

Franklin Township, Portage County
Board of Zoning Appeals
January 13, 2025

Present: Chair Justin Moneyppenny, David Hansford, Marilyn Sessions, Sam Abell, and alternate Ron Goodspeed, Board Members; Joe Ciccozzi, Zoning Inspector; Jenny August, Secretary.

Mr. Moneyppenny called the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He introduced the Board members and explained the procedures for the meeting.

7:00 Hearing:

At 7:00 p.m. an application by AARYA LLC, 6818 Majestic Oaks Dr. Hudson, OH representing the property located at 1879 St. Rt. 59 in Kent, OH (parcel # 12-021-00-00-024-001) was heard for a variance to section 700.04 A 2 of the Franklin Township Zoning Resolution. The code does not permit wall signs to cover more than 24 inches of vertical space and the applicant was requesting to put up a wall sign that covers 42 inches representing a variance of 18 inches.

Mr. Moneyppenny asked who is here to speak to this tonight. Mr. David Smith of 1390 Partridge Lane, Akron representing AARYA, was sworn in. He explained to the board that Stricklands Ice Cream is opening a new store to be located in the Singh Biryani building. It will have a separate entrance from the restaurant. The proposed wall sign is 3 ½ feet tall and 7 feet wide. It is not distracting to the neighborhood. It is actually one of the smaller signs. The proposed sign would exceed the code allowance by 18 inches.

Mr. Hansford asked if there will be a road sign as well. Mr. Smith said yes, and the road sign will replace the current one. It will be the same size. Mr. Abell asked if there is enough parking. Mr. Smith said yes, and there is an additional parking lot in the back that the owners plan to have repaved soon. Mr. Ciccozzi noted that the owners are planning to attend a Trustee meeting to request outdoor seating. They just want to put out a few picnic tables.

There were no citizens in attendance for public comment.

Mr. Moneyppenny and the board reviewed the Standards for an area variance:
A-yes, B- yes, C-no, D- no, E-yes, F- no, G- yes.

Mr. Moneyppenny moved to grant the applicant a variance of 18 inches which would allow the applicant to install a wall sign that is 42" in vertical space. Mr. Goodspeed seconded the motion. All board members voted yes. The variance was approved.

Mr. Moneypenny noted that there was a 30-day appeal period that would begin after the minutes of this meeting were journalized. The journalizing will occur at the next meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Approval of Minutes:

Mrs. Sessions moved to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2024 meeting with a second from Mr. Hansford. All voted yes. The meeting minutes were approved.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Moneypenny opened nominations for the 2025-2026 chairperson. Mr. Moneypenny nominated Mrs. Sessions. Mr. Hansford seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. On roll call all board members voted yes for Mrs. Sessions to be the chairperson for 2025 and 2026. Mrs. Sessions accepted the nomination.

Adjournment:

The hearing was adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny August, Secretary, Board of Zoning Appeals

Approved: _____ Chairperson, Marilyn Sessions