

**City of Portage
Plan Commission Meeting
Monday, January 19, 2015, 6:30 p.m.
City Municipal Building, 115 West Pleasant Street
Conference Room Two**

Members present: Mayor Bill Tierney, Chairperson; Robert Redelings, City Engineer, Jan Bauman, Vickie Greenwold, Brian Zirbes, Peter Tofson, Mike Charles

Others present: David Watkins, Tom Ostrom, Gary Kasten, Director Sobiek, Bill Welsh and Craig Sauer

Public Hearing – 6:20 pm

Consider the granting of a conditional use permit (CUP) to David Watkins for a 66 unit residential care dwelling (Heritage House) on parcel 2512.27; 2685 Airport Road, City of Portage, Columbia County, Wisconsin.

Mayor Tierney read the Public Hearing Notice and indicated the Notice was legally published. He then opened the Public Hearing and requested the staff report. Redelings provided the staff report and indicated that no public comments had been received. Additionally, no concerns were expressed by City Department Heads.

Mayor Tierney asked the petitioner if there was anything they'd like to add to the staff report. David Watkins (owner), 1131 Madison St., Evanston, Illinois, said they have a solid reputation with 18 other similar facilities in Wisconsin. Tom Ostrom (operator), 3634 N. Bosworth St., Chicago, Illinois, indicated their company operates the 18 facilities and is very experienced with these types of facilities/operations.

Mayor Tierney asked 3 times if there was anyone present who wished to speak in favor of the petition. Hearing no response, the Mayor asked 3 times if there was anyone who wished to speak in opposition to the petition. Hearing no response, the Mayor declared the Public Hearing closed at 6:28 p.m.

Regular Meeting – 6:30 pm

1. **Roll call**
2. **Approval of minutes from previous meeting.**

Motion by Charles, second by Bauman to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously on call of the roll.

3. **Discussion and possible action on Conditional Use Permit for David Watkins for a 66 unit residential care dwelling (Heritage House) on parcel 2512.27; 2685 Airport Road, City of Portage, Columbia County, Wisconsin.**

Motion by Charles, second by Redelings to approve the Conditional Use Permit (CUP). Charles inquired if it would have been possible to rezone the property to avoid needing a CUP. Redelings responded that the City doesn't have any zoning classifications which would permit this size building without a CUP. Motion passed 7 to 0 on call of the roll.

4. Discussion and possible action on a request by Gary and Joyce Kasten to rename the "dead end" portion of East Haertel Street to "Skaters Way".

Redelings gave a brief description of the project which took place several years ago and resulted in East Haertel St., which terminates at Mud Lake, retaining the same name as the "new" East Haertel St.

Mr. Kasten provided a history of the skating rink that exists on the north side of the original East Haertel St., stating that the building was constructed in 1961 and he's operated the roller rink since 1974.

Redelings said there was an investigation into possible vacating the original street segment, but it would potentially leave some properties land locked. Also, it would prevent Mr. Kasten from subdividing his property because the east portion would no longer have street frontage.

Mr. Kasten indicated the street surface is in poor condition and if the City resurfaced it with asphalt, he'd be willing to pay 50% of the improvements.

Tofson said he likes the proposed name change. Charles said because the street doesn't go anywhere, "Skater's Court" maybe more appropriate. Zirbes offered "Skater's Lane" as an option. After some discussion, it was the consensus that there shouldn't be any misconception that the street goes anywhere.

Motion by Tofson, second by Greenwold to recommend the original street remnant be renamed "Skater's Way". Motion passed 7 to 0 on call of the roll.

5. Old Business

- DSH Site Plan/Developer's Agreement – Sobiek indicated that discussions are on-going.
- Crawford Oil Car Wash – Redelings said the revised site plan will be on the February agenda.
- PCSD residential development on School Road (Letter from Robert C. Walz) – Redelings indicated the Final Plat is expected at the February meeting. Also, the letter from Mr. Walz echoed the sentiments of the Plan Commission in that homes constructed by the building trades should have values representative of those in the neighborhood.
- Jeanne Mundt (Pflanz) Parking Lot – Redelings mentioned that the site plan will be forthcoming at either the February or March meeting.

6. New Business

- Public Hearing on Proposed Zoning Map Amendments – Redelings said that as follow-thru to previous Plan Commission recommendations, there will be a Public Hearing on changes to the Comprehensive Plan along with Zoning Amendments at the next Plan Commission meeting in February.

7. Adjournment

Motion by Charles, second by Tofson to adjourn. Motion carried 7 to 0 on call of the roll. The meeting concluded at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert G. Redelings, City Engineer