



This is a view of Oakland Street looking east. Walter Sundquist's property is on the right.

Historic district residents lose battle over addition

Continued from Page 1

Earlier in the evening, planning commissioners voted unanimously to approve a site plan for the addition, pending the zoning board's granting the variance. Both the BZA and planning commission had tabled the matter at earlier meetings.

"WE'RE OBVIOUSLY disappointed they took such a broad view of the ordinance," said OVA president Frank Reid, who lives within 300 feet of the building. "The ordinance says that one must show a hardship — in this case, there's no clear hardship."

"We've got a vanishing, irreplaceable resource, which is the city's historic district," he added. "There are too many areas... where the neighborhood is vulnerable. I'm no adversary of commercial endeavors, but we have to take a firm stance that continued expansion is not in the best interest of the city at large."

This is not the first conflict that has developed between residents of the historic district — which abuts commercial businesses on Grand River — and their commercial neighbor. Heene-Sundquist owner Walter Sundquist received the city's

permission to tear down a house on Oakland Street in summer 1987 to expand his parking area, to the dismay of neighbors who said they were concerned with "creeping concrete" and commercial encroachment on their area.

In that instance, the city council overruled the planning commission by voting to rezone the property and allow the project.

Ironically, Sundquist has long been known for his beautification efforts in the city.

"I CAN understand the concerns if I lived in that area, what's happening with the historic district, but I don't think there's to be any more additions to the building," BZA member Lee Ratliff told residents before casting his vote. "What they're proposing will look much better than what they have."

Reid said that should be a consideration, and that Sundquist and his Farmington Hills architect, Leon Kohls, had not adequately proved a hardship necessary for a zoning variance.

Sundquist is planning an addition for the back of his building that will include a lobby/entrance area, additional administrative office areas,

and will clean up the building's existing appearance.

Although the current ordinance requires a 25-foot setback from the street, the existing building predates the ordinance and is already less than the setback requirement. Any addition to the building on a street side would require a variance.

KOHLIS SAID the addition was planned carefully to avoid using any current parking areas. Business owners on the north side of Grand River have long said parking is a problem in that area. "We feel it will improve the value of this property, of course, but also of the neighborhood," Kohls said of the addition.

Planning commissioner William Burke called the situation a "relatively delicate" issue. "When you have commercial near residential, it's an enigma for developers dealing with an established community. It always has been."

Earlier in the day Wednesday, Downtown Development Authority members voted to approve a motion that said the Sundquist project would not detrimentally affect redevelopment efforts in the downtown area. Kohls had asked the DDA board for an endorsement on the project.

Don't take sides, DDA told

City Manager Robert Deadman cautioned the Downtown Development Authority to take care in dealing with the neighboring residential district, designated as a historic area of the city.

Deadman's comments came as the DDA board considered endorsement of a zoning variance for a building addition for local businessman Walter Sundquist — whose funeral home is in the downtown DDA district.

Some homeowners in the nearby Old Village historic district oppose the addition; the Old Village Association

took an official stance opposing it.

"This is the second time around for the same proponents," Deadman said, referring to residential opposition to a parking lot expansion at the funeral home in 1987.

"I cautioned you last time and I continue to caution you about... going to war with the residential area. The last thing this DDA wants to do is something contrary to the historic district of this community."

Deadman recommended the DDA stay neutral. "Our charge is to help

the downtown," he added.

Although members agreed other city boards did not need their approval, the DDA board did vote, saying that the building expansion was not detrimental to the downtown renovation efforts.

on the agenda

Below are highlights from agendas of government meetings this week. All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are open to the public.

Farmington Hills City Council
Council chambers
31555 11 Mile
7:30 p.m. Monday, July 10

The council will consider amending the 1988-89 47th District Court budget and approving the recommended award of property disposition for the historic Mark Arnold house, 26490 Drake.

The council will receive a report on administrative progress of the flooding problem and a report on the continuation of the senior adult handicapped transportation program. An appointment will be made to fill a vacancy on the beautification commission.

The council also will consider councilman Aldo Vagnozzi's proposal to initiate a consortium of local communities to consider area-related growth problems. The council also will consider Vagnozzi's proposal to recognize various homeowner associations.

The consent agenda includes:
• Introducing an ordinance amendment to add certain historic facilities to be added to the city's historic district.
• Considering a Villac-Leman proposal to update the city's land use map and to perform a vacant land capacity analysis.
• Adopting a resolution authorizing

ing the Orchards Corporate Center Sanitary Sewer Payback District for Anthony S. Brown Development Co., Rockshire and Bramwell.

Farmington Board of Education
Schulman Administrative Center
32500 Silaswee
Monday, July 10
6 p.m. — special meeting
7 p.m. — special meeting
7:30 p.m. — regular meeting

During the 6 p.m. special meeting, the board will consider going into executive session for a negotiations update.

The 7 p.m. special meeting has been called to meet two new proposed middle school principals, expected to be appointed at the regular meeting.

The regular meeting agenda includes:

• Oath of office for recently elected trustees Helen Ditzbar and Jack Cotton.
• Electing board officers and scheduling of meeting dates for the coming year.
• Selecting a name for the new westside elementary school.
• Appointing two middle school principals.
• Contract discussion for district legal and auditing representation.
• Acting superintendent Michael Flanagan discussion with the board about goals for the 1989-90 school year.
• Bid openings for roofs at Farmington and North Farmington high schools.

• Membership in the Michigan Athletic Association.

• Adoption of textbook and curriculum outline in the areas of health, English, math and social studies.
• Recommendation for an IBM System 400.
• Sale of a district-owned vehicle.

Farmington Planning Commission
Farmington City Hall
Council chambers
23600 Liberty

The regular meeting scheduled for Monday, July 10 has been canceled. The next meeting of the planning commission is scheduled for Aug. 14.

Farmington Community Library
Auditorium, Farmington Hills branch
32737 12 Mile

5 p.m. Thursday, July 13
Trustees are expected to pass a resolution calling for a special election in conjunction with the Farmington and Farmington Hills city council elections Nov. 7 for operating millage and bonding propositions for a new library.
The Farmington Historical Society will request adequate space in the proposed new library to house the Michigan History Collection, now at the Farmington branch.

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Historic signatures displayed

Original signatures of both Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of the United States, and William Seward of New York, Lincoln's secretary of state, are on display during July in the hallway of the Farmington Hills City Hall.

The signatures are on a presidential appointment for a federal judge, Colver Chambers of New York, for the Northern District of the Territory of Florida, dated the Third Day of March 1863 "and of the Independence of the United States of America, the 87th Year."

Along with the appointment (which is framed) is a copy of the New York Herald of Saturday, April 15, 1865 — an "extra" detailing the assassination of President Lincoln as well as the attempt on the life of Seward. Both documents are on loan from Robert Brown of Farmington Green.

The exhibit will be on display at the Farmington Historical Museum later in the year and the 12 Mile branch of the Farmington Community Library.

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RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS & THE NECK
Are you aware that rheumatoid arthritis can cause neck pain?
The first source is from the shoulder. When shoulder inflammation occurs in rheumatoid arthritis, the scapula (wingbone) which anchors shoulder muscles, takes over the shoulder joint's work. A main scapular muscle is the trapezius, which connects the scapula to the neck. Because the trapezius is strained in such instances, you feel its stress as "neck pain."
Therapy consists of reducing inflammation in the shoulder. Heat, massage or injection in the region of the trapezius will not help. Until the shoulder is treated, the neck will ache.
The second source of neck pain is from the first two cervical vertebrae. Rheumatoid inflammation here leads to compression of the spinal cord. You will feel neck pain as the cervical muscles attempt to position the vertebrae so they will not press against the cord. Treatment to stabilize the cervical vertebrae is necessary and is done with a brace or operation.
The third source of neck pain is tension. Heat and a small, firm pillow are the therapies of choice.
Thus the cause of neck pain in rheumatoid arthritis requires a diligent search as each cause has a different treatment.

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