| Roll Call Number | Agenda Item Number |
|------------------|--------------------|
|                  | 35                 |

| Date August | 21, 2023 |
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# RESOLUTION HOLDING HEARING ON APPEAL OF MIDWEST RADIO, INC. (OWNER), REPRESENTED BY RICH EYCHANER (OWNER), ON A DENIAL OF TYPE 2 DESIGN ALTERNATIVES FOR A PUBLIC HEARING SITE PLAN FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3839 MERLE HAY ROAD

WHEREAS, at a public hearing held on July 20, 2023, the City Plan and Zoning Commission considered a request from Midwest Radio, Inc. (Owner), represented by Rich Eychaner (Officer), for approval of the Site Plan for Type 2 Design Alternative waiving the requirement for minimum distance between permitted driveway accesses set forth in Municipal Code Section 135-2.8.3.A.9, to allow for retention of the middle of three (3) existing access driveways along Merle Hay Road as shown in the Site Plan submitted for the property located at 3839 Merle Hay Road, where only two (2) access driveways are permitted; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 135-2.8.3.A.9 of the Municipal Code, a commercial center is permitted driveway access one (1) per every three-hundred (300) ft of primary and non-primary frontage; and

WHEREAS, in its Site Plan, Midwest Radio, Inc. proposed for retention of the middle of three (3) existing access driveways along Merle Hay Road, where only two (2) access driveways are permitted; and

WHEREAS, the Plan and Zoning Commission voted 5-4 for **DENIAL** of the requested Type 2 Design Alternatives to waive or modify said ordinance requirements to allow for retention of the middle of three (3) existing access driveways along Merle Hay Road; and

WHEREAS, Midwest Radio, Inc. has timely appealed to the City Council pursuant to Municipal Code Section 135-9.3.9(B), and is seeking further review of the Plan and Zoning Commission decision and denial of the above-described Type 2 design alternative to the Site Plan retention of the middle of three (3) existing access driveways along Merle Hay Road as regulated under Municipal Code Section 135-2.8.3.A.9; and

WHEREAS, on August 7, 2023, by Roll Call No. 23-1084, it was duly resolved by the City Council that the appeal be set down for hearing on August 21, 2023 at 5:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers; and

WHEREAS, due notice of said hearing was published in the Des Moines Register, as provided by law, setting forth the time and place of hearing on said appeal; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with said notice, those interested in said appeal and the proposed Type 2 Design Alternative, both for and against, have been given the opportunity to be heard with respect thereto and have presented their views to the City Council.

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August 21, 2023

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, as follows:

- 1. Upon due consideration of the facts and any statements of interested persons and arguments of counsel, any and all arguments and objections to the Plan and Zoning Commission denial of the Type 2 Design Alternative in form requested by Midwest Radio, Inc. for property located at 3839 Merle Hay Road, as described above, are hereby received and filed.
- 2. The communications from the Plan and Zoning Commission and Midwest Radio, Inc., respectively, are hereby received and filed.

# Alternative A

MOVED BY to **DENY** the Type 2 Design Alternative in form requested by Midwest Radio, Inc. described above and to make the following findings of fact and objections regarding the Type 2 Design Alternative as proposed by Midwest Radio, Inc.:

- a. Under Municipal Code Section 135-2.8.3.A.9, a commercial center is permitted driveway access one (1) per every three-hundred (300) ft of primary and non-primary frontage.
- b. The subject site has approximately 400 feet of frontage along Merle Hay Road which would allow for two driveway accesses.
- c. The subject site also has access to 57th Street to the east and cross-access to Douglas Avenue through the property to the south. The northernmost of the three current driveways is a signalized intersection allowing vehicle traffic to move in all directions. A raised median limits the southern two driveways to a right-in, right-out configuration.
- d. In 2023, the city completed the Merle Hay Road Corridor Study. The purpose of the study was to determine how to improve transportation, for all users, along the corridor. The Study specifically notated for the portion of Merle Hay Road adjacent to this site has a crash history along this section indicative of high access density and recommended many of these accesses should be consolidated as development occurs.
- e. Because the middle driveway duplicates the turning movement of the southernmost driveway, its removal would not deter a driver from accessing the site. Removal of the middle driveway would improve safety for vehicles on Merle Hay Road and reduce conflict points for pedestrians.
- Midwest Radio, Inc.'s proposal for the Type 2 Design Alternative to the requirements of Section Code Section 135-9.3.9(B) are for full waiver, resulting in the retention of the middle of three (3) existing access driveways along Merle Hay Road, and it is based on preference, rather than need.
- g. City Planning staff recommended denial of said Type 2 design alternative for full waiver of Section Code Section 135-9.3.9(B) as requested by Midwest Radio, Inc.
- Midwest Radio, Inc. has not met the burden required to demonstrate that its requested design alternative meets the criteria for approval or that the result of the design alternative would equal or exceed the result of compliance with the Planning and Design Ordinance.

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**Date** August 21, 2023

- i. Midwest Radio, Inc. has not shown that its requested design alternative is consistent with all relevant purpose and intent statements of the Planning and Design Ordinance and with the general purpose and intent of the comprehensive plan.
- j. Midwest Radio, Inc. has not shown that its requested design alternatives will not have a substantial or undue adverse effect on the public health, safety, and general welfare.
- k. The Type 2 Design Alternatives as proposed by Midwest Radio, Inc. should not be approved for the reasons stated above.

# **Alternative B**

MOVED BY \_\_\_\_\_\_ to **APPROVE** the proposed Type 2 Design Alternative in form requested by Midwest Radio, Inc. and described above, and to make the following findings of fact in support of approval of the proposed Type 2 Design Alternative:

- a. Under Municipal Code Section 135-2.8.3.A.9, a commercial center is permitted driveway access one (1) per every three-hundred (300) ft of primary and non-primary frontage.
- b. 3839 Merle Hay Road contains a commercial building that is used for various purposes including office, retail, restaurant, and bar uses.
- c. Midwest Radio, Inc. provides the reason for maintaining the three (3) existing access driveways is to prevent accessibility concerns to and from the building, but also assist patrons in locating the main entrance to access the offices on the elevated levels of the building.
- d. The above-stated facts specific to the site reduce the accessibility concerns from Midwest Radio, Inc. with no changes to the existing three (3) existing access driveways.
- e. Midwest Radio, Inc.'s proposal for the Type 2 Design Alternative to the requirements of Section 135-2.8.3.A.9 are for full waiver, resulting in the retention of the middle of three (3) existing access driveways along Merle Hay Road, based on preference to meet accessibility needs.
- f. Midwest Radio, Inc. has met the burden required to demonstrate that the requested design alternative meets the criteria for approval and that the result of the design alternatives would equal or exceed the result of strict compliance with Section 135-2.8.3.A.9 of the Planning and Design Ordinance.
- g. Midwest Radio, Inc. has shown that the requested design alternative is consistent with all relevant purpose and intent statements of the Planning and Design Ordinance and with the general purpose and intent of the comprehensive plan.
- h. Midwest Radio, Inc. has shown that the requested design alternative will not have a substantial or undue adverse effect on the public health, safety, and general welfare.
- i. Said Type 2 Design Alternative, in form requested by Midwest Radio, Inc., should be, and hereby, approved for the above-stated reasons and incorporated into the approved Site Plan for the Property.

| Roll Call Number            | •         |            |
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| <b>Date</b> August 21, 2023 | ·····     |            |
|                             | MOVED BY  | _TO ADOPT. |
|                             | Second by | ·          |
|                             |           |            |

(SITE-2023-000047)

| COUNCIL ACTION | YEAS | NAYS | PASS | ABSENT |
|----------------|------|------|------|--------|
| COWNIE         |      |      |      |        |
| BOESEN         |      |      |      |        |
| GATTO          |      |      |      |        |
| SHEUMAKER      |      |      |      |        |
| MANDELBAUM     |      |      |      |        |
| voss           |      |      |      |        |
| WESTERGAARD    |      |      |      |        |
| TOTAL          |      |      |      |        |
| MOTION CARRIED |      | •    | APP  | ROVED  |

FORM APPROVED:

/s/ Chas M. Cahill

Assistant City Attorney

Chas M. Cahill,

# CERTIFICATE

Agenda Item Number

I, LAURA BAUMGARTNER, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

| _ Mayor | City Cler |
|---------|-----------|
|         |           |

# Baumgartner, Laura L.

From:

LLBaumgartner@dmgov.org

Subject:

FW: 3839 Merle Hay Road - City Council Communication from MHN Board of Directors

**Attachments:** 

image001.png

From: Christopher Janson < <a href="mailto:christopherjanson@gmail.com">christopherjanson@gmail.com</a>>

Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 8:48 AM

To: Hall, Tyler J. <TJHall@dmgov.org>

Cc: April < hawkifan87@yahoo.com >; Kathy Battles < kmbattles@msn.com >; Peggy Warrick < cpwarrick@msn.com >;

Carol Woodruff <<u>cl.woodruff@mchsi.com</u>>; Jolene Christensen <<u>tjchristensen08@gmail.com</u>>; Saundra Miller <<u>smiller@bankerstrust.com</u>>; Jason Pulliam <<u>jason.pulliam@gmail.com</u>>; April Beck <abeck@shazam.net>

Subject: 3839 Merle Hay Road - City Council Communication from MHN Board of Directors

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Tyler,

The Merle Hay Neighborhood Board of Directors met with the applicant of 3839 Merle Hay Road/Midwest Radio at our regularly scheduled monthly Board Meeting on 8/14/2023. After some great discussion we unanimously voted to reverse our previous position.

We passed a motion to support the applicant's request for a design alternative to allow three driveways along Merle Hay Road. Please forward this communication onto the City Council, it is our understanding they will be reviewing the recommendation from P&Z in the near future.

Thanks and Please let us know if you have any questions or need additional information from us.

Thanks!

Chris Janson

At-Large Member

Merle Hay Neighborhood Board of Directors

On Mon, Jul 17, 2023, 12:23 PM <christopherjanson@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Tyler,

The Merle Hay Neighborhood Board of Directors has reviewed the Staff Report for 3839 Merle Hay Roads/Midwest Radio's requested design alternative to allow three driveways on Merle Hay Road. Our Board discussed the request. A majority of the Board concurs with Staff's Recommendation(s) as listed in the Staff Report and quoted below:

| Subject: Plan and Zoning Commission   |
|---|
| Hello,  |
| Please find the attached final and preliminary agenda for the upcoming Plan and Zoning Commission Meetings. |
|   |
|   |
| Thank you,  |
|   |
| TYLER HALL   CITY OF DES MOINES   |
| Development Services Tech.   Development Services   |
| (515) 237-1301  |
| DSM.city   602 Robert D. Ray Drive   Des Moines, Iowa 50309   |
|   |
| Si takana ara kana tahun tahun ang ang ang ang ang ang ang ang ang an                                       |
|   |
|   |



August 1, 2023

Agenda Item \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Communication from the City Plan and Zoning Commission advising that at their July 20, 2023 meeting, the following action was taken regarding a request from Midwest Radio, Inc. (owner), represented by Rich Eychaner (officer), for review and approval of a Public Hearing Site Plan "3839 Merle Hay Road" for property located in the vicinity of 3839 Merle Hay Road, and for consideration of a denied Type 1 Design Alternative in accordance with City Code Sections 135-9.2.4(B) and 135-9.3.1(B), to allow retention of the middle of three (3) existing access driveways along Merle Hay Road, where only two (2) access driveways are permitted, per City Code Section 135-2.8.3.A.9.

#### COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

After public hearing, the members voted 5-4 as follows.

| Commission Action: | Yes | Nays | Pass | Abstain | Absent |
|--------------------|-----|------|------|---------|--------|
| Francis Boggus     |     | ,    |      |         | X      |
| Leah Rudolphi      | Χ   |      |      |         |        |
| Carol Maher        | X · |      |      |         |        |
| Abby Chungath      |     |      |      |         | X      |
| Kayla Berkson      | X   |      |      |         |        |
| Chris Draper       |     | X    |      |         |        |
| Todd Garner        |     | X    |      |         |        |
| Johnny Alcivar     |     |      |      |         | X      |
| Justyn Lewis       | X   |      |      |         |        |
| Carolyn Jenison    |     | X    |      |         |        |
| William Page       |     |      |      |         | X      |
| Andrew Lorentzen   |     |      |      |         | X      |
| Emily Webb         | X   |      |      |         |        |
| Katie Gillette     |     |      |      |         | X      |
| Rick Trower        |     | X    |      |         |        |

**DENIAL** of the requested design alternative to allow retention of a 3<sup>rd</sup> access point along Merle Hay Road, and approval of the public hearing site plan, subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Compliance with all administrative review comments.
- 2. The Site Plan shall be revised to show the middle driveway removed.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO THE P&Z COMMISSION

Staff recommends denial of the requested design alternative to allow three driveways along Merle Hay Road.

Staff recommends approval of site plan subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Compliance with all administrative review comments.
- 2. The plans shall be revised to show the middle driveway removed.

#### STAFF REPORT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

#### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Purpose of Request: The proposed project includes interior building renovations that will exceed the threshold for cumulative permit values. This requires a site plan that is in conformance with current site and landscaping standards. Proposed site improvements would include establishing paving setbacks with greenspace along both the Merle Hay and 57<sup>th</sup> Street frontages, interior parking lot islands and landscaping, trash enclosure upgrades, and bike racks.

The Commercial Center building type limits the number of permitted driveway accesses to 1 per 300 feet of primary and non-primary frontage. The subject property has approximately 400 feet of frontage along Merle Hay Road which would allow for two driveway accesses. The applicant is requesting approval of three driveways along Merle Hay Road.

- 2. Size of Site: 132,421 square feet.
- 3. Existing Zoning (site): "MX3" Mixed-Use District and "N3b" Neighborhood District.
- 4. Existing Land Use (site): Office, Retail, and Eating and Drinking Places.
- 5. Adjacent Land Use and Zoning:
  - North "MX3" and "N3b", Use is Financial Service and One-Household Residential.
  - **South** "MX3", Uses are Restaurant, Retail, and Commercial Services.
  - East "N3b", Uses are One-Household Residential.
  - West "CX", Uses are Merle Hay Mall, Retail, and Restaurants.
- **6. General Neighborhood/Area Land Uses:** The subject property adjoins the Merle Hay Road/U.S. Highway 28 corridor just to the north of Douglas Avenue. The surrounding area to the west and along the corridor is generally commercial and includes Merle Hay Mall. The area to the east and northeast is a low-density residential neighborhood.



- 7. Applicable Recognized Neighborhood(s): The subject property is located within the Merle Hay Neighborhood. All neighborhoods were notified of the public hearing by mailing of the Preliminary Agenda on June 30, 2023. All agendas are mailed to the primary contact person designated to the City of Des Moines Neighborhood Services Department by the recognized neighborhood association. Additionally, separate notifications of the hearing for this specific item were mailed on June 30, 2023 (20 days prior to the hearing) and July 10, 2023 (10 days prior to the hearing) to the primary titleholder on file with the Polk County Assessor for each property within 250 feet of the site. Merle Hay Neighborhood mailings were sent to April Wyss, 2800 62<sup>nd</sup> Street, Des Moines, IA 50322. A Final Agenda was mailed to recognized neighborhoods on July 14, 2023.
- 8. Relevant Case History: None.
- 9. PlanDSM Future Land Use Plan Designation: Community Mixed Use.
- **10. Applicable Regulations:** Pursuant to Section 135-9.1.1.B of the Planning and Design Ordinance, the site plan review requirements of Chapter 135 are designed to ensure the orderly and harmonious development of property in a manner that shall:
  - Promote the most beneficial relation between present and proposed future uses of land and the present and proposed future circulation of traffic throughout the city;
  - Permit present development of property commensurate with fair and orderly
    planning for future development of other properties in the various areas of the
    city with respect to the availability and capacity, present and foreseeable, of
    public facilities and services. The factors to be considered in arriving at a
    conclusion concerning proposed present development of property shall include
    the following:
    - The maximum population density for the proposed development, the proposed density of use, and consideration of the effect the proposal will have on the capacity of existing water and sanitary sewer lines to the end that existing systems will not become overloaded or capacity so substantially decreased that site use will inhibit or preclude planned future development;
    - > Zoning restrictions at the time of the proposal;
  - The city's comprehensive plan;
  - The city's plans for future construction and provision for public facilities and services; and
  - The facilities and services already available to the area which will be affected by the proposed site use;
  - Encourage adequate provision for surface and subsurface drainage, in order to ensure that future development and other properties in various areas of the city

will not be adversely affected;

- Provide suitable screening of parking, truck loading, refuse and recycling disposal, and outdoor storage areas from adjacent residential districts;
- Encourage the preservation of canopied areas and mature trees and require mitigation for the removal of trees; and
- Consider the smart planning principles set forth in Iowa Code Chapter 18B.

Based on Chapter Section 135-9.2.4 and 135-9.3.1.B of the Planning and Design Ordinance, Type 2 Design Alternatives are to be considered by the Plan and Zoning Commission after a public hearing whereby the following criteria are considered:

- The design alternative provisions of Section 135-9.2.4 are intended to authorize the granting of relief from strict compliance with the regulations of this chapter as part of the site plan or alternate design documentation review process when specific site features or characteristics of the subject property, including the presence of existing buildings, creates conditions that make strict compliance with applicable regulations impractical or undesirable. The design alternative provisions are also intended to recognize that alternative design solutions may result in equal or better implementation of the regulation's intended purpose and greater consistency with the comprehensive plan.
- Consideration of requested design alternatives through the administrative and public hearing review processes will be evaluated on the merits of the applicable request and independently of prior requests from the same applicant, and may include the following criteria:
  - > An evaluation of the character of the surrounding neighborhood, such as:
    - Whether at least 50% of the developed lots within 250 feet of the subject property are designed and constructed consistently with the requested design alternative(s); and
    - Whether the directly adjoining developed lots are designed and constructed consistently with the requested design alternative(s);
- For purposes of this subsection, if the lots that exist within 250 feet of the subject property are undeveloped, then the neighborhood character determination will be based upon the assumption that such lots, as if developed, comply with the applicable requirements of this chapter for which a design alternative(s) has been requested;
  - The totality of the number and extent of design alternatives requested compared to the requirements of this chapter for each site plan or alternate design documentation reviewed;
  - > Whether the requested design alternative(s) is consistent with all relevant purpose and intent statements of this design ordinance and with the general

purpose and intent of the comprehensive plan;

- Whether the requested design alternative(s) will have a substantial or undue adverse effect upon adjacent: property, the character of the surrounding area or the public health, safety and general welfare;
- Whether any adverse impacts resulting from the requested design alternative(s) will be mitigated to the maximum extent feasible; and
- > Other factors determined relevant by the community development director, plan and zoning commission, or city council as applicable.

# II. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Transportation Safety: Merle Hay Road is an important, regionally significant arterial corridor that has been identified as a high-injury-network street in the recently approved City of Des Moines Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan. Corridor access management is one of the most basic and effective tools the City has to improve transportation safety by controlling the number and type of conflict points between vehicle drivers, pedestrians, and bike riders in shared, public space.

According to the Iowa Statewide Urban Design and Specifications (SUDAS) and National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP Report 420), "the number of driveways per mile significantly affects the safety of a corridor. Crash rates increase very quickly as the number of access points increases on arterial roadways".

In 2023, the city completed the Merle Hay Road Corridor Study. The purpose of the study was to determine how to improve transportation, for all users, along the corridor. Below are the specific recommendations for the portion of Merle Hay Road adjacent to this site:

"The crash history along this section is also indicative of high access density. The east side of the north section is a mix of various commercial and retail uses, much of which is "shallow" single parcel strip development with access onto Merle Hay Road only. Many of these accesses can and should be consolidated as development occurs. In addition, as discussed in Section VI, a median and dedicated turn lanes along the north section will also reduce potential conflicts from turning movements."

2. Site Access and Walkability: The Merle Hay Corridor Study identified the need for improved pedestrian access and mobility as well as multi-modal connectivity and improvements to transit stops. There is currently no sidewalk along the Merle Hay frontage directly adjacent to the subject property. There is existing sidewalk along the adjoining properties to the north and south. A DART bus stop is located at the north end of the subject property along Merle Hay Road. As part of the City's Neighborhood Sidewalk Infill Program, the City is proposing to construct and pay for sidewalk to be installed on the east side of Merle Hay Road adjacent to this property to fill the gap in the sidewalk network. In coordination, the City is proposing to close the middle driveway as part of the scope of the City project. The new sidewalk further amplifies the need to close this driveway to minimize potential conflict points for pedestrians.

The site has two other access points along Merle Hay Road, as well as access to 57<sup>th</sup> Street to the east and cross-access to Douglas Avenue through the property to the south. The northernmost driveway is a signalized intersection allowing vehicle traffic to move in all directions. A raised median limits the southern two driveways to a right-in, right-out configuration. Because the middle driveway duplicates the turning movement of the southernmost driveway, its removal would not deter a driver from accessing the site. Removal of the middle driveway would improve safety for vehicles on Merle Hay Road and reduce conflict points for pedestrians. Additionally, this would allow for new parking spaces to be added in the front of the site, which has been identified as a need by the property owner.

#### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Jillian Sommer presented staff report and recommendation.

Doug Saltsgaver, ERG, Inc., 2413 Grand Avenue, presented on behalf of the applicant and explained why the applicant wants to retain the middle of three (3) access points (driveways) along Merle Hay Road. He indicated that the drawings the City's Real Estate Division provided the applicant for sidewalks that the City is constructing in front of the property showed that the driveway would remain. In indicated that Mr. Eychaner has owned the property and surrounding properties for about 20 years and in that time has significantly reduced the number of drive approaches to the block from Merle Hay Road, Douglas Avenue, and 57th Street. The number of access points along Merle Hay Road has decreased from 8 to 3 since 2006. He also indicated that the majority of accidents on adjoining Merle Hay Road have occurred at the signalized intersection rather than the driveway that Staff is recommending be removed.

<u>Chris Draper</u> indicated that he views the property's three access points as one full access point and two "half" access points since the north and south access points are shared with the properties to the north and south.

<u>Carol Maher</u> stated that the recently adopted Vision Zero study shows that Merle Hay Road is a high-injury corridor and that every opportunity the City has to make it safer needs to be taken. Maher stated that while the current configuration of drive approaches might feel safe for motorists, it is not safe for bicyclists or pedestrians. Closing that curb cut is one of many things the City can do to improve safety.

<u>Chris Draper</u> asked if the section of Merle Hay Road north of Douglas Avenue is more safe than the section of Merle Hay Road south of Douglas Avenue.

<u>Doug Saltsgaver</u> indicated that the section of Merle Hay Road north of Douglas Avenue can a concrete median whereas much of the section of Merle Hay Road south of Douglas Avenue does not. This driveway is right-in, right-out, which reduces accidents.

Carol Maher asked if curb stops will be added to the parking stall along Merle Hay Road.

Doug Saltsgaver indicated that a curb will be constructed.

<u>Carol Maher</u> asked if the drive through on the north end of the building is going to be removed.



<u>Doug Saltsgaver</u> indicated the drive through will be removed and replaced with parking stalls.

Carol Maher asked if any overhead utilities will be undergrounded.

<u>Doug Saltsgaver</u> indicated they will work with MidAmerican to see if it is feasible to underground utilities behind the building.

Justyn Lewis asked if there will be an economic impact of removing the driveway.

<u>Doug Saltsgaver</u> indicated that it would be hard to quantify, and also indicated businesses like to have parking spaces close to their business. He indicated that customers already have a hard time finding the entrance to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the building.

<u>Justyn Lewis</u> indicated that when he visits the site, he uses the stop light at the north end of the site. He also said that when he rides his bike there, he has to be very alert and feels very risky and scary to ride his bike here. Thus, it makes sense to remove that driveway and replace it with parking spaces. Lastly, he asked the driveway is removed, what would be required to reconstruct it in the future.

Bert Drost indicated that if the driveway is removed, the Commission would need to grant a Type 2 Design Alternative in order for a future site plan to allow a new driveway here.

# CHAIRPERSON OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING

Rich Eychaner, 300 Walnut Street, clarified that a report prepared for the City by Bolten & Menk indicates that there are more accidents on Merle Hay Road south of Douglas Avenue than north of Douglas Avenue since there are many more drive approaches there. He indicated that there are 12 driveway entrances within 1,400 feet south of Douglas Avenue whereas there are 3 entrances within 700 feet north of Douglas Avenue. He also indicated that he has taken out 19 drive approaches from 57th Street, Douglas Avenue, and Merle Hay Road. He also indicated that he, along with Merle Hay Mall and Bankers Trust, worked together to construct the signalized intersection at the north end of the site. He also indicated that Bolton & Menk's study dated in March 2023 showed the subject driveway remaining open. He also indicated that in February 2023, the City said they would repave the driveway at such time that the City constructed a public sidewalk along Merle Hay Road. It was only when he submitted a Site Plan that the City asked for the driveway to be removed.

#### CHAIRPERSON CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING

<u>Chris Draper</u> indicated that he doesn't believe the Bolton & Menk study or the City's plans to construct the sidewalk were a promise that the driveway can stay. However, taking away the entrance would harm the ability to access the building and use it in a meaningful way. The developer has already eliminated a number of driveways along Merle Hay Road for the parcel to the south.

<u>Carolyn Jenison</u> made a motion for approval of the Type 2 Design Alternative and the public hearing site plan.



<u>Carol Maher</u> indicated that she is opposed to granting the Type 2 Design Alternative and that if the removing the driveway won't change that the developer currently has a problem with customers finding the entrance to the second floor of the building.

<u>Justyn Lewis</u> stated that closing the curb cut would do a lot of good, especially if the City is constructing a sidewalk here.

<u>Bert Drost</u> indicated that the City's best opportunity to eliminate driveways is through the site plan process. In this instance, the building had a number of building permits that cumulatively exceed 50% of the building's value. That was what triggered the need for a Site Plan that requires compliance with the City's current standard of 1 driveway access point per 300 feet of street frontage.

<u>Justyn Lewis</u> expressed concern even if this driveway is removed, the City won't require other driveways along Merle Hay Road to be removed until those site require site plans.

<u>Emily Webb</u> indicated that she is against allowing the 3<sup>rd</sup> driveway since the City is investing in the sidewalk along this site and since it is safer for motorists to use the signalized intersection to access the site.

<u>Leah Rudolphi</u> said that the Commission hasn't been provided evidence that the driveway is needed for wayfinding on the site.

Carolyn Jenison's motion to approve the Site Plan as presented failed by a 4-5 vote, with Jenison, Draper, Garner, and Trower voting in favor and Webb, Maher, Lewis, Berkson, and Rudolphi voting in opposition.

# **COMMISSION ACTION:**

<u>Justyn Lewis</u> made a motion for denial of the requested design alternative to allow retention of a 3<sup>rd</sup> access point along Merle Hay Road, and approval of the public hearing site plan, subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Compliance with all administrative review comments.
- 2. The Site Plan shall be revised to show the middle driveway removed.

Motion passed: 5-4

Respectfully submitted,

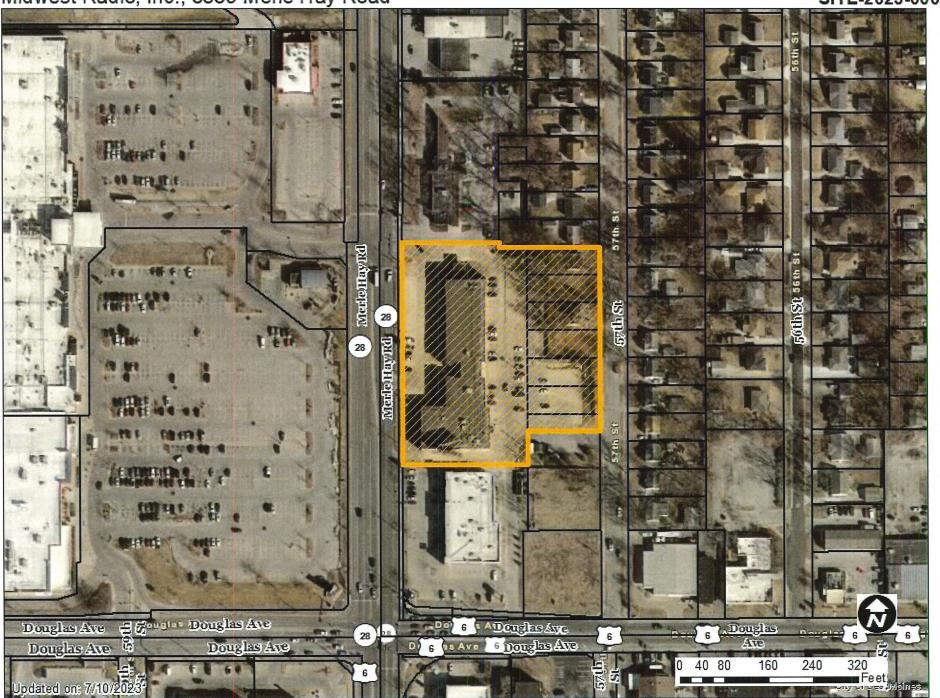
Bert Drost, AICP

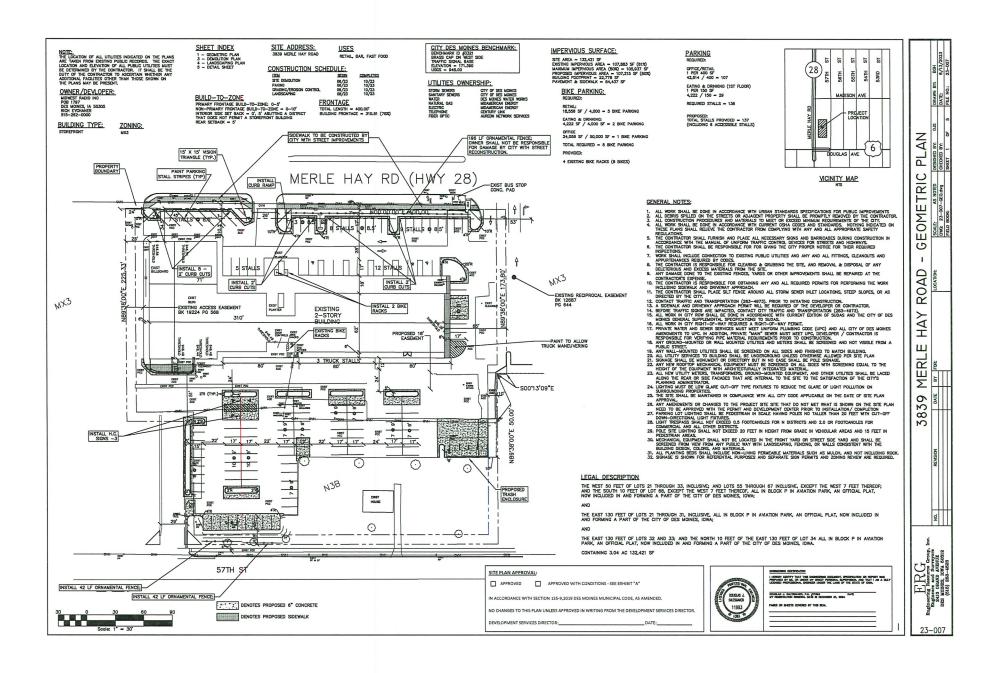
Deputy Planning Administrator

BAD:tjh

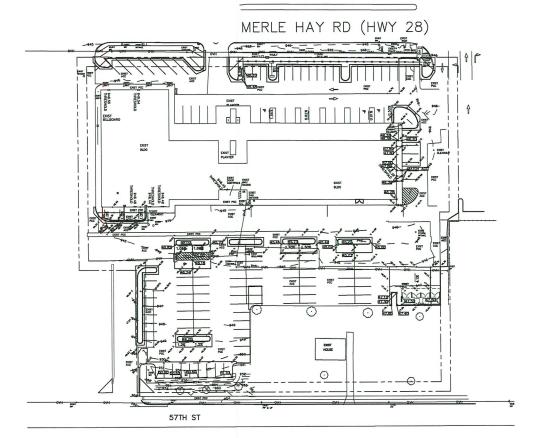
Midwest Radio, Inc., 3839 Merle Hay Road

SITE-2023-000047





NOTE:
THE LOCATION OF ALL UTILITIES INDICATED ON THE PLANS
ARE TAKEN FROM DESIGNE PUBLIC RECORDS. THE EAST
LOCATION AND ELEVATION OF ALL PUBLIC UTILITIES MUST
BE DETERMINED BY THE CONTRACTOR. IT SHALL BE THE
DUTY OF THE CONTRACTOR OF ASCENTAN WHEHER MY
ADDITIONAL PACLIFIES OTHER THAN THOSE SHOWN ON
THE PLANS MUST BE PRESENT.



- 1. BROOF ALL DESTING GROWEN MATERIAL TO F MINIMA BOTTH.
  2. MORP FOLL THE EPOSED SIG GRADE. TO F MINIMA BOTTH AND FOLLOW THE PROPERTY OF THE COMMON PILL AFTER THEY ARE SORTED TO RELIVE ALL DISCUSSION MATERIALS WAS A CONCEPT, BROOF AND THEIR MINIMAL SIGNAL DESTINATION MATERIALS FOLLOW DE FROM THE STITE OF THE CONTRACTION. AND THE STATE DESCRIPTION PROOF PROLICE SHALL BE REMOTED THE OFFICE AND THE STATE OF T
- THE STATE OF THE S

- ALL SUBGRADE UNDER SLAB TO BE COMPACTED TO 95% STANDARD PROCTOR DENISTY FOR A MINIMUM OF 24".
   MOISTEN SUBGRADE PRIOR TO PLACING CONCRETE.
   CONCRETE STALL HAVE A MINIMUM 28—DAY COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH OF 4000

- 1. ALL SUBPORDE VINCED SASE TO PLACING CONCRETE.
  2. CONSTRUCT SIGNAL HAVE A MINIMUM 28-DAY COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH OF 4000
  2. MOSTEN SIGNAL REVAR A MINIMUM 28-DAY COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH OF 4000
  2. MOSTEN SIGNAL REVAR A MINIMUM 28-DAY COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH OF 4000
  2. CONCRETE SHALL BE CARSE MILE BE SIGNAP FINISH. OLECO SIRFACE WITH DEPART OF DOE NATHONING PRISON SIGNAP FINISH. OLECONORIES SHALL BE CARROWED FOR BOX SET MONTHONING PRISON OF THE MINISH BASED WITH PROPERTY DE 1/2" OF 1/2" WITH PROPERTY OF 1/2" OF

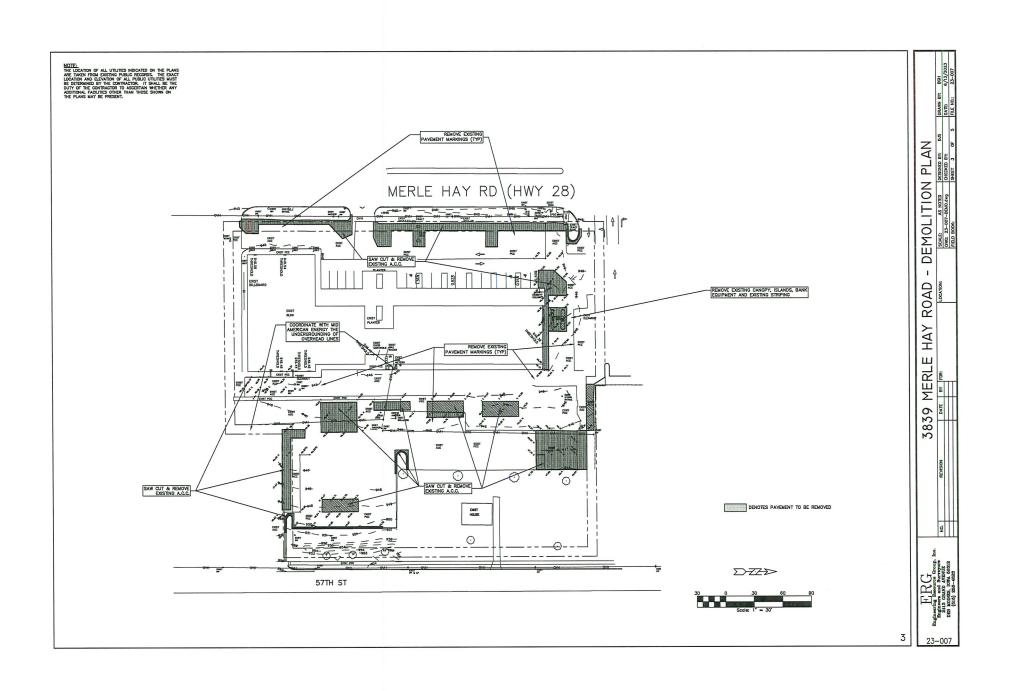
 $\supset \overline{ZZ} >$ 

PLAN

GRADING SCALE: AS DWG: 23-007-0 FIELD BOOK:

1 ROAD

HAYШ MERL 0 83



CONTACT THE MUNICIPAL FORESTRY DIVISION PRIOR TO PLANTING IN THE PUBLIC R.O.W. AT 515-283-4950

ALL WIRE, TWINE AND BURLAP SHALL BE REMOVED FROM THE ROOTBALL OF STREET TREES PRIOR TO PLANTING.

NO STAKING OF TREES IS ALLOWED IN R/W.

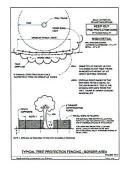
THE REQUIRED LANDSCAPING, BOTH EXISTING AND PROPOSED, SHALL BE MAINTAINED FOR THE LIFE OF THE CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY.

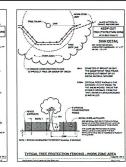
ALL DISTURBED AREAS SHOULD BE RESTORED BY SEEDING OR SODDING.

ALL ROCK GROUNDCOVER ON SITE MUST BE REPLACED WITH HARDWOOD MULCH UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

#### PLANT SCHEDULE:

| Code | Common Name           | Betanical Name              | Quantity | Min. Planting Sire |
|------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| co   | Hackberry             | Celtis eccidentalis         | 4        | 1.5" cal. BALB     |
| ю    | Anarrican Beech       | Fegus grandifolia           | 5        | 1.5" cal. U&U      |
| GΤ   | Thornless Honeylocast | Gladitsia traxanthes var.   | 6        | 1.5" cal. HACH     |
| TC   | Little Leaf Linden    | Táin cordata                | 5        | 1.5° cd. [IAL]3    |
| AB   | Trident Maple         | Acur burganatum             | .6       | 1.5" cal. [14:f]   |
| CA   | Pagoda Dogwood        | Cornus alternii-lin         | 5        | 1.5" cal. DALD     |
| Cz   | Hawthorn Spp.         | Costsugan sep               | 5        | 1.5" cal HALH      |
| MS   | Flowering Crahapple   | Malus spp.                  | 3        | 1.5" cal. (Md)     |
| SP   | Spirou                | Spiren japonien 'Goldflama' | 69       | 3 gallon           |
| KF   | Fanthar Read Grass    | Calamagnostis x acutiflora  | 31       | 3 gallen           |





DRAWN BY: DATE: FILE NO.:

PLAN

LANDSCAPING

1

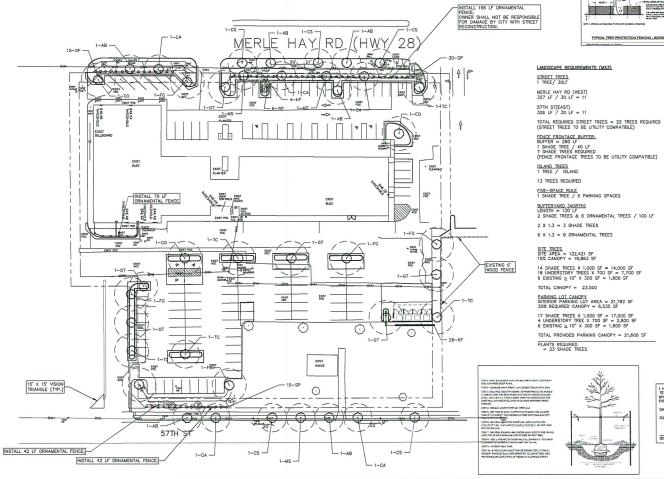
ROAD

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DZZ

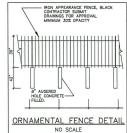
PLANTS PROVIDED

= 21 SHADE TREES

= 11 UTILITY COMPATIBLE TREES

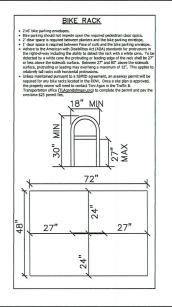
= 59 SHRUBS

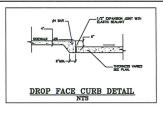
= 31 ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

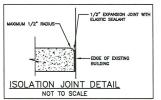


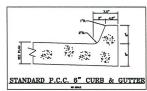
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PLANTING PORTION OF THIS TECHNICAL SUBMISSION WAS PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERMISION AND I. AM. A CERTIFED NURSERY PROFESSIONAL UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF IOWA DATE: 05/13/2023

NO.









DATE: 6/13/2023 FILE NO:: 23-007

2 2

SHEET

DETAIL

ROAD

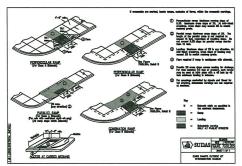
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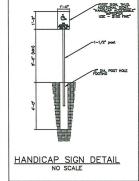
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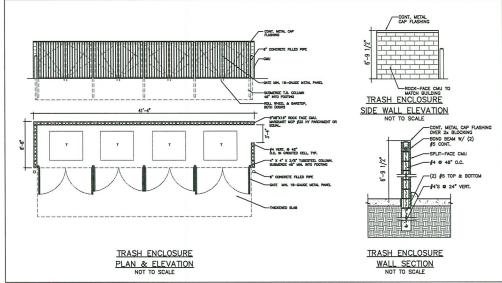
3839 DATE B

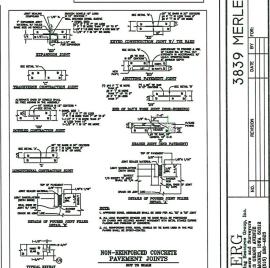
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23-007

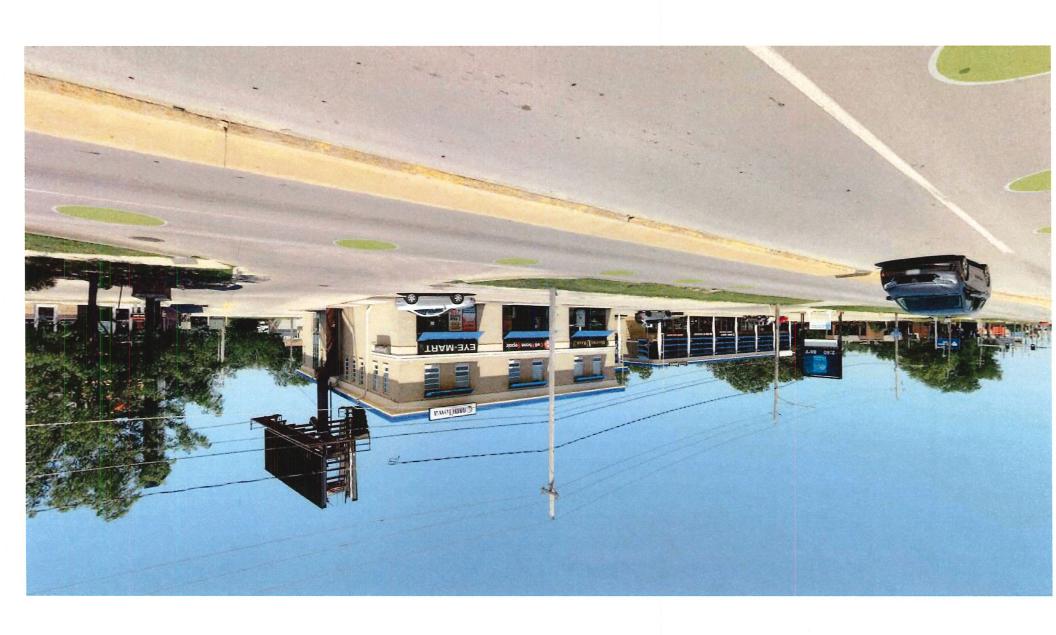




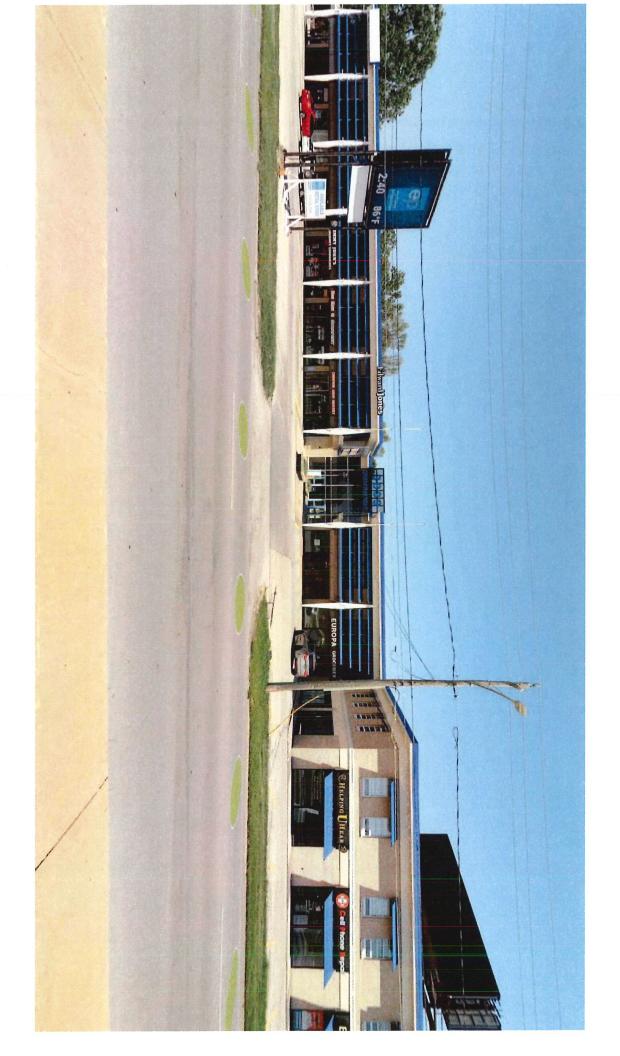




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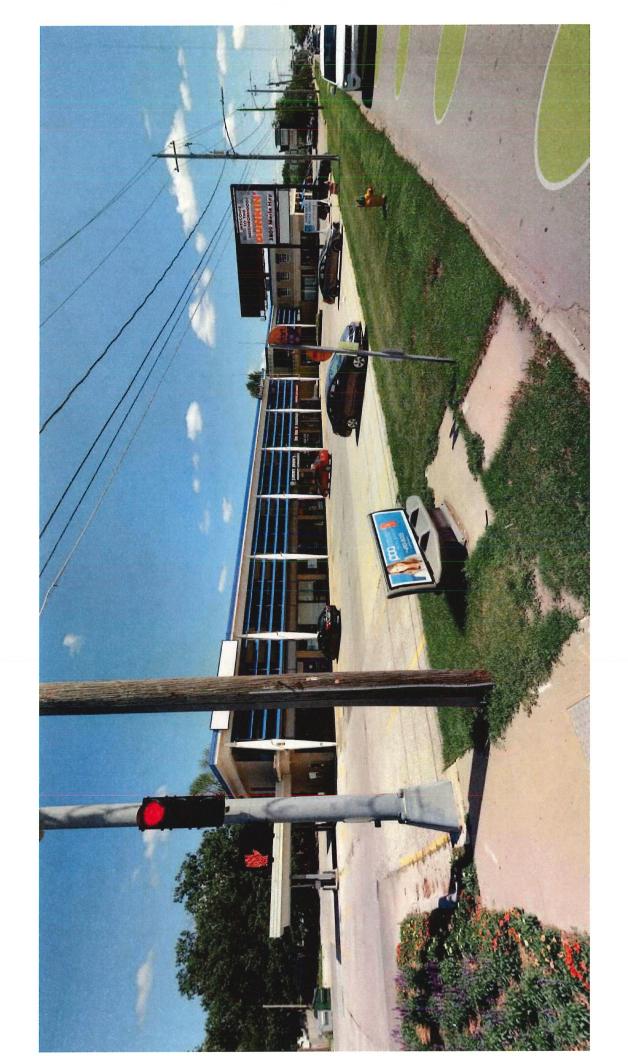


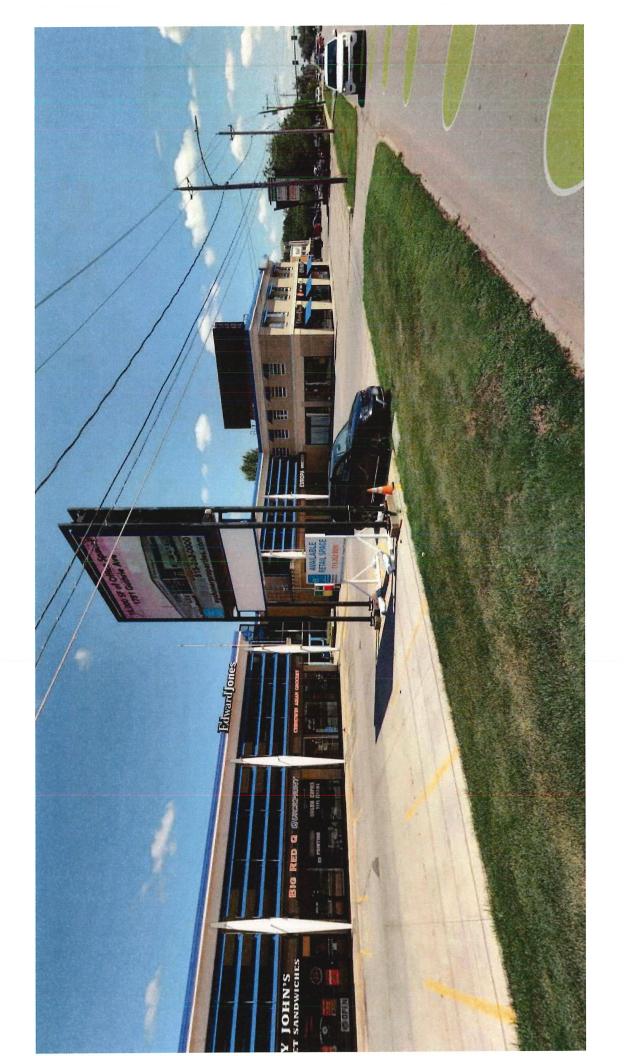
SE













#### Sommer, Jillian L.

From:

Hall, Tyler J.

Sent:

Monday, July 17, 2023 12:47 PM

To:

Sommer, Jillian L.

Subject:

FW: Plan and Zoning Commission

From: christopherjanson@gmail.com <christopherjanson@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 12:23 PM To: Hall, Tyler J. <TJHall@dmgov.org>

Cc: 'April' <hawkifan87@yahoo.com>; 'Kathy Battles' <kmbattles@msn.com>; 'Peggy Warrick' <cpwarrick@msn.com>; 'Carol Woodruff' <cl.woodruff@mchsi.com>; 'Jolene Christensen' <tjchristensen08@gmail.com>; 'Saundra Miller' <smiller@bankerstrust.com>; 'Jason Pulliam' <jason.pulliam@gmail.com>; 'April Beck' <abeck@shazam.net>

Subject: RE: Plan and Zoning Commission

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

#### Dear Tyler,

The Merle Hay Neighborhood Board of Directors has reviewed the Staff Report for 3839 Merle Hay Roads/Midwest Radio's requested design alternative to allow three driveways on Merle Hay Road. Our Board discussed the request. A majority of the Board concurs with Staff's Recommendation(s) as listed in the Staff Report and quoted below:

#### III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends denial of the requested design alternative to allow three driveways along Merle Hay Road. Staff recommends approval of site plan subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Compliance with all administrative review comments.
- 2. The plans shall be revised to show the middle driveway removed.

Please pass this communication of our Board's support for Staff Recommendations and denial onto the Plan and Zoning Commission for their 7/20/2023 meeting.

#### Thanks!

Chris Janson At-Large Member Merle Hay Board of Directors

From: April < hawkifan87@yahoo.com > Sent: Friday, July 14, 2023 5:58 PM

**To:** Kathy Battles <a href="mailto:kmbattles@msn.com">kmbattles@msn.com</a>; Peggy Warrick <a href="mailto:com">cpwarrick@msn.com</a>; Carol Woodruff <a href="mailto:com">cl.woodruff@mchsi.com</a>; Christopher Janson <a href="mailto:com">christopherjanson@gmail.com</a>; Jolene Christensen <a href="mailto:com">ctjchristensen08@gmail.com</a>; Saundra Miller <a href="mailto:smiller@bankerstrust.com">smiller@bankerstrust.com</a>; Jason Pulliam <a href="mailto:gason.pulliam@gmail.com">gmail.com</a>; Saundra Miller <a href="mailto:smiller@bankerstrust.com">smiller@bankerstrust.com</a>; Jason Pulliam <a href="mailto:gason.pulliam@gmail.com">gmailto:smiller@bankerstrust.com</a>; Jason Pulliam <a href="mailto:gason.pulliam@gmail.com">gmailto:gason.pulliam@gmail.com</a>;

April Beck <a href="mailto:abeck@shazam.net">abeck@shazam.net</a>>

Cc: April Beck < hawkifan87@yahoo.com > Subject: Fw: Plan and Zoning Commission

# Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

2222Ktw fwiji R jxxflj 2222 Kwtr? MfoglY~gjwO3' A<u>YOMfogF ir lt{twl</u>C Hh? Xjsy?KwnlOzq6917578 fy66?:8 Xzgojhy?Ucfs fsi \_tsnsl Htr r nxxts

Hello,

Please find the attached final and preliminary agenda for the upcoming Plan and Zoning Commission Meetings.

Thank you,

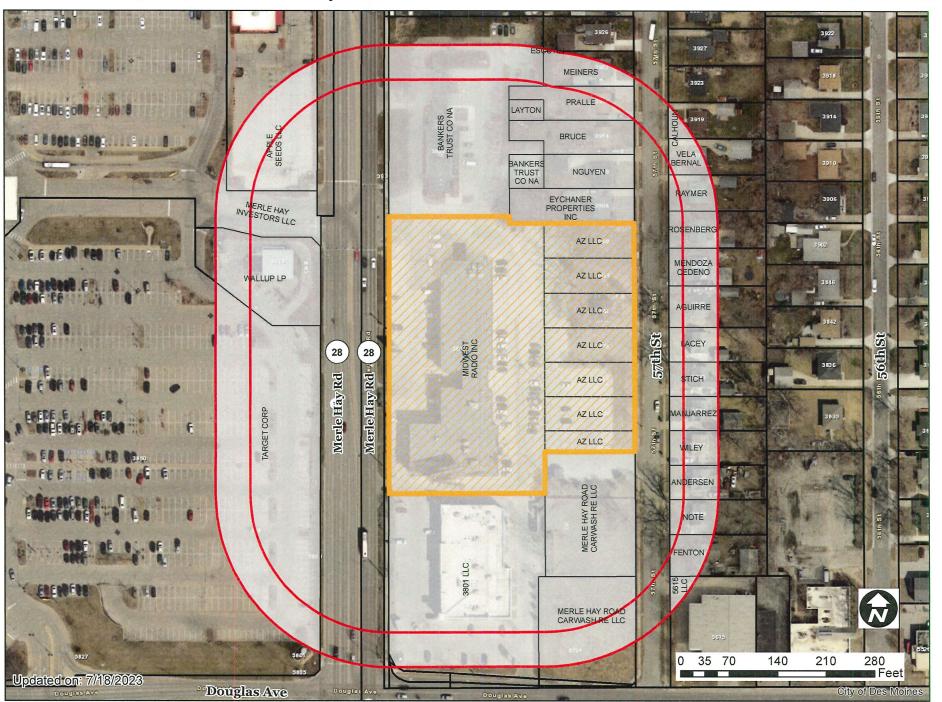
#### TYLER HALL | CITY OF DES MOINES

Development Services Tech. | Development Services

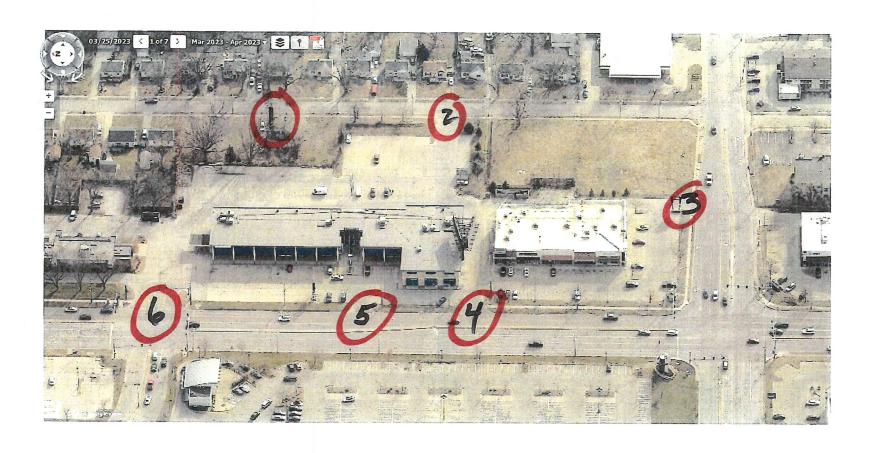
(515) 237-1301

DSM.city | 602 Robert D. Ray Drive | Des Moines, Iowa 50309





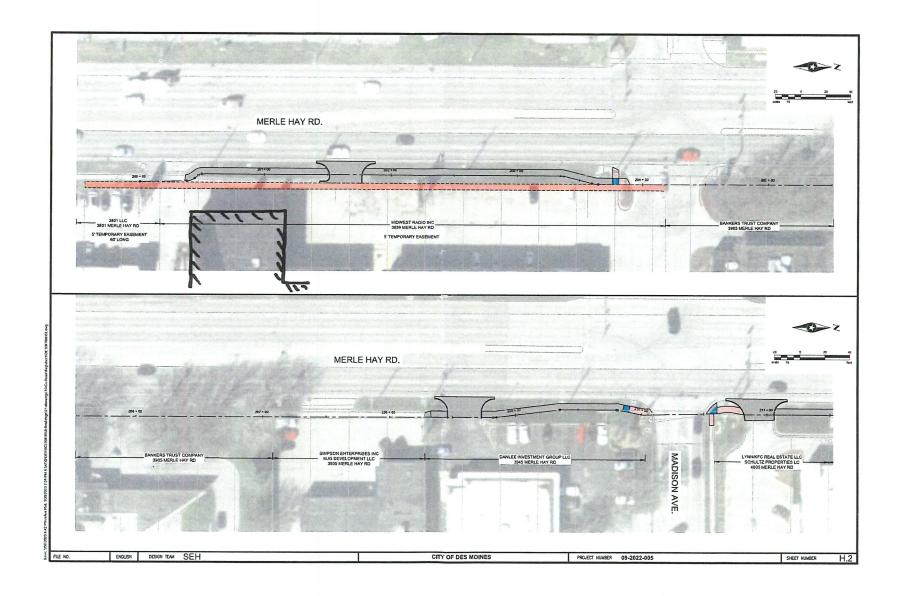


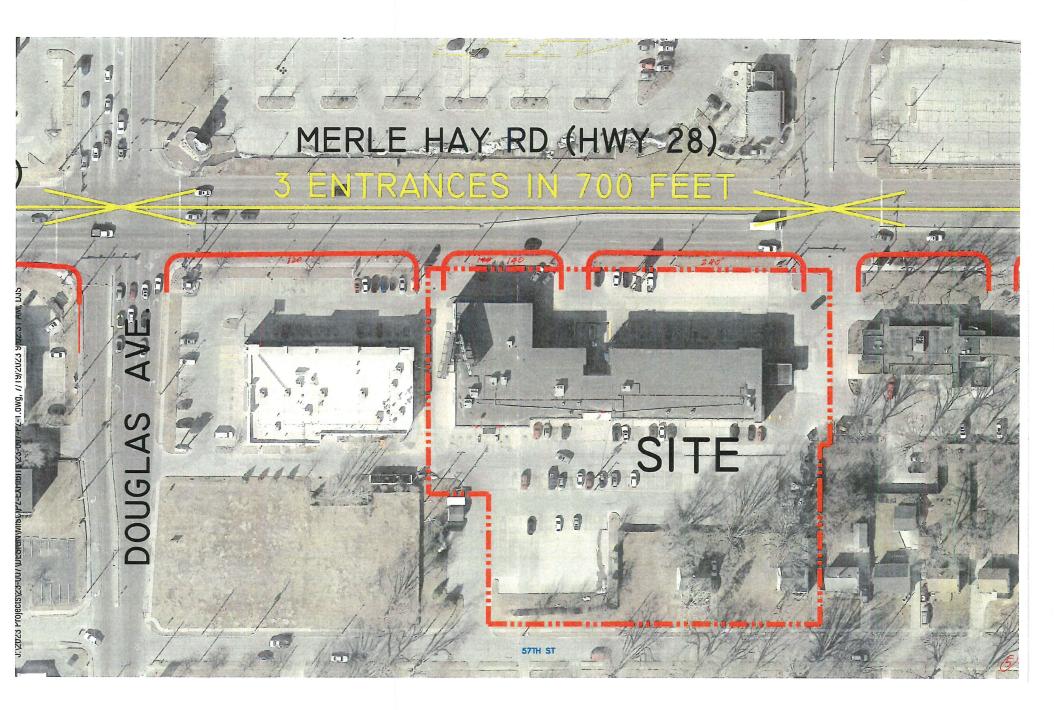




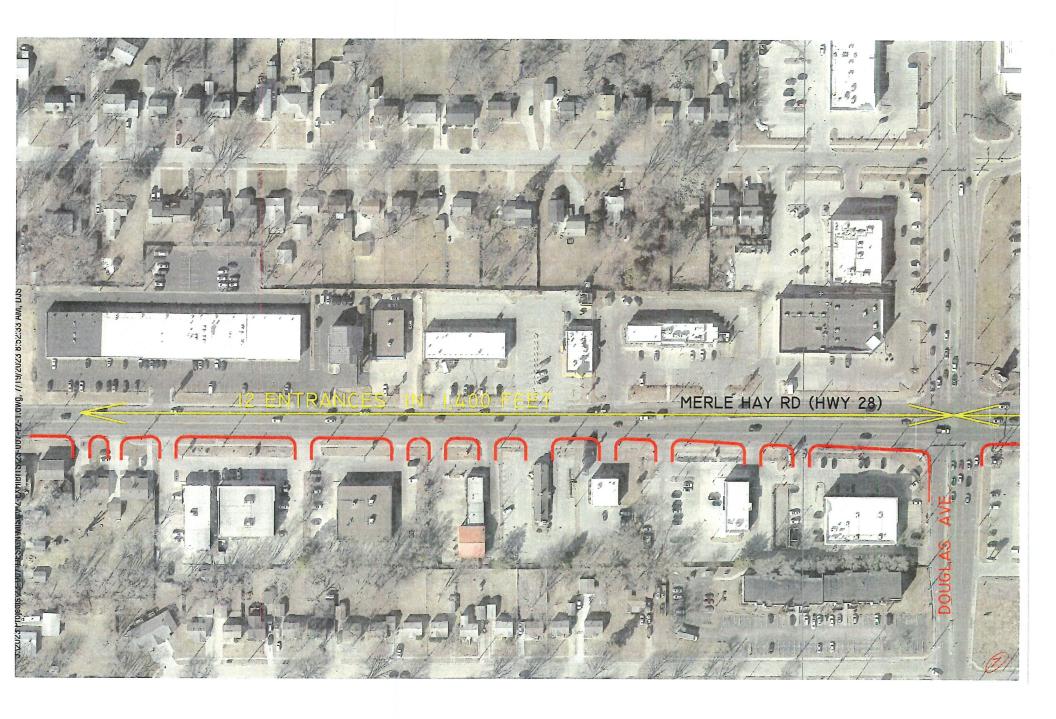
https://gis.bolton-menk.com/inputid/?app=merlehay

Page 1 of 1









From: To: Doug Saltsgaver

Cc:

Sommer, Jillian L. Rich Eychaner; Andy Burton

Subject:

3830 WHD

Date:

Friday, July 21, 2023 1:28:51 PM

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Jillian,

Since we were not successful at P&Z last night for the Type 2 Design Alternative to keep the existing middle driveway entrance on Merle Hay Road, we ask the item be place on the City Council agenda for an appeal of the P&Z outcome.

Please let us know the date the council will set the hearing and what date the hearing will be.

Thank you.

Doug Saltsgaver, PE
Engineering Resource Group, Inc.
2413 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50312
515-288-4823
doug@ergcorp.com