

Birmingham rezoning request denied

By MARCIA ABRAMSON

BIRMINGHAM—The audience got what it wanted Monday as the city commission unanimously rejected a bid for commercial rezoning at 434 W. Maple.

More than 50 residents attended the commission meeting to register their opposition and hear the debate. A total of 100 citizens signed petitions objecting to the proposal.

The request came from two women

who proposed converting the five-family apartment house into a high-fashion dress shop. The women operate Hattie's European shop in Franklin, according to their attorney, Michael McEvoy.

McEvoy argued that the change would result in aesthetic improvement to the building and would bring a desirable business into the city. The women's husbands own the property, he said, and have the right to use it as best they can.

BOTH THE PLANNING board and department opposed the rezoning as detrimental to the central business district and to the already bad traffic situation at Maple and Chester.

Commercial development at 434 W. Maple also could inhibit the development of the adjacent historical park and residential neighborhood, said Planning Director William Brown.

The planning board is working diligently on an ordinance that would allow preservation of the area as an historic district, Brownfield said. The existing historical park, containing the Hunter and Clute-Alten houses, is located to the west of 434 W. Maple.

McEvoy said he did not believe the rezoning would lead to encroachment by the commercial area because the

property is bounded by a church on one side and the historic district on the other.

THE OWNERS would be amenable to an agreement to bar future conversion to other commercial uses should the dress shop close, McEvoy added.

Although he maintained that the house was built about 1940 and therefore was not historical, McEvoy was quickly corrected by members of the audience who said they knew the house was older.

In denying the rezoning request, commissioners suggested the women look for other suitable property. "We already have houses that have been rezoned commercial in other areas of the city," said Commissioner Patricia Watt.

Commissioner Samuel Staples suggested the owners consider improvement of the property as an apartment house. "Your drawings show us what could be done with the building. It could become attractive and enhance the neighborhood as a five-family apartment house," he said.

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YMCA initiates youth support drive

The annual Birmingham YMCA Youth Support Campaign was kicked off Wednesday night. The goal of the drive is the same as last year—\$27,500.

During the next four weeks, 75 volunteers will be calling on businesses asking them to participate in the campaign.

Approximately 50 per cent of the Y's \$400,000 annual budget is raised through membership fees. Fees charged for various programs and summer camp are the YMCA's only other source of income.

"We are limited in our means of raising money," said Larry DuBois, a member of the board of management.

This year the Birmingham YMCA no longer will receive support from the United Fund.

THE VOLUNTEER fund raisers will only call on businesses which indicate a willingness to contribute.

"We have lists of people who have participated in the past and we will contact them," DuBois said. "We will expect other businesses or individuals

to call the YMCA, if they wish to contribute."

The YMCA has been in Birmingham for 40 years. Its membership is open to persons of all creeds and races. More than 40 per cent of the Birmingham YMCA members are women and girls.

A variety of activities is sponsored by the YMCA including sports leagues, an after-school drop-in center, summer camp scholarships, gym classes and handicapped swimming.

Family membership costs are \$20—basic, \$25—full privilege, and \$25—health club. The Birmingham YMCA is at 400 E. Lincoln St.

Russ Fisher is chairman of the Youth Support Campaign and Vince Bonacci is co-chairman.

Farmers warned

OAKLAND COUNTY—Farmers, utilizing old cement silos or poured concrete silos, should be aware of possible feed contamination by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) from wall coatings.

"This is not a new nor particularly serious threat to Michigan dairymen. But in light of concern with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), contamination of dairy cattle in 1974, the Michigan Department of Agriculture is showing renewed interest in the potential problem," says Dr. Larry Prentiss, Michigan State University dairy science specialist.

PCB was found to be an animal and human contaminant in 1966. But only recently has it been discovered in Michigan dairy herds via contaminated silage.

PCB is a sister compound to PBB and is extremely stable in the environment. They were used in a wide variety of industrial products that ranged from plasticizers to flame-proofing, including silo wall coatings.

THE COATING WAS used extensively by the Michigan Silo Co., which has been out of business several years. To protect silos from silage acid deterioration, they used a coating called Cumar, and this coating contained Aroclor 1254, manufactured by the Monsanto Co. up to 1972. Aroclor 1254 contains 54 per cent chlorine.

When Cumar was applied to the silo wall, solvents in the coating material penetrated the concrete, carrying PCB into the silo wall. Transfer of PCB to silage occurs when chips of the silo wall fall into the feed. Also during the ensiling process, certain organic acids are produced (acetic and lactic acid) which may dissolve some of the PCB.

Continual use of the silo will result in all the coating coming off into the silage, leaving no visible coating on the walls. However, the concrete will still contain dissolved PCB.

PCB residue accumulates in animal body fat and is excreted primarily by way of the milk fat. Approximately 20 per cent of the daily intake of PCB is excreted in the milk when cows are on a continuous PCB diet.

Once cattle are removed from PCB contaminated feed, about 50 per cent of the residue concentration in the body fat is decreased the first 15 days. Thereafter, the residue concentration appears to decrease about one per cent per day.

If a cow is found to have a tolerance of five parts per million (ppm), it would take approximately 15 days before the animal could be put back on the market. Cattle can return to the market when PCB tolerance in milk fat has dropped to two and one-half ppm.

Though there is no known treatment for PCB in cattle, there seems to be no adverse effect to animal health.

SOME CONTAMINATED silos can be successfully treated with modern coatings to prevent PCB contamination of silage. But they must be thoroughly cleaned by sand blasting or scraping. Decontamination costs usually range from \$6 to \$18 per cent of the silo replacement cost.

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