

RS 2020-012 – August 10, 2020 Meeting

Case 032-20: 1408 & 1414 Euclid Ave. – A request for a Special Use Permit (Initial request) for the operation of a group residential living facility – Stephanie Meeks, Hampshire Terrace III, Inc. DBA LovinGrace

Mr. Ramsour recused himself from this case.

Ms. Bruckner-Sears became Acting Chairman.

Stephanie Meek, 115 Sergeant, Joplin MO. We are asking to utilize some of the property of Hampshire Terrace to open a second facility. The residence that is currently there is for the purpose of working with young women that have aged out of foster care, homeless women, or whose family might be experiencing crisis. This is for ages 17 to 24. As of this weekend they have welcomed their 99th girl. The second facility that they would like to open is to work with the homeless, or young women in crises that are pregnant or parenting a young child under the age of 1. That building would have an additional 8 rooms and house the offices.

Ms. Bruckner-Sears asked Commissioners if they had any questions.

Mr. Kimble where would you put the new building?

Ms. Meek stated that it will be on the other side of the driveway.

Mr. Ledford stated he saw the plans and wanted to know if they were making them put a water retention in?

Ms. Meek stated they were. It is over in between the next property to the south.

Ms. Steele wanted to know how these young women come to you?

Ms. Meek stated that they have referrals all over the city. Both hospitals, Ozark Center, McDonald County Administrators Office, Newton County Administration Office, Social Services Case Workers, and Case Managers from the Foster Care System. Referrals from the Career Center, homeless shelters in the area, local ministers have referred, and the School Districts. Some of the girls come on their own but go through interview process and see if they are appropriate to the program.

Mr. Kimble wanted to know with some of the young ladies that come into the facility is there any problems with them running away or causing any trouble there. Some of them come with a background with problems.

Ms. Meek stated that they have had young women that come in and have mental health issues, we try to minimize that as much as possible.

Ms. Bruckner-Sears asked Commissioners if they had any more questions

Mr. Stanton asked Ms. Meek to stay at the front. He apologized that he misunderstood our procedures and we need to advertise this case as a public hearing instead of just new business. Staff would like to change the recommendation to tabling this case until we advertise. We will get set up a new date for approval or denial of this case.

MS. STEELE MOVED, SECONDED BY MR. MCCULLOUGH, CASE 032-20 BE TABLED. MOTION CARRIED, WITH MRS. STEELE, MS. BRUCKNER-SEARS, MR EASTMAN, MR. MCCULLOUGH, MR. KIMBLE AND MR. LEDFORD VOTING “AYE”. (6 IN FAVOR, 0 NAYS, 1 RECUSE).