

MINUTES

The Carroll County Planning Commission
Commission Chambers of the David Perry Administration
Building
423 College St., Carrollton, GA
May 25, 2010

6:30 PM

- I Call to Order. Chairman Doyal called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM
- II Roll Call. The Zoning Administrator called the roll.
Present: Chairman Jerry Doyal
Vice-Chairman Richard Adams (arrived at 6:33)
Commissioner Terry Agne
Commissioner Danny Strickland
Commissioner Roger Duggins
Commissioner Deaidre Wilson
Absent: Commissioner Timothy Martin
- III Minutes. (April, 27, 2010) Unanimously approved on a motion by Commissioner Agne, and second by Commissioner Duggins
- IV Business. There are no agenda items for the June meeting
- V Hearing Procedures. Chairman Doyal reviewed the hearing procedures; copies were made available and made part of the minutes by their reference.
- VI Requests

A Conditional Use Permit request, (C-10-05-01), to operate a transitional Home for Women, located at 54 Lambert Lane, Carrollton, lying in Land Lot 182, 5th District, Carroll County and being Tax Parcel 131-0173, containing 1.10 acres more or less.
Owner/Applicant: Inside Ministries Inc.

Those speaking in favor included:

Eva Barber, 125 Bethlehem Church Rd, said the facility would operate as a home for women, who have been released from prison or otherwise down on their luck. There would be 3-4 women, with a structured living environment. Mrs. Barber stated the women would be responsible for the upkeep of the property, and that they'll be required to work. The in-home program would be 6-18 months, and would include GED/educational programs, Bible study and job readiness.

Larry Massey, 5038 Horton Place, Douglasville, GA, stated that the facility was needed, and that it would help those with no place to go. Mr. Massey quoted St. Matthew in stating that it is everyone's responsibility to help one another.

Gus Henriques, of the Midway Prison Ministry spoke in favor of the application.

Sheila Massey, 5038 Horton Place, Douglasville, GA, spoke in favor of the request, stating that some of the women have no family to begin with, and that the facility is needed, and that people must have compassion.

Those speaking in opposition included:

Jimmy Bone, of Villa Rica, who was legally representing the residents of Lambert drive in their opposition. Mr. Bone stated that Lambert Drive is not sufficient in width for the increased traffic, and that two cars cannot pass each other at the same time. Mr. Bone also stated that traffic from the daycare center along Bankhead Highway further exacerbates traffic in the area. Mr. Bone questioned if any of the residents would need to be registered with law enforcement. Mr. Bone further stated previous applications by Inside Ministries in the city of Carrollton had been denied. Mr. Bone went on to say that property values would be lowered, and questioned how visitors would be limited. Mr. Bone entered into the record, statements of opposition from the Lambert Drive residents.

Kay Parsons, 130 Lambert Drive, stated that the proposal is out of character with the neighborhood. She said she commends Inside Ministries for their work, but doesn't want the facility in her neighborhood.

Priscilla Durham 98, Lambert Drive, re-iterated previously stated concerns.

Rebuttal in favor

Dr. Mark Miller, 2156 Oak Grove Rd, a supporter of Inside Ministries, stated the house has a turn around drive, and will have security lighting if the request is approved.

Eva Barber stated that the only increased traffic will come from board members and volunteers. The women cannot drive, and will be transported to and from work, errands etc. No visitors are allowed, and there is limited communication with family, and that communication must be approved. Mrs. Barber stated she'd share the program's guidelines with the residents on Lambert Drive.

Greg Yeargan, 24 Holly Drive, stated the facility is needed.

Rebuttal in opposition

Jimmy Bone stated the neighborhood wants to enjoy its peace and quiet, and that accidents are frequent in the area.

Christine Calhoun 123 Deerfield Lane owns 165 Lambert Drive, stated the road is dangerous, and that this would be a negative influence on neighborhood children.

William Matthews, 65 Lambert Drive, says he empathizes with the cause, but does not want the facility in his neighborhood.

Commissioners' Questions

Commissioner Agne asked how many women would be at the facility, Mrs. Barber answered three. Commissioner Agne asked if the women could interact with neighbors. Mrs. Barber answered that the women are to be insulated, and have a very structured daily routine with work, no visitors, limited communication, background checks are performed, and no violent offenders are permitted.

Commissioner Strickland asked how many in the neighborhood were in favor of the request. Approximately two hands went up.

Chairman Doyal asked Mrs. Calhoun about her residency. She stated she owns the house on Lambert drive, but does not live there.

Vice-Chairman Adams asked how they came to choose this property. Mrs. Barber stated a realtor who works with them helped to find the property.

A motion to deny recommendation of the request to the Board of Commissioners was made by Commissioner Strickland, and seconded by Vice-Chairman Adams, with a 4-2 vote (Wilson and Agne opposed).

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM