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Master plan has hearing on Monday

FARMINGTON—The planning commission is expected to act Monday on proposed revisions in the master plan.

At stake is the future of a strip of homes on the south side of Oakland Street.

The master plan calls for the residentially zoned area to be zoned CBD and used as a parking lot. Businessmen would like to see the extra parking.

Residents wouldn't.

WHILE THE land uses suggested in the master plan do not represent actual zonings, they are suggestions for future use as the city expects to see areas develop.

Reacting to outcry from a large number of residents, the planning commission directed planner Jacob Draker to re-evaluate the need of the Oakland Street property in the total development of the Central Business District (CBD).

The property was to be reviewed on: present use, condition, and historic value.

A petition circulated in September and signed by more than 400 residents had been presented to the planning commission in an effort to halt the master plan change.

THE PETITIONERS asked that the planners change the CBD designation back to single-family residential for property along the south side of Oakland from Farmington Road to Warner Street and along the west side of Warner from Oakland to Thomas.

Petitioners said this would confine the northeast quadrant of the CBD to property now used for buildings and parking on the north side of Grand River.

At the heart of the objections is the concern that the parking lot designation would erode the historic area of the city.

The Warner-Oakland area forms the northern boundary of the "old village."

At a public hearing held Sept. 9, the city's planning consultant, Draker Associates, said developing a commercial area along the north side of Grand River would be difficult without enlarging the CBD to provide parking behind the business frontage.

RESIDENTS at that hearing asked the commission to retain the single-family residential zoning.

However, this was not the case with a group of property owners along Grand River.

These persons asked that the present master plan of designation calling for office zoning be retained.

The area proposed for change includes the north side of Grand River from Cass to Gill and the south side of Grand River from Oakland to Gill.

Other proposed master plan changes include:

- Designating the southwest corner of Orchard Lake Road and Shiawassee, now used for medical offices as office instead of commercial.

- Designating the sewer processing station for semi-public use instead of residential.

- Designating commercial use for the southeast corner of Whittaker and Grand River eastward to the Brendan Bar property, now office.

- Designating as commercial use for the northeast corner of Grand River and Fowler Road including the Shell gas station and the Quik-Pik store property to a depth of 150 feet north of Grand River, now office.

- Designating several parcels just west of the National Bank of Detroit property on the northwest corner of Grand River and Lakeway as either multiple family or office instead of commercial.

- Designating the Grand River frontage between Cass and Shiawassee as single-family residential instead of office.



Students clean Rouge River

Nearly 75 ecology-wise students from Farmington Junior High school gathered Wednesday afternoon to clean a portion of the Rouge River that runs near the school.

The students, under the sponsorship of the Student Council, met after school to clean up the litter surrounding the river, then went into the school for refreshments and a volleyball game.

Student Council officers Roberta Shriver, Sue Wayne, Kerri Aldrich and Sherry Accettura were responsible for organizing the clean-up project.

The school is hoping to sponsor one more clean up day this fall. (Photographed by Craig Newman)



Board to consider request

Group wants to use Bond school

FARMINGTON—A private school, the Farmington Hills Christian School, has approached administrators in the Farmington School District about leasing Bond Elementary School.

School Business Manager William Prisk is expected to ask the school board for direction on the matter at the Tuesday evening school board meeting.

The board meets at 8 p.m. at the school administration building.

PRISK SAID, "The school district has not indicated that it wishes to sell or lease Bond. The school district has not made any inquiries or approached anybody about the matter."

"We were approached by the people from the Farmington Hills Christian School who were asking what our in-

terventions for the future use of the school were. They have seen the school and think they could possibly use it."

The board has not made any decision on the future use of the school yet, except that it will be used as a storage facility for the district.

"These people have only inquired about our intentions," Prisk said. "It is very likely that we will have more inquiries. I am asking the board for direction so I can give the people from Farmington Hills Christian an answer as soon as possible."

BOND Elementary was closed to regular classroom use by the school board in August, following the defeat of the millage in July. Children attending Bond have been

transferred to three other schools. Parents of Bond Elementary School students have been campaigning to get the school reopened.

The Committee to Re-Open Bond Elementary was conducting an initiative petition drive calling for another millage election.

THEY HAVE hoped that if the millage were passed, the school board would reopen Bond this year. However, the board recently decided to use Bond as a storage center for materials and to move the operations department from the old Noble school to Bond.

The board Tuesday evening will also consider adopting the operating budget for the 1974-75 school year.

The budget must be adopted and copies delivered to the state department of education by Oct. 31.

THE BUSINESS manager is expected to inform the board of changes which can be made because of altered enrollment counts, and a review of the reimbursements for special education.

The school district has also received \$299 as a result of the termination of the Farmington Youth Employment Service.

Funds from the program have been divided among the three units of government which contributed to it: the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills and the school board.

Clarenceville budget approved

By ANITA CRONE

The Clarenceville Board of Education Thursday night approved the district's more than \$4 million operating budget for the 1974-75 academic year.

Personnel salaries make up the bulk of the budget expenditures, accounting for slightly more than half the entire operating budget.

IN OTHER action, the board let stand a resolution, adopted Sept. 12, which in effect cancels the services of Business Communications, Inc.

The firm had installed security systems in the district's schools and administration buildings, as well as the garage and warehouse.

The resolution states that because the system has never worked satisfactorily the board would pay the service fee, but not pay for the installation of equipment.

The board also stated that it would make no more payments on the installation of equipment, and further, gave

the firm 60 days to remove all equipment with the exception of the wiring. Larry Wasserman vice president of Business Communications Inc. defended his firm.

"I am willing to gamble that the equipment is now operating properly," Wasserman said.

Although the board did not rescind its earlier resolution, several board members joined with district superintendent, Dave McDowell in postponing the equipment removal until the end of the 60 day period.

THE BOARD also listened to a report from band director John Nettek on the Clarenceville unit's proposed trip to Mexico City.

To raise funds for the trip, planned for May 13-19, band parent Tony Bango volunteered to tear down the old athletic field house if the board would give the contract to the band parents.

The board approved plans to tear down the field house, and stipulated that cost would not exceed \$1,800.

However, the board did leave it to the district administration to award a contract, and McDowell indicated the contract would go to the band parents if insurance details could be worked out.

"The board and district must be covered so that we have no liability exposure in this matter," McDowell said.

Bango will meet with Clarenceville Business Manager Edward Salise to discuss insurance on the project in the near future.

New system gives prompt ad service

The Observer & Eccentric has installed a new automatic call distributor (ACD) designed to give prompt and efficient classified advertising service.

ACD will automatically route customer calls to one of 19 advisors who handle classified ads for the 11 Observ-

er & Eccentric newspapers. The classified numbers—532-0900 in Wayne County and 644-1070 in Oakland County—will remain the same.

If the 19 ad takers are busy at the same time, ACD will hold customer calls and release them in the order re-

ceived to the first available advisor. The unit can handle up to 28 simultaneous calls.

It is hoped that the new system will help eliminate the "busy signal which some callers have heard in recent weeks.

Gasoline prices are fluctuating

By JUDY OWEN

Not too many months ago, cars waited in line at gas stations for 15 to 30 minutes.

The energy crisis, which had an impact on nearly everyone's life, forced prices up and up until it was not uncommon to pay 65 cents for a gallon of regular gasoline.

Now, many of the restrictions urged during last winter's fuel shortage are a thing of the past.

RETAIL STORE display lights burn all night long, air conditioners whir to cool air to a comfortable 68 degrees and drivers inch the speedometer back up to at least 70 mph from the 55 mph limit which is still in effect nationally.

Gasoline prices are now beginning to drop.

LOWERED PRICES seem to be the trend at many Farmington area service stations.

At Botsford Standard Service, 2701 Grand River, a spokesman said that the prices fluctuate daily. Recent prices at that station have ranged from a high of 60.6 cents a gallon to a low of 49.9 cents a gallon for regular gasoline.

Prices depend on the market situation, the gas supply and the number of customers.

The owner of the Eight and Farmington Marathon Service, 3340 Eight Mile, said that he took the price down himself several weeks ago. Currently, regular sells for 51.9 cents a gallon.

PRICES DROPPED 10¢ at the Mattson Shell Service, 31208 Eight Mile. Last week a two cent drop was recorded when the price for regular moved to 55.9 cents a gallon.

Two price drops were recorded in recent weeks at Palachio Mobil Service at 20269 Grand River. At present, regular gasoline sells for 51.9 cents a gallon.

Most service stations owners agreed that when price decreases come, they must come from the station's pocket and not from the company's.

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