost.

He was asked how the business would be advertised and he stated that he would be doing newspaper advertising, website, radio, and stated later in the discussion that he may possibly want a small portable sign on the property during hours of operation only. One of the audience members spoke against having this type of home occupation in a residential area in general. Dorski stated that he felt that this would not be as bad as being located in a subdivision where only houses were present since he is across from the Town garage. Paul stated that he felt the guns would be more secure in his garage than most gun owners secure their guns in their homes. Police patrol was discussed and the chairman stated that only normal patrolling would occur unless a complaint was received.

Dorski moved to recommend to the Town Board that approval be given to Mr. Wilbur for a Conditional-use permit for this home occupation. Seconded by Alft
Nystrom and Grueneberg voted no. Dorski, Alft, Connor, Scott voted to approve

5. Other Public Input.

Discussion: A Member of the audience asked about CUP's and if they were followed up on to verify any stipulations that may be made with the approval were being complied with. The Chairman stated that they would only be looked into if complaints were made. Some discussion of a previously applied for CUP was discussed. The wood-smoke survey being done was briefly discussed with the chairman stating that outdoor air quality in Grand Rapids has been determined to be good.

Motion by Dorski, second by Alft -meeting adjourned 7:18. Tentative meeting scheduled February 27, 2012.

Minutes by Plan Commission Secretary

Larry Gilles

C:\Documents and Settings\building\Desktop\Plan Com minutes\2012 Minutes