

City of Piney Point Village  
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting  
Minutes from  
October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

**Members Present:** Vincent Marino-Chairman, Bill Burney, Charles Peterman, Lenni Burke, and Sue Curtis

**Members Absent:** Bernard Branca, and Diane Wege

**City Staff:** Annette Arriaga, Director of Planning, Development, & Permits, Ben Griffin, City Administrator, Joe Moore with HDR Engineering Co; and David Olson with Olson and Olson

**City Council:** Mayor, Lee Butler, and Councilman Dale Dodds

**Guests:** Mario Colina with Probsfeld and Associates, Michelle Carter with Merriman Holt Architects, Robert Lindsey, Financial Consultant and Senior Pastor, John Stevens with the Chapelwood Church, Reid Wilson with WCG Law Firm, Jay Desai, Pratap Desai, Ravi Krishnamurthy, Sandy Espey, Debbie Gibson, Gary Edwards, Susan Marino, Charlotte Whaley, Greg Cleveland and Jorge Altschuler

- 1.) **Call to order:** 7:04 P.M.
- 2.) **Meeting Minutes:** Motion for approval of minutes for the September 25th, 2014 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting was made by Bill Burney, and seconded by Lenni Burke. Upon vote, such minutes were unanimously approved.
- 3.) **Public Hearing/Final Plat of 11400 Memorial Drive:** A public hearing was conducted and no public comments were received by the Commission. Staff recommended approval.
- 4.) **Discussion of Public Hearing/Final Plat of 11400 Memorial Drive:** Vincent Marino indicated that all the previous comments had been addressed and he had no further comments related to the final plat. Vincent Marino asked for a motion to approve the final plat of 11400 Memorial Drive. Motion made first by Sue Curtis and seconded by Lenni Burke. Final Plat of 11400 Memorial Drive is approved.
- 5.) **Public Hearing/Specific Use Permit Request/Chapelwood United Methodist Church/11140 Greenbay Street/Request for a Memorial Room-Columbarium:** Pastor, John Stevens gave a quick overview about the columbarium discussions that have taken place within the church; that columbarium's are very common within the churches; how columbarium's are a natural extension of the ministries of the church; and that they have been around now for many years. Cremation is now more acceptable. The church community believes strongly: from birth, to death to life. They feel that a columbarium would be important to their church family, where they can come and pray for those whom they have lost. Pastor John Stevens mentioned that the issue had come up previously and they have listened to those concerns in the past; but he indicated that the columbarium now would be inside, it would be screened from Greenbay behind a six foot wall, the foot print is not changing, and it will be more of a chapel.

Robert Lindsey showed the Chapelwood design drawings and referred to a slide show presentation. He discussed that the columbarium would be:

- 560 square feet
- A total of 880 niches
- 2 urns for each niche
- 2 name marble plates for each niche
- Urns are double sealed and then re sealed within the box (niche) itself

- It will stay within the existing foot print, no new addition required
- It will not be visible from street side
- The windows will be stain glassed and you will not be able to see in
- It will be hidden behind an existing 6 foot wall
- There is a garden in front of the existing wall
- No cremation will take place on the church facilities
- No ashes would be scattered on the ground or garden area
- The niches will be handled only by authorized staff
- If anything were to happen or the church relocates or a family member wants to move the niche, then it would be removed off of the property and relocated properly

**Greg Cleveland, on Greenbay Circle**, indicated that his wife had lived near a cemetery and would not want to live near a cemetery now.

**Jorge Altschuler, on Chapelwood Court**, indicated that he doesn't want to live near a cemetery and he does not like the idea.

**Pratap Desai, on Greenbay Circle**, indicated that he has lived here for 28 years and he does not prefer a cemetery in his neighborhood. He doesn't feel that enough time has been given to all of the residents and this should not be quickly decided and wants more notices to be given so that they can express their opinion.

**Ravi Krishnamurthy, on Greenbay Circle**, is a new resident of Piney Point, he indicated that the church is a beautiful site; however, the concept of a future cemetery concerns him a little bit. He also thinks a little more time is needed for the residents to absorb this.

**Sandy Espey on Montebello Court**, lived in Piney Point for a long time, indicated that she had no objections to the columbarium and that it is not a cemetery.

E-mail read from Chairman Vincent Marino, from **Trent Rosenthal on Shadow Way Street**, indicated that he was a longtime resident and that this issue had been brought up before and was rejected previously by the residents and there is no reason for it to be reconsidered now.

6.) **Discussion of Public Hearing/Specific Use Permit Request/Chapelwood United Methodist Church/11140 Greenbay Street/Request for a Memorial Room-Columbarium:** Vincent Marino indicated that his plan was not to vote on it today. He believes that all of the information listed should be in the form of an ordinance, something in writing so that all of the specifications are listed and spelled out so as to include matters in the letter, brochure and the presentation given.

**Bill Burney**, indicated that he feels strongly for the columbarium, that it is the right thing to do. He has loved ones in an urn on his mantel and none of his neighbors feels like they live next to a cemetery.

**Lenni Burke**, indicated that she is also for the columbarium. She supports the idea. Her dad is in an urn, in a columbarium at his church. He wanted to be in a sacred church.

**Charles Perterman**, indicated that he thinks that a specific use permit, spelled out in an ordinance, would be good.

**Vincent Marino**, indicated that nothing would be voted on today, but he thinks that the Commission should vote on it. However, he wants to see everything in writing, so that the letter, brochure and the presentation are incorporated into in an ordinance form. For example, there are things that were mentioned in the presentation, like the windows will be stain glass windows and the existing six foot exterior wall will be used for screening, but these items were not mentioned in the brochure. He would like to see a draft ordinance and have the commission and the residents look at it.

**Mayor Lee Butler**, indicated the he was listening to the discussions and that he wanted to let everyone know that the item is on the next city council agenda, but that city council doesn't plan on taking any action. He indicated that they are sensitive to the concerns of the citizens. They may require a public hearing at the city council level. He insured the residents that the decision will be made in the best interest of the city and its residents.

**Charles Peterman**, asked about the liability in case the church decides to move. Robert Lindsey indicated that they have no plans to move or relocate, but if they do, they have great discretion in the

contracts for the niches and will be able to move or relocate the niches or columbarium if they ever need too.

7.) **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn at 7:45 P.M. Motion made first by Bill Burney and seconded by Lenni Burke. Motion to adjourn approved.

Date Approved on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015



Chairman Vincent Marino X \_\_\_\_\_

**(Required Signature)**

**Official File Copy**