

**Meeting Minutes of the Board of Zoning Appeals
Tuesday, May 9th, 2023, at 5:15 PM
City Hall Council Chambers**

The Board of Zoning Appeals met in City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 9th, 2023, at 5:15PM with the following members in attendance: **Brian Murdoch, McKay Moore, Brian Cohen, Dominique Dawkins, Darren Matz, and Don Bramblett**. Representing for the Planning Department is **Nan Zhou, Planner I, Tia Keitt, Planner II, and Oksana Holbrooks, Administrative Assistant**.

Chairman: Okay. Hello, everybody. I'd like to call the City of Spartanburg meeting of boarding... excuse me, Board of Zoning Appeals. Let me apologize for that. This is my first time back up. I was out two months because I had some surgery. I promised myself I was going to read all of this before I did it, but I didn't. So anyway, we're glad you're here. In attendance tonight we have

Roll Call:

Mr. Bramblett: Introduced the whole board member group.

Mr. Brian Cohen, and...

Mr. Matz: Darren Matz.

Mr. Bramblett: Darren Matz.

Mr. Bramblett: I'm Don Bramblett, chairman.

This is Brian Murdock and this is McKay Moore so..

Ms. Dawkins: Arrived later

I need to read the Freedom of Information Act Compliance. Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the City of Spartanburg Zoning Ordinance. First order of business is to improve the agenda. If anyone has looked over the agenda and agrees with it, would like to obtain a motion to approve.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded Mr. Matz to approve the agenda. The motion was approved with a vote of 4-0

Ms. Moore: I approve the agenda.

Mr. Bramblett: Anyone second it?

Mr. Matz: Seconding.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay, all in favor? Aye.

Attendees: Aye.

Mr. Bramblett: We already had roll call. So, we have to discuss the minutes of the last meeting. I have to excuse myself because I wasn't here. Anybody have any questions from the minutes of the April 11th meeting?

Mr. Matz: I wasn't here as well.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay.

Ms. Moore: There was one revision that I sent onto Oksana that just... Dominique and I were seated next to each other and some of this... This one's Dominique and this was me.

Ms. Moore: Okay, so I move that we approve the minutes with changes.

Mr. Bramblett: Have they already been incorporated? The changes? Okay, so could make your motion to approve the minutes as they are now.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 11th, 2023.

A motion was made by Ms. Moore seconded Mr. Murdoch to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was approved with a vote of 6-0.

Ms. Moore: I move that we approve the minutes.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay.

Mr. Murdoch: Second saying aye.

Mr. Bramblett: All in favor?

Attendees: Aye.

Old Business: None.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay, so that's approved. Do we have any old business? I don't think so. The new business tonight, and this is a little confusing to me. I need clarification from Planning. On the agenda it shows that there's new business. There's two subjects with the same applicant. The first one is a request for a special exception, and the second one is a request for a variance. But then somewhere in here it says that you can't have both. Our new business should probably only be directed to one of these topics.

Ms. Keitt: Correct.

Mr. Bramblett: Which one?

Ms. Keitt: Special exception.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay, so I guess we'll have to have an amendment to the agenda to delete the...

Mr. Cohen: Variance.

Mr. Bramblett: Number one. I'm sorry, the number two topic which is the VAR-23-020-0004. Which is the request for the variance. Anybody want to make a motion to delete that from the agenda?

Mr. Cohen: So what... Did you need an explanation?

Ms. Moore: No I was just wondering how to word the new motion.

Mr. Bramblett: Just "I move to delete Section 7 under new business of item two."

Ms. Moore: I move to delete Section 7 under new business item two.

Ms. Dawkins: Second.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay, all in favor?

Attendees: Aye.

Mr. Bramblett: Good so we can strike that. All right. Our first person up here is Ms. Keitt and is a Planner. I need to swear you in. Ms. Keitt do you promise to tell the truth?

Ms. Keitt: I do.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay, proceed.

New Business:

VAR-23-00200004 The City of Spartanburg's Board of Zoning Appeals has received a Variance to the rear and side yard setbacks for the location of modular buildings on the Fine Arts Preparatory School Campus located at 101 Saint Matthews Lane (TMS # 6-21-

01-004.00) with a zoning designation of R-15, Single Family Residential district. Owner: St. Matthews Episcopal Church. Applicant: Fine Arts Preparatory School. Agent: James E. Dudley.

Project Description and History

The project site is a approximately 215,795 square foot lot located in the R-15 (Single Family Residential District) zone. The project site abuts Saint Matthews Lane to the east boundary. The project site is surrounded by LOD, Limited Office District, currently occupied by Truist Bank to the south, B-1, Neighborhood Shopping District, currently occupied by businesses to the south and west , and R-12, General Residential District to the north.

Saint Matthew’s Episcopal Church currently has a Preschool that provides engaging and enriching learning experiences childcare to children who are 3-4 years old and to toddlers and 2 year olds. The church also provides other services such as free medical clinic and food pantry every Wednesday. The applicant, Mr. James Dudley, is proposing to put two (2) 8-classroom modular buildings at Saint Matthews Episcopal Church for Fine Arts Preparatory School located at 101 Saint Matthews Lane. Fine Arts Preparatory School plans to accommodate 253 students as a charter school. Due to the limited available space of the site for Fine Arts Preparatory School to place two 8-classroom modular buildings, the two buildings are proposed to be placed in the back encroaching to the rear and side set back requirements for R-15, Single Family District. Therefore, the applicant is requesting a setback reduction variance regarding the rear and side setback requirements.

Analysis

Zoning Ordinance Consistency

The project site has a zone designation of R-15, Single Family District. **Section 302.1 R-15 Single Family Residential District Uses and Permitted by Special Exception Section VI 603.5** of the City of Spartanburg Zoning Ordinance, R-15, Single Family District, does allow uses for churches, synagogues, and other places of worship and public schools and private and parochial schools having a curriculum approximately the same as ordinarily given in public school.

However, given the size, placement, and orientation of the two modular buildings, the applicant is seeking a setback reduction variance. A Variance may be granted by the Board of Zoning Appeals to the setback standards required in the ordinance. Variances may only be granted in the instances listed in Section 603.4. Section 603.4 lists nine particular instances in which the Board may grant a Variance. Of these nine, only one is applicable to this project;

Section 603.4 (2): To permit the reduction of any required setback being in compliance with all applicable Building and Fire Codes an subject to review by the Building Official

The Board must utilize **Section 603.3(A)(2)** and determine if the proposal meets all the criterion for approval. To hear and decide appeals for Variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance when strict application of the provisions of the Ordinance would result in unnecessary hardship. A Variance may be granted in an individual case of unnecessary hardship if the Board makes and explains in writing the following findings:

- a. There are extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the particular piece of property;
- b. These conditions do not generally apply to other properties in the vicinity;
- c. Because of these conditions, the application of the Ordinance to the particular piece of property would effectively prohibit or unreasonably restrict the utilization of the property; and

d. The authorization of a Variance will not be of substantial detriment to the adjacent property or to the public good, and the character of the district will not be harmed by the granting of the Variance.

e. In granting a Variance, the Board may attach to it such conditions regarding the location, character, or other features of the proposed building, structure, or use as the Board may consider advisable to protect established property values in the surrounding area or to promote the public health, safety, or general welfare.

However, since this setback reduction variance is in connection with the Special Exception, therefore, based on **Section 603.5 Guidelines for Special Exception, NO Variance may be granted by the Board in connection with the granting of a special exception.**

Findings

1. There are extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the particular piece of property –

Currently, the north portion of the Saint Matthew’s Episcopal Church site has a cemetery/burial space and a playground to the northeast corner of the site facing Saint Matthews Lane. The western portion of site is road frontage to an easement for entrance to commercial properties. Therefore, due to the limited available space for the Fine Arts Preparatory School to place two modular buildings and the number of students they plan to accommodate, a variance to setback reduction is needed.

2. These conditions do not generally apply to other properties in the vicinity –

The Saint Matthew’s Episcopal Church is surrounded by R-12, General Residential District, LOD, Limited Office District, occupied by Truist Bank, and B-1, Neighborhood Shopping District, currently occupied by several businesses. Properties in the vicinity of the project site do not have the need to place two modular buildings on the site (150’ by 64’ and 124’ by 64’ respectively).

3. Because of these conditions, the application of the Ordinance to the particular piece of property would effectively prohibit or unreasonably restrict the utilization of the property; and

—
The church already has a preschool daycare center wing on the site, a playground near the northeast corner of the property, and a cemetery near the northwest of the property. Based on the applicant’s statement “the project is in addition to a sanctuary and gymnasium where typical liturgical and outreach activities occur.” The church is not going to change the use of the property as it is already the home to its preschool daycare center. Fine Arts Preparatory School will function as an uppergrades public school that is authorized by the SC Department of Education through the Limestone Charter Association. Because of the current layout of the church buildings on the site, the only available space for Fine Arts Preparatory School to place those two modular buildings would be in the lower back of the site, which would encroach to the rear setback 40 ft requirement set by the City of Spartanburg Zoning Ordinance making the two modular buildings in non-compliance with the Zoning Ordinance. The applicant is requesting the variance because one building will be fifteen (15) feet over the setback line to the south side property line, and the other building will exceed the setback requirement by four (4) feet to the west side of the property line.

The applicant further stated that with the variance, they are able to place temporary modular buildings on the site to house 253 students for the Fine Arts Preparatory public school program for the term of three years. The project gets full support from the church and the diocese, which

authorizes and governs specific actions of the church. The applicant believes that the Fine Arts Preparatory charter school will meet the needs of the community by providing a place for community supporting wraparound services such as health clinics, adult education, family education seminars, etc. By the end time of three years term, the Fine Arts Preparatory School will reset the landscape and remove all the modular buildings.

4. The authorization of a Variance will not be of substantial detriment to the adjacent property or to the public good, and the character of the district will not be harmed by the granting of the Variance—

The authorization of this variance should not be detrimental to the adjacent properties or the public good. The Fine Arts Preparatory public school will fit into the area as it is nested well into the community. Using the property for public school will not harm the character of the district. However, it may impact the traffic coming in and out of the neighborhood behind the church.

5. In granting a Variance, the Board may attach to it such conditions regarding the location, character, or other features of the proposed building, structure, or use as the Board may consider advisable to protect established property values in the surrounding area or to promote the public health, safety, or general welfare—

In the event the Board finds that the Variance finding can be met and the project approved, conditions of approval are attached to this report. The Board may choose to approve or amend them based on the outcome of this proposal. Again, according to the City of Spartanburg Zoning Ordinance **Section 603.5 Guidelines for Special Exception, NO Variance may be granted by the Board in connection with the granting of a special exception.**

Ms. Keitt: Good evening members of the BZA. My name is Tia Keitt and I'm a Planner with the City of Spartanburg. And this Special Exception is well, the address is specifically about 101 St. Matthews Lane, Fine Arts Preparatory Academy. And the request is to allow for a school in a inopportune zone. So, this application has come to the BZA because Mr. Jamez Dudley, founded a Charter School Fine Arts K-6 Preparatory Academy, and is desperately seeking a location for the school. The school administrators plan to open August of 2023, with around 200 students. But this has been amended and will receive an update, the applicant is here. The St. Matthews Episcopal Church has agreed to allow the school to be hosted on their church campus for the duration of three years. Mr. Dudley is looking for a permanent location but will settle for a temporary location until he can find a site preferably in the City of Spartanburg.

The St. Matthews Church campus is zoned R-15. Schools are allowed in R-15 Single Family District, but only with Special Exception approval from the board. The site includes the St. Matthews Church which operates as Modern Daycare Monday through Friday. This site also has a gym connected to church, a small playground open to the public, and memorial garden with a walking path situated to the rear of the site. The church hosts community events throughout the year, a food pantry, and a free health clinic once a week. So this is the site map right here and this is 101 St. Matthews Lane.

Mr. Bramblett: Did you tell us what zone the buildings are around it?

Ms. Keitt: That's actually, around the...

Mr. Bramblett: Around the parcel. Around 101.

Ms. Keitt: So this is... On the corner here is a bank. That's two sites but that on one parcel. Over here is a restaurant, Golden Corral, I'm not sure.

Ms. Keitt: There's a Chipotle.

Ms. Keitt: Oh, this is that plaza with the Chipotle and Tropicana. So this is all zoned B-1. As you can see B-1 is Neighborhood Shopping Districts, of the extends to Office District. This is R-12; mostly Single Family but Residential. And across the street, this is R-6 I believe. That is Apartment Housing or Condos. So this is on the W O Ezell West 29 main thoroughfare. So last month, well almost two months ago, Mr. Dudley and Father Rob met with the Planning and Building Department to learn about the site planning review process and any building regulations used in the city. At the meeting, the staff learned that Mr. Dudley had secured two portables, and this has been amended in this staff report, and is working with the Office of School Facilities to meet safety guidelines for students and staff. Planning staff provides its own setback requirements for R-15 properties, and the steps to apply for a special exception and variance. The building department provides additional details that says the charter school's currently working with OSF, which is the Office of School Facilities. Or is it the State?

Mr. Jamez: Part of the State.

Ms. Keitt: Thank you!

Ms. Keitt: The Building Department will not have to be as involved. OSF standards has required it to meet building code requirements.

So following the meeting, Mr. Dudley submit the application necessary to go before the BZA, and since then we've just worked together either to update the application and/or the remove variance application. Staff learned during the process that an applicant cannot have a variance on top of a special exception. So, as required by Section 603.53 the board must utilize the guidelines below and decide for as what to accept the special exception for the required... To hear and decide appeals for a special exception from the requirements of the zoning ordinance. Which application of the provisions of the ordinance will do so in unnecessary hardship. A special exception may be granted in an individual case of unnecessary hardship if the board makes and explains in writing the following requirements. Traffic impact... So let me also say that this project will have to come to the Planning Department for site plan review. And during that process, Planning staff, Building Official, Streets scape and Storm Water, will have to be involved to make sure that the site is ready to be developed for the school to even open.

Where at one point, because this is a school, the school jurisdiction will overlie. And so, the Building Department will, at one point, not have to be as involved. This is what was stated in the site planner meeting, but site plan review will be required. So to that end, a traffic study is something that would be required with the site plan review process. And the applicant has already done that. Which I believe was included in the BZA packet.

Mr. Bramblett: That's on pages... I just saw it I'm sorry. Here it is. It ends on page 58, the traffic study.

Ms. Keitt: The traffic study was done on a Tuesday during, well between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Of course it won't account cars and what we know is that this is a census track 206.01, and there are just over three thousand residents in this area. This is just the site review. Kind of looking at some of the residential, commercial. It's surrounded by commercial, just to the north of it are a residential complex. The traffic study again was done between 7 a.m. and 4:45 p.m.

And it looked at, but going south on St. Matthews, turning going west on W O Ezell. We counted the number of cars that turned right, that went straight, or turned left. Going east on W O Ezell, we counted the number of cars going left, straight, and turning right. And coming from Winchester Place either going straight, or turning left or right. The traffic study explains a lot, of course as you saw, but the numbers are there. And so you can, I can say you can assume, but it's also printed that there's a slight number increase, well I can't say increase but for the accounted number of cars. It would be interesting to know the number of cars that were traveling the same cross intersection.

So vehicle and pedestrian safety, so this is interesting because you know older communities have sidewalks, especially in the City of Spartanburg, but this street does not. And I found this image on Google where there's someone walking along the road here. But again, through site plan review, staff always enforce safety and that comes just to concern regulations. But here, the Fine Arts Preparatory Academy has taken steps for family and employee safety. They have to come up with a traffic flow, because there's also a small daycare that operates onsite and a small church staff that's there during the day. The applicant has worked with the church to create a property plan, and through the site plan review process, staff will determine the number of parking spaces required. Just a preliminary right now, it seems like it's a lot but we still have to go through the site plan review process. When I say a lot, there's sufficient amount of parking onsite for the proposed number of staff. This was submitted with the application, the traffic flow. So looks like there are two entrances or maybe three but that is to the bank.

But right now the school will require buses and cars coming into the site, if you're going north, to turn into the first entrance. That will have to be regulated through signage. Something that will come out through the site plan review process, where doing a loop around, going through this little whirl here and coming out. But that's at this moment. The traffic flowing process are there. Zoning; so potential impact are noise, lights, fumes, or obstruction of airflow on adjoining company. So I mean during school hours, you're going to hear the voices of kids and cars coming into the lot. That's probably the maximum amount of noise that I can anticipate from school starting to school ending. Because the buildings are portables, I would imagine students would go maybe from one room to the next. But they would definitely have to come outside to go to the gym for lunch.

One thing that we like to bring to the boards attention is adaptive design strategies. Which is to make sure there is enough lighting and there aren't any dark spaces for sketchy activity. Adverse impact of proposed use on surrounding area including the aesthetics of the area. So of course, St. Matthews is a gorgeous campus, and you know to the north end of the campus there's a nice park; lots of green space. So the buildings will, some of the buildings will be able to be seen from this area, but majority of those buildings will be in the back of the building. This is the latest update with the proposed portable classroom, I hate to call them portable. And so, the original design was large, I know it was just two of them, but the applicant has reduced the size. And this is a business that clearly creates these portable classrooms and they come with everything we need to start a school. Including chalkboards, dry-erase boards, we can include a bathroom if we want. After reading this I figured I was in the wrong business.

Okay this is the site here, I wanted to do some quick measurements. Just so you'll kind of understand the street frontage and the length of the site. It's just over 5 acres I believe, and right now the buildings will be in this area here. There's a memorial garden here so it's going to be about here. But the applicants here can further explain.

Mr. Matz: So is there any lighting along that fence line today? To the... I guess those are apartments.

Ms. Keitt: On the-

Mr. Matz: I guess on that back side.

Ms. Keitt: Right here?

Mr. Matz: No at the top.

Mr. Cohen: Those are houses.

Mr. Matz: Those are houses. So is there lighting there today?

Ms. Keitt: I don't think so.

Mr. Matz: But this plan will be putting in new lighting along back there? Since there will be trailers there.

Ms. Keitt: Well that's something to think about, lighting.

Mr. Bramblett: Cause it's in here, but there's going to have to be-

Mr. Matz: I'm just thinking about lighting pollution across the fence line and into those back windows back there.

Mr. Bramblett: -lighting for security.

Ms. Keitt: Right, and the zoning ordinance will require us to make sure that it does not. But it is a R-15, so you know special exception will require us to consider as a school, but.

Mr. Matz: Still would have to abide by the R-15 zoning standards.

Ms. Keitt: That's a good question. You know it's a um use tables, so it's rough to get into, but of course we can't just shine a light in someone's house.

Mr. Matz: But if we were to grant a special exception, I think I read in here maybe I misunderstood it, that they still have to have a structure that still looks like a residential structure. Cause it's still zoned as an R-15, is that right?

Ms. Keitt: Did you see that in the zoning ordinance?

Mr. Matz: I saw that in the special exemption writing at the bottom for R-15s that it's still supposed to look like a residence, residential structure. It's on that page where it gives exemptions about what can be granted as special exemption. Yeah, it's on page 20 of the packet and it's 302.2 that says any use permitted... I'm sorry, it's 5 and 10 C that says "Any expansion of existing residential structure or any new structure shall be appearance of a residential structure.

Mr. Bramblett: What page is that?

Mr. Matz: 20. But I don't know if that applies in this case. That's why I was just getting confused. Like why not rezone?

Ms. Keitt: So that came up as well, but this is also time sensitive.

Mr. Matz: Yeah.

Ms. Keitt: Regarding 302.2 10 C, I'll have to dig into that.

Mr. Matz: Okay. And I could be completely wrong. When I read through it, it was like it still needs to look like a residence, but I don't know what that means.

Mr. Bramblett: It's kind of, if I can interject, the special exception allows for schools and different things. I still haven't found it...

Mr. Matz: It's right there in 2 B, on the top of that same page.

Mr. Bramblett: That, that, that. It'd be hard to make the church look like a residence. So I'm trying to figure out why they put that in there.

Mr. Matz: That's more residential looking than a bunch of roll cots. I mean...

Mr. Bramblett: So what you're saying is, in your interpretation, it has to look like what we expect to see on a residential.

Mr. Matz: Yes.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay.

Ms. Keitt: So, we'll dig into that for sure. So I mean he has too, we'll just have to dig into that.

Mr. Matz: Yeah it's just my reading of it. I could be wrong. That's usually the case.

Mr. Bramblett: You're right, I'm glad you found that. It's a lot, it's hard to know everything.

Ms. Keitt: So I'll at least finish the presentation and then pass the mic.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay.

Ms. Keitt: These are the residences. And finally in compliance with the comprehension plan, and so this is still up for a discussion comp plan, but that it's interesting because this particular sight is just in this preserve conservation sector, which the church is doing an excellent job at keeping the area conserved. They have a nice landscaping and memorial garden, and so permanent structures would not be in compliance with the comprehensive plan. These are just some images from the site. The portables would be here in this area. This dumpster would be removed. This is just the closer up of the playground. This is looking at the rear of the property, a walkway to the memorial garden in the rear of the church or the campus.

Mr. Bramblett: Was that houses?

Ms. Keitt: No, this is B-1, Golden Corral.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay.

Ms. Keitt: The rear of the church again. This is looking towards where the additional portables would go. So tonight, we all have three options. You could approve with the conditions, you can deny the special exceptions, or stay with the matter if more information is required.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay, thank you. Thank you.

Ms. Keitt: Are there any questions?

Mr. Bramblett: Anybody have any questions?

Mr. Matz: Yeah, I guess I have one. When I read through this, I'm not 100 percent up on the conservation section. But if they go in and cut down a bunch of trees and put a portable there, that's not conservation to me?

Ms. Keitt: That sounds logical. Now it becomes will how many trees would they have to remove. The rear of the property, now there aren't any trees back there now.

Mr. Matz: Are they putting a building where those trees are right there, or at least proposed? Cause I don't know if this is correct, but this is what was handed to us a little while ago. I mean I see trees and I see two little rectangles there right between the buildings.

Ms. Keitt: Well probably that is the memorial gardens, I know you wouldn't want that disturbed. And that's not accurate. So..

Mr. Matz: Okay.

Ms. Keitt: I know that's just a quick visual. But with preservation, so at this point our tree ordinance is pretty strict. Trees that have a dying look or is height of 12 inches or greater have to be replaced.

Mr. Matz: Okay.

Ms. Keitt: And that again, through the site plan review process, a tree survey has to be done. And then even landscaping, we're not too concerned about the properties. You know it'll be interesting, but it's an opportunity to try. But you know. Any questions for the planner?

Mr. Bramblett: Well the picture they have here of a portable classroom they originally wanted to use is 125 feet long.

Ms. Keitt: It was.

Mr. Bramblett: The one you showed up there is just 36 feet. So, that's just the size of one regular school classroom. How are you going to get all the children in there? That'd be a question, I guess that one needs to go to the applicant.

Ms. Keitt: Correct. So if there are no more questions for...

Ms. Moore: So on page 40 of the packet, it says the property was zoned commercial and given exemption as a church. I just wanted... it is R-15.

Ms. Keitt: Right.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay. On page 41... 81, it shows traffic moving into a circle and coming back out. Isn't that the roundabout that was built just for the daycare?

Ms. Keitt: So if there are no more questions for...

Mr. Bramblett: Well I didn't know if they gave you another drawing for where they propose to pick the children up for the school. Okay, no more questions for you. Thank you for your time.

Ms. Keitt: I would like the applicant, well no the property owner to further explain.

Mr. Matz: Thank you.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay, the next speaker will be the applicant or agent.

Mr. Dudley: Good evening. Thank you for having me here.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay, please sign your name to the sheet there, then I'll swear you in. Okay. Raise your right hand. Do you promise to tell the truth?

Mr. Dudley: I do.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay, thank you. Would you please state your name? I may not be pronouncing it right.

Mr. Dudley: Jamez Dudley.

Mr. Bramblett: Jamez. Okay. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Dudley: Thank you.

Mr. Bramblett: You ahh the applicant or the agent will be sworn in and provide name and may request information about his or her project and request. So is there anything you would like to add to the planner's statement?

Mr. Dudley: I do. When you enter the property in that middle section, that's the car ride around. The car ride around goes in and wraps around and picks up at the front around that line. The bigger arrows are for school bus loading only. So our school buses will come in and then they

will park along that curve that's situated from the daycare program. At the time that we are dismissing, most of the daycare students will be gone. Our school hours are non-traditional. Ours start at 09:00 after starting at 4:15. The majority of that program, I've been speaking with the pre-school director of the church, is a half day and then they have it tiered out throughout the rest of the day. So we don't anticipate that we will struggle with any traffic that's coming in for the daycare. The buses will only be there for the purposes of loading and unloading of those students starting at 4:15 and then dropping then off and then driving off in the morning. If we can go back the screen with the...

Mr. Bramblett: Can you do it for him?

Mr. Dudley: So initially, if you look at that screen right there with that two very large buildings, one of the things that we considered as traffic, looking at traffic at other charter schools, I will say that our charter school is the first charter school in South Carolina's history to have used funding for public transportation for pupils. So we do have three school buses where over 70% of our students have indicated that they will ride the bus. We additionally have reduced the enrollment number, so we're looking at a window of 175 to 200 students to go into that space. If you are looking at this unit, the way that we're planning for this is for there to be an ADA compliant ramp that comes up behind the office, portable, and it will line up with the units backing up to them. So we might need a covered hallway, kind of deal, for students outside to go into those classrooms, and then we will put any walkways necessary for access to the other units fenced off of that property to make sure there's no public access to the students at that time.

These units, we have the learning cottages at St. Matthews, because they're customizable, we can make the paint look like they're blended into the trees. The neighborhood has a lot of smaller, older brick homes. They are dark in color, so what we could do is change the outside physique of those to then match what the area and neighborhood looks like, or more so what the church looks like, as necessary.

Mr. Bramblett: With your reduced number of buildings, how many of these do you anticipate to...

Mr. Dudley: There will be a total of nine, and they will be situated in that smaller footprint that you have on your site. So we're structuring them so they're still in that bubble-

Mr. Bramblett: So you'll be able to comply with the setbacks?

Mr. Dudley: Correct. They will not be outside of the lines that are required, which is 15 feet to the sides and 40 feet to the front view.

Mr. Bramblett: Any other questions? Go ahead.

Mr. Murdoch: I have one question. Do you anticipate any removal of any trees or shrubbery or anything like that, with the nine buildings?

Mr. Dudley: We do and what we counted was about 18 trees. We had a conversation with planning and we understand that the ordinance says that if you remove a tree, it has to be planted back on that property, or on city owned properties. So if we cannot get trees on in that time, we will plant trees on city owned property. We'll do a field trip and let the kids make a ceremony, like Arbor Day. Then, once we removed those units, we'll work with the church to set back any type of shrubbery and landscaping that the church wants back in that space. So there's going to be an increase of trees.

Ms. Moore: How many? Nine buildings?

Mr. Dudley: Yes.

Mr. Dudley: North is the left-hand side of the pavement.

Ms. Moore: Oh, there it is. Okay.

Mr. Bramblett: So you don't anticipate any parents picking up their children?

Mr. Dudley: Some of the parents will pick up and drop off, but we don't anticipate it will cause any huge disruption to traffic. Again, we know that over 70% of our families said, "Hey, we're going to be riding the bus." We do have proper transportation throughout Spartanburg County.

Mr. Bramblett: So, and this is just for School District Six students?

Mr. Dudley: No, charter schools are open zones. So any student that are present... We have a family who lives in Columbia, but mom and dad works at the Denny's tower, those kids could come to school at the charter school. Charter schools are open zones. They're open to any student in the State of South Carolina. So any student in any district in Spartanburg County is eligible to enroll and subsequently ride transportation to school in the state of South Carolina.

Mr. Bramblett: So those children whose parents live out of town, they will definitely be picked up by the bus?

Mr. Dudley: Correct. But we don't even have any of those. That's just an example.

Mr. Murdoch: We're just examining what was said on here said back on that site.

Ms. Moore: I don't like that this is 40 feet. I feel like that creates a little bit of a dead space and possibly CPD. I would like to give them more set-back there, if that is a possibility, 40 feet seems like a lot back there.

Mr. Bramblett: That property's pretty well locked in full of commercial, residential all the way around it. One business back there is a.. I can't think of the name of it. Buffalo's. They sell alcohol. It's my understanding that a school can't be in so many feet from a place that sells alcohol.

Mr. Dudley: According to LLR, that's if an applicant who's selling alcohol files a petition to open a building after a school, but if a school comes in after that building, that does not affect-

Mr. Bramblett: So you've already talked to them about that?

Mr. Dudley: Yeah, we've spoken to them about this as well. It will be covered... If you look in that, most of the shrubs that are there at the top left-hand corner is going to be blocking the kids view of that. Then there's a fence that's also running the property that will also be fixed as well, to make sure that there's no disposition between the two, that there's clear separation of what is school and what is not.

Mr. Bramblett: I went to District 6 site so I can see what they offer, as far as fine arts. All I could find was, Grade 2nd through Grade 8th, they offer some fine arts. So I wonder why they haven't embraced a fine arts school for the high school students and went ahead and done this. Have you talked to the District 6 School Board?

Mr. Bramblett: We have not, but we are planning to, to offer that to students. Charter schools are just schools... They're a specialty school and they have so many different students from different

communities, and different families, and different backgrounds. The charter school basically gives an avenue for students to attack something that they wouldn't have had, that offer them in school, which was the reason that I founded Arts School. I'm a Spartan High School graduate, class of 2005. And what I felt is that I did not have enough of the arts in school, though I was involved with band and chorus all the way through high school and then got a degree in college. I felt like my home town needed more of the arts. Greenville has the Governor's School for the Arts. This program is not that program, but it provides similar opportunities for students who are located in the Spartanburg area.

Mr. Bramblett: I admire your passion, about wanting to get more students trained in fine arts. It's a wonderful objective. It just seems like there's a reason why District 6 would go ahead and have a fine arts school for Grade 9th through 12th. I don't understand when it stopped being a credit. But you're right, charter schools are different. Somebody brought up the sidewalk. There was a law that schools had to have a sidewalk, at least one sidewalk on each street coming to the school, for a mile. The reason they did that was because they wouldn't pick up any children who lived within a mile of the school. So you said that children living in apartments of the houses, are there any sidewalks around there?

Mr. Dudley: There are not sidewalks around there. We did do a survey. You're correct on that, the state law is that the yellow bus does not stop within two tenths of a mile of a school's neighborhood lot.

Mr. Bramblett: That's the problem.

Mr. Dudley: What we've done is, one of our buses will do a door-to-door pick-up for students in that neighborhood, so they do not have to walk along those roads where there are no sidewalks.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay. Any more questions or any thoughts? Thank you, sir.

Mr. Dudley: Thank you.

Mr. Bramblett: You want to speak? You're welcome to speak too.

Ms. Keitt: The applicant or...

Mr. Bramblett: Okay. I guess, are you the agent for that?

Mr. Dudley: I'm an agent for the applicant? This is the property owner.

Mr. Bramblett: Oh, the property owner. Okay.

Ms. Moore: So we need to change is to public comment.

Mr. Bramblett: You represent the-

Mr. Murdoch: Church.

Mr. Bramblett: Church, which is the property owner.

Ms. Keitt: I just wanted to say the planning department followed up on the 302.2, I lost the page, but that's if an addition to a residential structure will need to look like. A residential structure, but it's not required for a special exception.

Mr. Matz: Okay, thank you.

Mr. Bramblett: Father Rob, raise your right hand. Do you promise to tell the truth?

Father Robert: I will. I'll even add, so help me God.

Mr. Bramblett: That's fine.

Father Robert: I'm Father Rob Brown. I am the director, which means the priest in charge or the Pastor of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. I bring something additional I think, perhaps, to the conversation. I grew up at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. My family started attending there in 1963. Now, I was gone for 25 years before I came back as a priest, but I can pretty much tell you whatever you need to know, about the neighborhood, about our site, and the evolving nature of the community around us over the course of the years. The Cleveland family, Jesse Cleveland,

dug up a little over seven acres, originally, for the construction of St. Matthews. He said it was a commercial, it was actually a farm, farm at the time. The original church building was built in 1960. It's been modified and renovated several times over the years. At one time, there was nothing out there, until Dorman High School eventually located across the street from us. Beside us was the National Guard Army. Those things occurred in the 1960s. Then, in the mid '70s, of course, Westgate Mall came into existence.

In 2003, the area now includes the Golden Corral, the Buffalo Wild Wings. The Olive Garden was actually a vacant lot with which sold to a developer and they constructed those three restaurants there. Just for historical context, this is a very important place. The Spartanburg people don't talk about it much, because they're not aware. The African American soldiers of Camp Wadsworth of WWI who died are buried there. That needs to be a historical site. Because Camp Wadsworth actually is a part of our community. Again, it is always been an evolving area of our community. An evolving and changing and growing part of our town. In the late '70s, early '80s, the church developed the parcels that you see out there, where there now is bank and a small strip shopping center.

We eventually sold the area to Chipotle but we actually owned the land the bank sits in are us. On their northern property, which y'all looked at, the park that's there, that's y'all's. That's the City of Spartanburg's. Sterling Anderson thing is because the city got a grant to put in pocket parks, but couldn't get the neighborhoods to agree to do it, because they said it would bring in "the wrong element". So, of course, we agreed, because one reason we chose to oppose these folks is that we have a real commitment to the community. We want to support Spartanburg in every way we can and get the needs of our community met.

So we put in a pocket park. Y'all lease that from us for \$1 a year. By the way, you're \$5 in arrears. You know what? The wrong element, I don't know who they are, because they're sure not using the pocket park. We're there every day at some point, mostly in the evenings. So that park is a partnership between St. Matthews and the City of Spartanburg. On our site, we do indeed have a free clinic, which is a satellite of St. Luke's, and a Food Pantry. We feed about 100 families on every Wednesday. The free clinic, they might see two or three people one week. They might see 15 or 20 the next. It varies. By the way, we're seeing a lot of Ukrainian refugees in both the Food Pantry and the free clinic. We also have representatives from Access Health that come to us. We sign them up to get our primary care physician responders for Spartanburg Regional.

So this is a good program. We only expect that it's utilization will increase, because many of the families that are currently in the school come from disadvantaged backgrounds. And having not only the schooling, but honestly, the free clinic and the Food Pantry all there together, I think it can only benefit those in need. That's on Wednesday. The rest of the time, gyms are going to be available for usages by the school. We have a kitchen that's in the process of being renovated. It's going to be a task, clearing stuff away and moving the stuff back in, if they do need to use it, whether it's for serving lunch or using it for PE on occasion, but we're willing to do that. I guess, more than anything, I want to say that we want to support the school because we see the need. I was the assistant for the Church of the Advent in the 1990s when they started a program with Mary Wright Elementary School.

Mr. Dudley was a star pupil in the program, and in our conversations, what he said to me, and I think he said it in a way to y'all, is that he want to present the same opportunity that he had to

more kids, to more kids coming from the same kind of background. Folks, the way out of so many of our problems in this country, not only Spartanburg, is through education, through walking together. Different people, when I say different people, people that look different, that sound different, together and have them working together to solve problems, to learn together for that matter. And this will be one example of that.

So the church is 100% behind it. I have to say, I was smiling when you talked about they had to look like residential units. I looked it up. There's 17,859 motor homes as far as Spartanburg County and all do not look as good as that square building. But we'll do whatever we can, and we'll assist as much as we can, to help them blend in the landscape. We have a very in-depth lease with these folks that requires them, once the apartment is vacated, to landscape the areas where which would replace pine trees. Back in 2020, in February, when the tornadoes came through, we lost 70 trees.

Ms. Moore: 17?

Father Robert: 70 trees. That's right, 70. It took forever, because of the pandemic. We cleaned out, we cleared up. So, currently, the church is looking forward to an opportunity to have it cleared out the landscape.

Ms. Moore: It's a really nice testimony of how much y'all have worked together.

Father Robert: The attorney that represents the charter schools. We've been on Zoom calls and meetings, emails back and forth, just to make sure that the lease requirements protect those parks. Jamez, I can't think of a better advocate for this school and for young people. So I'm biased, completely biased.

Mr. Bramblett: If I can say so, I've known Father Rob a long time and everything he says is the absolute truth. He is totally committed to inclusion and bringing the best opportunities for anybody in the Spartanburg area. I can't say enough for his dedication.

Ms. Moore: I did observe that park. I have kids, so I'm very keen on parks. And that one looked very, it looked safe, it looked well-used, and well attended. So, as a mom, I feel like that will be a nice place to go to.

Mr. Bramblett: There's an abundance of picnic tables. Families come out there and you can have a picnic.

Father Robert: That's right. The city maintains it, everything. The city does an extraordinary job and I wish there were two dozen of those scattered around the city.

Ms. Moore: That one is really nice.

Father Robert: Yeah, that one's really nice.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay, I'm going to be devil's advocate. This is tough, Father Rob, but along with your dedication and the history of St. Matthews Church, dedication to the community, and to all the things you mentioned, you've got a Food Pantry, you've got St. Luke's Clinic, you have the daycare, you have community meetings, you open the church for community meetings, 12-step

programs and other things. Could it be that, that parcel is about somewhat maxed out into what it can offer?

Father Robert: I do not disagree at all. But we're talking about only three years.

Mr. Bramblett: You remember the book about the Peter Pet Principle, where people were promoted into jobs until they reach a point of incompetence? Well, I wouldn't go that far, but maybe that church has added, and added, and added, to where it's about peaked out. You're talking about putting all these classrooms, you're going to have to double up on the use of the gyms and the dining room. Then you bring more cars and buses in there. The kids, is there going to be enough separation so you don't have to worry about a daycare student running out under a bus or something coming? Is there a chance that this is just too much?

I'm not taking away from the honest need for this in that area, another fine arts school. I think it's very honorable, but should you just keep looking and perhaps another builder will come? A building that can be renovated into a school with plenty of parking and a kitchen facility that become open. It wouldn't be by August, probably. But I'm not sure if you can do all this by August anyway. Should you just at least consider that this is maybe not enough for what he needs?

Father Robert: Don, I don't disagree with you. I interpret it a little bit different, but I don't disagree. This is a great deal for this parcel. If we were looking at this as a permanent home for the school, we couldn't handle it. Obviously, we couldn't. But what if, three years out from a global pandemic... I figure we can do anything in three years, because we just did. I'm not trying to sound flip-it. We changed the way we did things. We changed priorities. We changed the way we met. We changed the way we started stream worshipping. We changed lots and lots of things for three years, and now we breathe a great sigh of relief. We kept some things, but going back to much more than we did before.

So I think we can handle this for three years. We can't handle it for five, but I think, for three, we can. Part of that is... You gave the example, you mentioned the fact that we have NA there, we have Nom there. The church is not in charge of NA, it's not in charge of Nom. We're just giving them the space. The same thing with this. We're not in charge of the school, we're just giving them the space. So the problems that arise are really theirs to solve. There are going to be problems. Without a doubt, there'll be problems. There'll be some kind of disagreement over something, but that's just the nature of people working together. It's whether or you really feel inclined to try and work through those difficulties. And you've got that, I believe, on both sides.

We do have a number of things going on, but there's also opportunity. As an example, these classrooms, three years from now when they move out of there, may just be ... and again, this is conjecture, but the head of our food pantry has already said, "When they move out, then we'll think about buying one of those classrooms and keeping it, and keeping the food pantry in there." Or keeping two of them and having the free clinic in one and the free pantry in another, so you've got a dedicated space for those instead of having to share. And we already move everything every week anyway, those two things.

So there's also opportunity. Don't hold us to that, but that's the food pantry of our dream. So I think there's opportunity. And, again, I think in three years we can have them. I don't think we can have them right now.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay. Thank you for answering this question.

Father Robert: Yes, ma'am?

Ms. Dawkins: I have a couple of questions.

Father Robert: Please.

Ms. Dawkins: On average, how many cars would you say frequent food pantry and medical services?

Father Robert: On Wednesdays? We've not done much of a study on that. For the church staff, we only have two cars on Wednesday. For the preschool, we would have seven. So that's nine cars for church staff and preschool. The other ones would be those that can and come and go for the food pantry and for the free medical clinic. We usually have about eight volunteers managing the food pantry, whereas four of those come together, so that's maybe five cars, total, there. And then you have three or four cars for the free medical clinic. So we've got nine, 16 cars.

And the folks that come and access those things, drive in and out.

Mr. Bramblett: How many cars would you say come?

Father Robert: On a

Mr. Bramblett: On Wednesday.

Father Robert: Morning, on Wednesday morning. Probably 30 cars would pull in and out of there. Yeah. So the might be there for five minutes. They might be there for 30 minutes, depends on if they're going to the free clinic or if they're going to the food pantry.

Mr. Bramblett: Didn't you say they serve over a hundred people at the food pantry?

Father Robert: They're coming in and out. Okay? So don't want to...

Mr. Bramblett: So there would be about maybe 80 cars, at least.

Father Robert: No. Most folks around here.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay.

Father Robert: But the other is, again, they're in and out. It's almost like the ... It's a little bit more than they drive on past right there, that you're going to have at school. But they're not on the property for any particular period of time.

Mr. Bramblett: And how many parents drop off and pick up their children at the daycare?

Father Robert: Well, that depends on how many kids are enrolled any one time. Right now, we're trying to load on. We've got about 30 kids in there. Generally, we have between 40 and 50. Some of those are parents who have maybe one child enrolled, but you probably have, over the course

of the day, 20 cars come through that circle to drop off per day. And we also have a school bus that already does that. We have a really good relationship with District 6 Learning Development Center, kids basically with special needs. And we traditionally have been very open to kids needing some special, additional care and attention. And so they come through and drop off.

Ms. Dawkins: And speaking of traffic, can you describe what it's like on Sundays?

Father Robert: On, Sundays?

Ms. Dawkins: Mm-hmm.

Father Robert: Yeah. Prior to Covid our average Sunday attendance was a little over 200. Since COVID, we've continued to stream our services. Average Sunday attendance right now is around 140. So we pretty much fill up the parking lot in front. So, if I may, we fill up this parking lot and this parking lot. And usually there's a couple of cars here.

Ms. Keitt: It's a touch screen.

Father Robert: Oh, sorry. There's a couple of cars here and here. But generally nobody parks above here.

Father Robert: Except on Easter Sunday.

Father Robert: Easter Sunday, yup. Lots and lots of visitors.

Ms. Dawkins: I have one more question.

Father Robert: Okay.

Ms. Dawkins: Can you just, on average, how many youth would you say attend the clinic? How many kids or how many youth use it?

Father Robert: I don't know. Different days, most of them are going to be there in the afternoons and evenings and Sunday afternoon. Sunday afternoons, very often you see a half dozen kids with their families over there. In the evenings, you'll see two or three families at time. But, really they're not there all the time, the youth. Of course, it drops dramatically when the cold comes.

Mr. Bramblett: Well, thank you very much. That was very informative. You may speak. Oh, wait a minute. Wait a minute. We've got open to the public view.

Mr. Cohen: Oh, because she's an attorney.

Mr. Bramblett: She's the attorney. Okay.

Mr. Cohen: Or an agent.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay. Okay.

Ms. Dullanty: And I know this has been brought up quite a long time. I just wanted to answer a couple of your questions because they-

Mr. Cohen: Can we get you to sign in?

Mr. Bramblett: You got to sign in.

Ms. Dullanty: Thank you.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay. I'm sorry. Okay. Raise your right hand please. You promise to tell the truth?

Ms. Dullanty: I do.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay. Thank you.

Ms. Dullanty: Listening to some of your questions, they resounded with me because that was almost exactly the conversations there, so the church is-

Mr. Bramblett: Pause. We need your attention.

Mr. Cohen: Can you state your name?

Ms. Dullanty: Oh, I'm Margaret Dullanty. I'm with Turner Caudell. I'm the attorney for finance prep for Turner Caudell. Turner Caudell does a lot of work for the church schools throughout the state.

Mr. Bramblett: What's the name of the firm?

Ms. Dullanty: Turner Caudell at Columbia.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay. All right. Thank you.

Ms. Dullanty: What you are asking regarding how is the use going to balance between the church and what's already there and the needs of the school, how is that actually going to complement each other if is actually going to be a working relationship? Because what you do want to do is enter into a relationship and find out within two months it's not going to work. And then you have all these children. Anyway. So I just want you to know, we spent an extensive amount of time coordinating when would the church be doing what, when would the school be doing what, and ensuring that we can coordinate around the church's activities to implement the school.

And part of that was adjusting the school hours, to make it 9:00 to 4:15, so it didn't either impact the traffic more than necessary, but also was conducive with the preschool. They gym would only be available when it was convenient for the church. While charter schools don't have cafeterias, so it is common to eat at their desks or eat outside, weather permitting. So I just want to let you know that a lot of that had been discussed in depth with how this relationship can actually work to benefit both parties.

But also that anything you approved, you could be well assured it also has been approved by the Department of Transportation and also has been approved by the Offices of Facilities. It's in the lease, that it would have be all approved. As far as the landscaping, I think we might even have a higher level of replacing the landscaping, which you actually require to ensure when they leave it may be better or the school needs to make it better than when it came in. But for most church schools, we need a year or two to get started and then you kind of go into your permanent home. Like you were saying.

When you find your permanent home, that is this could let the school starting with 175 to 200 students, to let the program be discovered and be available to families, and to show what they can do. Then they can go from that basically seedling, into the permanent school. And then that was the way that they got the church. And the school could start there, serve that community and then whenever it went to its permanent home, to expand to everyone with a benefit for all. I don't know if that was helpful. I just thought I'd give some background.

Mr. Bramblett: That was. Thank you.

Ms. Dullanty: Okay.

Mr. Bramblett: Does anybody have a question for her?

Mr. Matz: I don't know.

Mr. Bramblett: Go ahead.

Mr. Matz: So throughout the meeting we've talked about OSF being overseeing this. What about inclement weather sheltering? Those portables aren't probably rated for increment weather. So those kids, I imagine, got to go someplace. So if OSF going to oversee that someplace, to make sure it's up to current code requirement for increment weather?

Ms. Dullanty: We do have many have many charter schools start in the portable buildings because it's what they can afford. And, again, the start small and then they grow. And then they prove that they are services, something not offered by the traditional schools, that compliments what other students might need outward. So that's a great question. But, yes, it is a common scenario that needs to be worked through with OSF.

Mr. Matz: Thank you. And then are we also consulting with, I guess ... When I look at that now from a firefighter perspective, I see I got 360 access around that building. If there's a bunch of portables that go on the north side of that building, does the fire department have a problem with that?

Ms. Dullanty: That would have to be properly overseen as well.

Mr. Matz: Okay.

Ms. Dullanty: So if you say, "Yes, we can go ahead," we still have to get everyone else's approval before we can open the school.

Mr. Matz: Okay.

Ms. Dullanty: The school will need to...

Mr. Bramblett: I don't know. Well, if you was going to focus on the nine through 12th grade, it sounds like...

Mr. Dudley: Yeah. We're catering through to 12.

Mr. Bramblett: So you're going to try and do all.

Mr. Dudley: We're going to grow through 12 grades. So there's a fine arts continually is what's worked on.

Mr. Bramblett: You feel that you will be able to provide enough security and oversight of the children, to keep them busy and keep them out of trouble and not being bored?

Mr. Dudley: I do. We do feel that. So when I worked with charter development, it's art. It's not your traditional, "We're going to class and sit and give the material." All of our material is arts infused. So what that means is when I go to that ELA, the science and social studies class, it's also paired with a co-curriculum art that is used as the vehicle to push the academic standards, so that students are having an activity that's paired with that curriculum so that they are grasping that knowledge and they're retaining the knowledge that's necessary to achieve the adequate standards on state assessments.

Mr. Bramblett: So you would just have a literature class. You'd probably have class, say instead of American literature, you'd have classes that were like American Musics?

Mr. Dudley: No, it'd still be American literature. But let's take this for an example, let's say in American literature we were studying Shakespeare. So students would have to understand where the theater derived and how we started theater. So students could say, "We're going to build a panorama with a shoebox of Ancient Greek theater." And then they will work through, "Okay, this is Romeo and Juliet. Let's act out scenes of Romeo and Juliet." Versus, sitting in a classroom, reading round-robin, so that they are actually involved with that academic study, not just listening to it and participating with it.

One thing I wanted to add as well, when it comes to parking. You will get the small strip that's owned by ... it's a driveway that's owned by Wild Wings. We've actually initiated conversation with Wild Wings to secure parking for our faculty there. For the life of us being here, we'll have at most 30 teachers or 30 full school staff. Which means that we will fit adequately into that space that's typically not used by customers, even at the height of their hour. So we walked out, did a walking survey with the manager at Buffalo Wild Wings and we've also spoken with the manager at Golden Corral because though that parcel belongs to Buffalo Wow Wings, the fence that was at the back of the church that was destroyed by the tornado is actually owned by Golden Corral.

So to ensure that there is safety there, we will put gate keycard access so educators can get to their car. And fortify that fence by putting up a new fence or something to make sure that the area is safe for our students.

Mr. Bramblett: Sounds good. Anybody else got a question?

Father Robert: I just have one thing. Putting the teachers back there frees up all the parking in front. So there's no conflict at all with the teachers' parking.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay. I probably should apologize about that last question about literature and musicals and-

Mr. Dudley: Oh. That's fine.

Mr. Bramblett: That might've been out of line. Anyway. Thank you. Let's see. What's next on the thing here? Okay. In the interest of time, there is no one here that I can see-

Ms. Zhou: I do. If I'm allowed to raise a comment?

Mr. Bramblett: Oh, okay. We do have. Okay. Okay. We have to have a motion to go into the public comment.

Mr. Matz: I'd like to make a motion to go into public comment.

Ms. Dawkins: Yes, I second.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay. There's that motion to say we can go to comment. Anybody agree?

Attendees: Aye.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay. So-

Ms. Zhou: Good morning, board members. My name is Nan Zhou. I know we're here for a long time and I'll try to make it quick. So-

Mr. Bramblett: I'm sorry, but you're going to have to sign this.

Ms. Zhou: Okay. So I just wanted to make comments. The first comment will be, they're talking about three years. How are you going to calculate those three years? And that is, if you're going to approve it, I think that could be in one of the conditions about when that's going to ... you know when, what is the start date of the you know count as the three years and when that's going you know end. And who's going to enforce, what if they cannot find an appropriate site? Are we or you know who's going to enforce them to remove you know like the rest of those seven buildings and on the site? So that's my first question.

And then the second question is still, I support the idea, but I'm concerned about the traffic. So because in our pre-meeting with the staff, one of the staff says that he dropped both his grandson in that daycare. And he said that sometimes it was a nightmare to go in and out because of the traffic. So I'm just wondering, will they hire a police officer or an usher to direct the traffic, to make that slow up the traffic from there you know, in and out, better? If that's their plan, I think that may alleviate the traffic concern.

That could be. But I don't know. So that's my two comments, is the timeframe and then the traffic.

Ms. Dawkins: Can you give the condition . I'm just curious, the condition of the timeframe?

Ms. Zhou: Yeah. I mean, because we're not clear how we're going to count the three years. Are we going to count from the first day when they open, or are we going to count from first day from you know when the building put on site? And then that could be you know.. It doesn't have to be an exact date, but like what month or you know what year? And then so that should be removed from the site. And then if they want to keep two, then the rest, the seven, should be removed by what year and what month? So I think that should be you know... keep consistent with what the, they said.

Father Robert: Can we have a response to that?

Mr. Matz: I like this defense. How much has she got?

Mr. Bramblett: Thank you very much. Are there any more public comments, for or against? Okay, do I hear a motion to close the public comment?

Ms. Moore: Move to close the public comment

Ms. Dawkins: Second.

Mr. Bramblett: All in favor?

Attendees: Aye.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay. The public comment portion is now closed. Now, as applicant, as applicant you may offer a response to the concerns of the person.

Mr. Dudley: The first thing was with relationship to the timeline. So when we drafted the lease, the lease does have a very clear line of time on it, when things will start and things will end. Our attorney and the church's attorney have worked diligently to come up with a timeline that suits the school and suits the church. In relationship to the traffic comment, we do intend to have a city's former police officer audition, because right now we're working to procure a school resource officer to be able to alleviate that traffic. Again, we've diminished the number of students will be in attendance during that time.

And, additionally, we also moved the school hours to be outside of those busy traffic windows that we found in the area.

Mr. Bramblett: Do you anticipate people attending Sunday services as interfering with the conduct of the school?

Mr. Dudley: I do not think so. School typically is not ... As I said, we are not typically in session on the weekends. We're typically Monday to Friday. And even with the food pantry, I mean, that allows opportunity for our students to be service oriented. We're supportive of the food pantry, all those things that are there, because the students don't only need to be stewards of the community, they need to give back to the community in which they reside.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay. Thank you, sir.

Father Robert: May I?

Mr. Bramblett: Okay.

Father Robert: I know y'all want to get home too. So in order for property then to be encumbered under the canons of the Episcopal Church, it had to be approved by something called Commission on the Diocese, the same community of the church. It had to have been reviewed by multiple attorneys, Margaret being there on behalf of the charter school, Kernel & Shealy and guidences on behalf the Diocese and Rick Tar of Cambridge on behalf of the church. So it's all been looked at very carefully. There are start and end dates, three years, beginning in July this year, the term of the lease. They have an option for a one-year extension if needed. That's the limit, period.

They are required everything that they place on the property and re-landscape. Again, all a part of the lease.

Mr. Bramblett: So is the possibility of the extension, does that have conditions that they complied with everything so far?

Father Robert: Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

Mr. Bramblett: And that they deserve another year if they need it? Yeah. But in the meantime, they're committed to continuing to search for a permanent home. Yes, ma'am?

Ms. Dullanty: Also to put into that is the right to terminate, I can't remember if it was 90 days or 120 days, if we find a permanent home, then we can terminate and uproot. That's also part of-

Mr. Bramblett: Okay.

Ms. Dullanty: Because that is the ultimate goal. Right?

Father Robert: Yeah. With the stipulation that, again, they have to remove everything.

Ms. Dullanty: Yes. We-

Father Robert: They have to landscape, do all of those things.

Mr. Bramblett: If I can just make this comment. As far as trying to reuse those buildings after three years.

Father Robert: It might not work.

Father Robert: I don't know if...

Father Robert: It might not work.

Mr. Bramblett: You ever been around the kind of school that had portable classrooms, but I'd say about five years, maximum, it's good.

Father Robert: Because all...

Mr. Bramblett: Unless something's changed.

Father Robert: I'll pass that on to the Food Pantry, what you think.

Mr. Bramblett: Unless something's changed. Okay. Thank you, again. Okay. I guess, we'll move not into board deliberations. Okay. You want to just come down the line and just people ... just get a idea of your comments, how you feel about this or however you want to do it.

Ms. Dawkins: So I like the concept. I do. The concept of the school. My only hesitation is similar to his, about the traffic. In my community, I live close, so I take that route to work every day. I know the intention for these school hours is around the time for where it's not as congested, but that area is congested all the time, with the exception of maybe nighttime. I mean, I'm curious to see what the site plan review process is going to look like. I know you all haven't gone through that yet. And the traffic study reference. You guys haven't done the traffic study yet?

Mr. Cohen: Yeah, they have.

Mr. Dudley: Yeah.

Mr. Cohen: It's in here.

Ms. Dawkins: Oh. I'm sorry.

Mr. Bramblett: It's a traffic study.

Ms. Dawkins: I'm just curious to see what the site plan process is.

Mr. Bramblett: We don't have an interpretation of the traffic study. It's just to draw down.

Ms. Dawkins: Like I said, I like the idea. I think this is a great initiative that you all ready ... It's just my concern is just traffic. I do like the idea that you all will hire some police to be able to negate that. Yeah. I'm okay with the conditions. I'm okay with the conditions.

Mr. Bramblett: Thank you.

Ms. Moore: I like how well-prepared they are. I like that they've considered, already talked through any questions that we had. Yes, we have a plan for that. That just gives me a lot of confidence, that it's going to go smoothly. And I mean, for the three-years thing, I assumed, based on what y'all said, but, "Oh, you've worked it out." So I'm glad to know the details of it. And I love that you are talking to businesses to talk about parking and it just struck me how well-prepared you are.

Mr. Murdoch: So to echo what's been said, the two things that I think, consideration, would be, first of all, the houses on Dover Rd, it seems like those residences would be most impacted by temporary facility, some lighting. There will be some noise. All that is granted. And if it had been ... if we have a line of neighborhood here that were against it, I think we would have to have a different conversation. But I mean, if you look in this area what you see predominantly, the folks on the area where they live, so the smell bakery on far left. If that would be west and Wings. And so there's already noise, there's traffic noise.

There's all those things are already there. There's already lights. And there's no one here really from that street that has voiced any concerns. And so to me, that's been fine. There's worse things than the noise of children playing. And then some of the people coming out Buffalo Wild Wings. The other question is the fact that they are modular units, the houses in the neighborhood.

Although, there are modular homes all over Spartanburg, they are stick built on site. However, I grew up in Boiling Springs and so every school that's in this neighborhood has modular units out the back of them.

And soon as they're constructed, they have modular units. So I think it's something we're normally seeing in Spartanburg. Well, I'll disagree with Mr. Bramblett, the mobile unit I walked into in August of 1978, number 33, is still inside Boiling Springs Elementary School. It's still there.

Attendees: Wow.

Mr. Murdoch: So I think it's something you normally see, is part of what we see, and it probably would be nice if they're all permanent.

Mr. Murdoch: What we see and it's far more... It'd be nice if they're all permanent. The traffic, it is somewhat concerning. However, that part of town, this to me, there's a handful of sand on the beach, for the cars that are coming through. The traffic is so heavy there and there's going to be buses and those type of things but, I trust that they'll manage it as they have. You've got multifamily across the street and so there's going to be traffic coming and going most of that is going to be after five o'clock. I don't know, as far as percentage wise, what impact... I have very little concern as far as any issues for the council.

Mr. Bramblett: Thank you, Mr. Murdoch. Yes, sir.

Mr. Matz: I don't know exactly where to start, but I mean, this is a zoned R-15 thing that we're significantly increasing the population density on that parcel. And time and time again, the shared parking area with cars going around in the loop always seems to fail. And it seems like the correction is to use somebody else's parking and some police officers to fix that. And I just have a hard time thinking that's a viable long term that's going to work out. We're trying to make a decision today based on 70% of the students being bused, but what happens next year if only 50% are bused? And this thing being an R-15, we're doing exception. And you read through this, this thing looks like it's had zone commercial. The northern person is residential and it's like, it's been top and top and top again.

I think there's a lot of concerns I have with the planning processes got to bet out. I mean, I like the idea, I'm just worried about things that sound like the good idea. How do you keep those in place to fix the traffic issues? But I mean, I think it's great that there's a charter school there. I just have a problem with just being there, just because I think that's a lot of people in one area and it's just hard to maintain traffic and all that other kind of stuff. But...

Mr. Cohen: Not true? Well, I think it is an excellent idea. The fact that school starts at nine o'clock, it's a perfect start. I think that Father Rob said, there's going to be problems that's going to have to be worked out regardless of how long we sit here and go back and forth about this. Yes, that area is a highly congested area. But I just feel like the time that school is actually going on, that won't be a problem after five o'clock is what I feel like it really starts to be really, really bad. But just the relationship of the church and the school and the access held, the food pantry, I feel like that's also a way to segue into the community, to allow the community to know about... I'm heavily driven on community work, so that alone just speaks highly to me about the fact that

they have this relationship and something good is coming out of it. So I don't see a problem with any of it, honestly.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay. Well here's where we are. The planner has left us with three options. The board has three options. This is on page 16. Approve the special exception application but with conditions. Number two, deny the special exception application, which would kill the current application to start the school. And if they want to try later they do it all over again. Or table the matter if more information is needed to make a more informed decision. So that's pretty much where we are.

Ms. Dawkins: I have a question.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay.

Ms. Dawkins: So if we table this and want to see a site plan review, are we able to see that later? Or do we need to approve this now in order for them to go through the site plan?

Mr. Bramblett: When you say site, are you also including a traffic study? Is that your concern?

Ms. Dawkins: For the condition on 317, it says must go through a site plan review process.

Mr. Bramblett: Can you give us a brief description of site plan review? What would the site plan review be?

Ms. Keitt: The site plan review process?

Mr. Bramblett: Would it be just the formal drawing of that?

Ms. Keitt: No, the site plan review process, I would say it's extensive. The application or the checklist is online and the applicant has to submit of course site plan, the tree survey, everything on this checklist.

Mr. Bramblett: And that's where they would get the approval by the fire department?

Ms. Keitt: Well, yes, but the, once an applicant submits the application or the checklist, then that triggers Planning Department to schedule a meeting with all departments. And to your point, the Fire Department would or the Building Official who can, who's authorized to make that decision will at that point, through the site plan review, look at measurements.

Mr. Bramblett: But none of that would progress unless we grant the special exception.

Ms. Keitt: Exactly.

Mr. Bramblett: In other words, we came with a special exception that won't start with. So there's not...

Mr. Cohen: So we... Okay.

Mr. Bramblett: There's not really...

Mr. Cohen: We approve with conditions.

Mr. Bramblett: In front of the other. That's what I'm hearing.

Mr. Murdoch: So we don't have to condition that, that will happen anyway.

Ms. Keitt: Correct. But you know if you want to put it in the-

Mr. Bramblett: Okay. While you're up there, I'd like to ask, were letters sent out to any of the families in the houses behind the church?

Ms. Keitt: It was.

Mr. Bramblett: And so you posted signs announced on this meeting.

Ms. Keitt: Mm-hmm.

Mr. Bramblett: Plus you had letters going out to the people in the houses.

Ms. Keitt: Correct.

Mr. Bramblett: Within how many feet?

Ms. Keitt: It's a 400-foot radius.

Mr. Bramblett: 400-foot radius.

Ms. Moore: So like even the apartments across the street.

Ms. Keitt: Some of those.

Mr. Bramblett: Would you send them to the apartments or just to the office?

Ms. Keitt: To anyone with an address.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay.

Mr. Bramblett: Yeah. So it means a lot of letters sent out, it's. So thank you. That's...

Mr. Dudley: I do. I just wanted to kind of cap in on that. So with respect to the number of letters that went out, after the letters went out, we actually had five of those kids enroll. So three of them are from the apartment complex and two of them are actually from the houses that are in the parcels on that side of the fence. When it comes to the fire marshal, the actual state fire marshal has to come out and do extra approvals on the site. So it kind of goes above what the city comes because we also schedule the state fire marshal to come from Columbia. They also have to approve the site with that inspection. That's part of the OSL process for the Department of Education.

Mr. Bramblett: Do you have in the portable buildings, you have to have sprinkler systems?

Mr. Dudley: So in the portable buildings, we do not. That's even a city ordinance because they're beneath a certain square foot of allowance.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay. With that-

Ms. Zhou: Also... Oh, sorry.

Mr. Bramblett: Go ahead.

Ms. Zhou: And then I just wanted to answer, Dominique, your question is if you wanted to table this matter onto that and then I was at the tricky is if after you look at the site plan, after you spend the money to have the site plan, is there a guarantee that you're going to approve that I mean approve it or you're not going to approve? Because if you're not going to approve that, then they just spend the money on something that is never going to be approved. So I mean, that's your position. It's going to take a little bit longer for the process.

Ms. Dawkins: Thank you.

Mr. Bramblett: I should say that Ms. Zhou and she actually works in the planning part. So that's why I let her talk and made a comment. Yes, sir.

Mr. Murdoch: One very minor comment there. On Reidville Road, there was another church, I believe it's Holy Communion Lutheran Church that some years back added a gymnasium, which took a large part of their parking. And so I know there was an agreement with the bank that was there just west of the church to have an agreement for shared parking. And that worked out well for a many years.

Mr. Bramblett: Well, can we entertain a motion?

Mr. Cohen: I'll make a motion to approve the special exception with conditions.

Mr. Bramblett: Well, you'll have to spell out the conditions.

Mr. Cohen: Well that was a group effort because I think some people had some concerns. So the reason why I say approve it with conditions is honestly for that, where it's already been specified that the three years are already within that contract, but just more so in regards to ensuring that there is some accountability in this whole process of the three year mark. And then also circling back around to the traffic concern.

Mr. Bramblett: So...

Mr. Murdoch: I wonder if we could put that into a motion. It sounds like there's a three-year lease with one year option.

Mr. Cohen: Correct.

Mr. Murdoch: And so-

Mr. Bramblett: There's no reason for us to duplicate the contract they already have.

Ms. Moore: I think we-

Mr. Cohen: That is true. It's no reason to duplicate. But I'm just saying in regards to just...

Ms. Dawkins: So for the three year mark just hire a city police officer and help mitigate traffic because Ian had suggested that as being a commission, that would be something of interest.

Mr. Bramblett: I don't know if the city police would be willing to have an officer out in the road trying to get this group to try and go to the apartments, this troop trying to go to the house and this group over here trying to school.

Mr. Cohen: I was-

Mr. Bramblett: I don't see how that would-

Mr. Cohen: So in that regards-

Mr. Bramblett: I think when we talked about traffic, we've got to look at what we've got. We've got a fairly wide boulevard. The boulevard, just correct me if I'm wrong, goes from the East W O Ezell Boulevard all the way down to the end of the church lot. It's two lanes with a median in the middle. It's attractive. So that's what they have to get all the people at this if I, I looked at the map and I didn't see any other exit to what used to be known as Wadsworth Hill. That's all those old houses back in there Wadsworth Hills. And so that's the only exit they have is to come up to St. Matthews Lane. All those apartments and the condominiums down there, as far... am I wrong?

Mr. Murdoch: Well, you're wrong and you're right. St. Matthews Lane goes all the way around to the stop.

Mr. Cohen: It comes out on that their other end by the mall. So is that right there at the stop sign, you can either make a left-

Mr. Murdoch: So there is a-

Mr. Cohen: Yeah.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay.

Ms. Dawkins: It should go through a community.

Mr. Bramblett: I'm sorry...

Ms. Dawkins: Going through a community.

Mr. Bramblett: Yeah. Okay. But it's already over point in your opinion. It's already.

Ms. Dawkins: It's highly congested in that area every day.

Ms. Zhou: And I think the police officer, I've seen one a couple while back standing there every day 7:30 starts on the road. And then he or she is directing the traffic every day.

Mr. Bramblett: Oh, yeah.

Mr. Cohen: But that's on the next road over here.

Mr. Bramblett: That's on John White Boulevard.

Ms. Zhou: Yeah. I mean if, if they really wanted to work together with the police department or the board, whoever that is possible but I...

Mr. Bramblett: I think District 6 would I mean, has to pay for that officer. The city does just loan.

Mr. Dudley: Yeah. So what happens with charter schools, the South Carolina Department of Public Safety has a pool of funds that we have to go through to secure that officer. So our district's already initiated the process of writing that and contacting the city so that we have an officer on site. If you go to Spartanburg Preparatory School, because they're in the city limits, they have a police officer at the intersection of Hampton Avenue and Spring Street. If you're looking at High Point Academy, they have a police officer that's a county officer that goes out to the top of Newport Road. So it's typical for the schools to have either a police officer or a crossing guard that goes out and manages the traffic. Our expectation for our parents is that they go right and not disturb the neighborhood out after our buses leave the property and then they go left or right onto W O Ezell Boulevard.

Ms. Keitt: There's a motion on the floor.

Mr. Cohen: Yeah. So a motion-

Mr. Bramblett: Well, we were discussing your motion.

Mr. Cohen: Correct.

Mr. Bramblett: It hasn't really been a formal motion.

Mr. Cohen: Okay. So I mean, are we-

Mr. Murdoch: You want to reword your motion?

Mr. Cohen: Absolutely. I mean, but with the conditions? No. All right. Well I'll make a motion-

Mr. Bramblett: You can't just say condition you got... Write them down.

Mr. Cohen: Well, I didn't have any conditions. I was doing that for the betterment of the group. I was going to just approve the special expectation. But I thought we had some people that had conditions that we wanted to... So that's the part, we were discussing the conditions that we wanted to attach-

Mr. Murdoch: But if-

Mr. Murdoch: To this. But-

Mr. Murdoch: If you tried one without conditions and see what that looked like and then I don't know, see if you want to add?

Mr. Cohen: Okay. Because I mean, I understand completely, it don't make sense for us to be redundant on top of what they're already doing. So-

Mr. Bramblett: And I just don't see a need for it.

Ms. Dawkins: And if they're already doing a site plan process, there's no point in adding that to a condition. So...

On a motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Dawkins special exception was approved by a vote of 6 to 0.

Mr. Cohen: Okay. Well I make a motion to approve the special exception application.

Ms. Dawkins: Second.

Mr. Bramblett: Who seconds?

Ms. Dawkins: Me.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay. Okay all in favor?

Attendees: Aye.

Ms. Zhou: If people want to see the contract, when what date would.

Mr. Bramblett: Do you know what the dates are?

Mr. Dudley: It will be July 1st of 2023 with the June 30th of 2026 exit.

Ms. Dullanty: So basically school year. The school calendar year. July 1st 30th....

Ms. Zhou: Does that include the one-year extension?

Mr. Bramblett: No. Then after the three years, if everything going smoothly and they need more time, they can apply for an extension.

Mr. Matz: I mean, once you grant an exception, doesn't it go for the life of the property? So as long as the church owns the land, unless they sell it, it's non-transferable. But once we grant it, we can't put a timeframe on it. Right? Just like you can't put a timeframe on the variance once you grant it.

Mr. Bramblett: But there won't be any time limit to our special exception that we just approved. However, the contracts between the church and the diocese and the charter school, those contracts can have specific dates and years.

Father Robert: We have no problem with dividing the property line.

Ms. Zhou: But doesn't he want to I feel like.

Mr. Bramblett: This has been a rather tough question. I'm glad we had so much comment. I'm glad the board was engaged very much. And I appreciate everybody's thoughts and just hope

everything works out. So let's see. Moving on. We have staff announcements. Was something about a board continuing education. Thank you all for coming.

Ms. Dullanty: Thank you.

Mr. Dudley: Thank you for your time.

Mr. Bramblett: Thank you. It's very good to meet you.

Ms. Keitt: In front of your packet, was the announcement about planning commission? That's not true.

Ms. Keitt: Yes.

Ms. Keitt: The continuing the classes that will be held actually here in the City of Spartanburg.

Mr. Bramblett: Oh, yeah. This is good because we don't have to travel.

Ms. Keitt: The registration form if you flip it over is on the back. Thursday, August 24th is the day. I thought it that was in June. Wasn't it in June?

Ms. Zhou: There is one in June orientation.

Ms. Keitt: Yes. So this says August on the back.

Mr. Matz: Yeah, I'll start with the one in June.

Mr. Bramblett: And that was to go to ACOG

Ms. Keitt: Well, ACOG is hosting this. So they travel around...

Mr. Bramblett: That is year?

Ms. Keitt: Yes. Yeah, this year.

Mr. Matz: But if you attend this, you're not going to get all six hours that's required, right?

Ms. Keitt: Well with continue then it's generally three.

Mr. Cohen: Three. Yeah.

Mr. Matz: It says here, is that for the new orientation? The six hours orientation training? Never mind. Okay. Thank you.

Ms. Zhou: New orientation will be in July.

Mr. Matz: In July.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay. This is my question, is there anyone in this board who hasn't, who doesn't have their required training up-to-date, up until June 30 for this fiscal year?

Ms. Keitt: I can confirm, but I believe everyone's up-to-date.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay.

Mr. Cohen: Yeah.

Mr. Bramblett: This will actually...

Mr. Cohen: A certificate for the last one.

Mr. Bramblett: This will actually take... Excuse me. What did you say?

Mr. Cohen: I didn't receive a certificate for the last class I went to. I didn't get a... Because Martin said something last time about they had to pay.

Mr. Bramblett: That's the next thing I was going to ask. But this training in August will apply to FY '24.

Mr. Bramblett: Yes.

Mr. Bramblett: We're about to end FY '23. Fiscal year '23. Fiscal year starts... See, our training runs from July 1st to June 3rd. That's the fiscal year. So that's why I was asking, we're running out of this fiscal year fast. And if you haven't had training, you need to-

Mr. Murdoch: Well, I think we got a schedule that had them. It's like in June, July, and August. All the classes.

Mr. Cohen: Yeah. They sent them out in the email.

Mr. Bramblett: Well, it's just going to be August. This one say Thursday, August 24th. That's the only thing.

Mr. Murdoch: Yeah, that's June, July.

Mr. Bramblett: But it only applies to FY '24. So if you haven't had your training for this fiscal year, sometime you have to-

Mr. Matz: July and August.

Mr. Bramblett: No, it was... June 30th is the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Murdoch: I know that. But if we're good to now, then for next year, you got to take this one or we can't participate in July until you take that if we have-

Mr. Bramblett: Oh. It just has to be sometime during the fiscal year.

Mr. Murdoch: Right.

Mr. Bramblett: So it wouldn't stop you from participating if you had to..

Mr. Murdoch: Yeah, I think they would let us know.

Ms. Keitt: We will.

Ms. Zhou: Yeah, we can check. So continuing education.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay. Just to interject, comment on what Brian said. When I first started this 150 years ago, when we went to training, all the certificates came to the Planning Department and you all registered them, made copies of them and notated them as whatever you had to do. And then you mailed them to us. And so somewhere it got changed.

Ms. Zhou: Yes.

Mr. Bramblett: And if they sent them out at all, they sent them straight up. Well, when I got one, I thought you all had already processed. But we need to go back to the old system where the certificates come to who pays for the class, which is the City of Spartanburg and then you all process them and mail them to us. Okay? And then it is like Brian didn't even get his certificates. And I, Reed Cunningham went to a meeting over in Greenville at the TD Center and we never got certificates for that.

Ms. Zhou: This is the call from ACOG. This is not the decision that we need to... I mean, like we can tell them that City of Spartanburg demands you that you have to send everything to the Planning Department, not for individual.

Ms. Keitt: So Jennifer from ACOG will send over certificates. I, she will?

Ms. Zhou: Yeah, but-

Mr. Bramblett: Instead of sending them to us, she will send them to you all.

Ms. Zhou: What he is saying is-

Ms. Keitt: We have them, I received some.

Mr. Cohen: Oh, you got them.

Ms. Zhou: For all the board members

Ms. Keitt: I had to double check. But yeah, I hadn't.

Mr. Cohen: Well I was just... Because that helps me keep up with knowing if I'm within the-

Mr. Murdock: That helps me. I didn't know that-

Ms. Keitt: Yeah.

Mr. Bramblett: Okay. That's what we need. We need to go back to that system because that takes all the responsibility. Because when I get something like it goes in a file. I don't know where it. It needs to come to you all first, you all process it, notate on our... Whatever you have on a permanent record.

Ms. Zhou: Yeah. I mean because when I go through the training-

Mr. Bramblett: I'm sorry about that. I'm not really...

Ms. Zhou: Yeah, I mean personally when I go through the training, it will email to me not to the planning.

Ms. Zhou: You want it emailed to you?

Ms. Zhou: No, it's because they said that if you want the certificate email to this address. And then we are going to email...

Mr. Bramblett: They don't email. They mail you a certificate. You put the frame and hang it in the wall.

Ms. Zhou: No, they only going to email me a digital version. I can choose to print out or not. That's for the training that I attend.

Mr. Bramblett: Well that's a change. Because they've always mailed me a certificate. Nice with a little seal on it.

Mr. Matz: It would cost too much money.

Mr. Bramblett: I got about 40 of them on the wall. No, I'm kidding.

Mr. Bramblett: Well, anyway that's the... And so this training, so as far as we know, all six of us and seven of us have had training during FY 23. We're up-to-date. And so this will be an opportunity to get our FY 24 training here in Spartanburg.

Ms. Zhou: Yeah.

Mr. Bramblett: I bet Rick Cunningham and I went through it but a group who lobbies the legislature for municipalities. It's a municipal group. All the cities are part of municipal group. The municipal group is like a pack. They lobby the state legislation. And so this guy was real interesting, but I never got my certificate.

Ms. Zhou: So what we are saying is you can choose to go to this one. It's not mandatory that you have to attend this one. It's just saying that you could save your trip but if you wanted to attend the others, you're welcome to.

Ms. Dawkins: Thank you.

Mr. Matz: Oh, you're welcome. Appreciate.

Mr. Bramblett: Well listen. Okay. Any other, any other training? Continuing education reform.
Okay.

Ms. Moore: Wait, is the meeting adjourn?

Mr. Bramblett: Oh, yeah, a new ...

Ms. Moore: Meeting Adjourned.

MS. Dawkins: Second.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM.



Don Bramblett, Chairman