

Renovations back on

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City planner Ed Gardner issued a building permit to Boys Republic in December after meeting with facility officials to review renovation plans. The assessment program, which neighbors contend is an expanded use of the land and thus requires city approval, wasn't discussed at the meeting, Gardner said.

"Council members argued the building permit wasn't valid because Boys Republic didn't make full disclosure of the assessment program. City officials couldn't establish a change in land use during the December meeting."

"THIS CITY has got to control its zoning," Fox said. "A prison like that is not allowed in a residential area."

Fox said she'll suggest the issue be put on the Sept. 11 city council agenda and that the land use question be presented to the zoning board for review, Fox said.

"The city may have waited too long to be allowed to bring the issue in

front of the board of zoning appeals, Chardavoyne said. City attorney Paul Bibeau could not be reached for comment.

"It is our hope that we can resolve this through negotiations," Chardavoyne said.

"They keep saying there is no change in the use, but the fact that the state is willing to pay more to house these boys shows that there is a change," Fox said.

IN MAY, Boys Republic, a private non-profit social service agency, secured a \$1 million mortgage for immediate physical renovations and entered into a one-year contract with the DSS to set up the assessment program.

In exchange for improving security, the state, strapped for beds for delinquents, will continue to send more boys to Boys Republic. As part of the agreement, the facility will receive more than double the amount of daily paycheck.

Boys Republic receives \$179 per day (nearly \$84,000 annually) per

boy in the assessment program and \$167.71 per day (nearly \$55,000 annually) per boy in the treatment program. Figures include all operating costs, including payroll, food and utilities.

AFTER TOURING the facility Saturday, councilmen Aldo Vagnozzi and Paul Sowerby agreed there was a change in land use.

During that visit, Sowerby asked Boys Republic board members if it would be possible to return to the long-term treatment program in all three units.

"We have committed ourselves to develop a contractual and financial basis, that the damage would be so high at this institution. I don't think we can back out at this point," said James Granahan, board president.

Boys Republic has not withdrawn a lawsuit against Farmington Hills for \$3,700 per day for damages incurred by the two-week renovation work halt, said Karen Piper, Boys Republic attorney.

Police detail contact with campus

In an Aug. 16 report submitted by Lt. Gordon Ross, Farmington Hills police liaison to Boys Republic, the following incident information was related:

In 1988, Boys Republic housed 79 delinquent boys at an average age of 15. While in the long-term treatment program, boys were involved in one felonious assault, one act of vandalism,

four runaways with one boy returned, 68 truancies and one boy engaged in a suspicious circumstance.

Through the first seven months of 1989, Boys Republic housed 22 delinquent boys at an average age of 15 in the treatment program. There were reports of one larceny, one auto theft, two assault and batteries, one

act of vandalism, one missing boy, 12 truancies, one boy cited with mental illness and two boys engaged in a suspicious circumstance.

The report is accurate, but Police Chief William Dwyer said the incidents did not necessarily occur off the campus — on Nine Mile, west of Inkster.

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School district to study attendance boundaries

Parents interested in serving on the Farmington Public Schools study committee to establish attendance boundaries for the new west-side elementary school should notify their elementary building principal.

Hiilside Elementary School, on 11 Mile, east of Halsted, is scheduled to open in fall 1990.

The principal and parent group of each elementary school/early childhood center in the school district will select a representative to the committee.

The committee also will include three elementary principals, one teacher selected by the teachers union, and Pam O'Malley, school/

community relations director.

Interested parents or citizens not named to the committee may pick up printed committee information at O'Malley's office, in the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center, 3250 Shallowassee, Farmington, beginning Sept. 14.

ALL COMMITTEE meetings will be open to the public.

An organizational meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14, in the board room of the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center.

The other committee meetings will be scheduled by committee members and will be publicized on the district hot line: 469-3337.

PUBLIC HEARINGS are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Sept. 21 and Nov. 16 in the Power Middle School Cafeteria, 34740 Rhinowood, Farmington Hills.

The first hearing will be held before the start of committee work. The second hearing will provide a chance for reaction to a tentative plan before the committee makes a recommendation to the school board.

The committee will present its tentative recommendation to the school board in early December.

The board then will host a public hearing on Dec. 19. It will take final action in January.

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