

City of Columbus
Public Hearing –
14744 Hornsby ST. NE. Variance Request (PC 18-127)
December 19th, 2018

The December 19th, 2018 Public Hearing to consider a request by the applicant, Joseph G. Pribyl, for a variance to increase the letter size from 48” to 96” for (2) wall signs for two (2) locations on a building (Bare Home) in the C/S Community Retail zoning district, was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Garth Sternberg at the City Hall. Present were Commission members James Watson, Jesse Preiner, and Jody Krebs; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko; City Planner Dean Johnson; and Recording Secretary Rochelle Busch.

Also, in attendance were City Council members Bill Krebs and Denny Peterson; Joe and Deb Pribyl, and Cindy and Myron Angel.

Sternberg: Now we are going to have another public hearing and discussion for 14744 Hornsby Street NE Variance Request, Pages 1-9. And at this time, I’d like the secretary to read the notice as published.

Notice was read at this time by the recording secretary.

Sternberg: Thank you, and at this time if the applicant could come forward please. Welcome and if you could just state your name and address for the record.

Pribyl: Joseph Pribyl, 1467 8th Ave SE Forest Lake MN 55025.

Sternberg: Thank you, sir. And if you can just give us a little background on what it is your asking.

Pribyl: Yeah, all the plans were originally drawn with the artwork and the sizes in these sketches. And we weren’t sure of whether the signs were going to be an issue, as far as sign ordinance. I brought it up at the meeting in October with the City Council regarding the final plat review.

Mursko: Conditional use permit.

Pribyl: The conditional use permit and all those approvals. And I asked, ya know, can we get that design approved at the same time. The Council seemed to be in agreement, but the city attorney said we’d have to check with the sign ordinance first. So, we did that as a follow-up and it turns out that the capital “B” in bare, is 96” and the code has two stipulations, 15% coverage or a certain letter size. The 15% were well below that, we are at less than 2%. But the size of the capital letter “B” in bare, is 96”, so it exceeds that code permit. I think part of it is probably when that ordinance was written, nobody expected to have a building this size, or didn’t project what the impact could be on this size. Were basically requesting to get approval for what we’re proposing on what the original design was in the city seemed to be accepting of it, until we got

into the details of whether it met the ordinance or not. And in this sketch, Elizabeth is pulling up right now, you can see what the difference would be. The bottom one is a size that would meet the ordinance and the top is what we're asking for. So, it kind of shows you the difference. And we specifically purchased this land and paid a premium for it because of the visibility on the interstate. So, it's important to us to have it be of a size that a person can read from passing by. And were competing with a lot of other signs, you know, on that strip of interstate. In the paperwork I showed you the Gander, you know our neighbors across, almost directly across the freeway. And their letters are certainly at that same size were asking for. And they've got the entire word of Gander at that size. And we only have the one letter. So, it seems like we already have a precedent in that area for the billboards, and other commercial buildings that have that size were just asking to be accommodated the same way.

Sternberg: Any questions for the applicant?

Watson: No, sir.

Sternberg: Hearing none, I'm going to open the hearing to the public. Anyone from the public want to speak? Anyone from the public? Okay, I'm going to close the hearing with the right to reopen.

At this time Chair Sternberg closed the Public Hearing. Hearing closed at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Rochelle Busch, Recording Secretary