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November 9, 2012

Dr. Bruce Liese, Chairman
Lawrence Douglas County Planning Commission
Mr. Scott McCullough
Director, Planning & Development Services
City of Lawrence
6 E. 6th Street
P.O. Box 708
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

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Confirmed by first class mail

Re: Sports Village Project
November 12, 2012 Meeting Agenda Item #2B
Jack Graham, land owner

Dear Dr. Liese and Mr. McCullough,

As you know, we represent Jack Graham, who resides at 1685 E 1000 Road, Lawrence, Kansas 66044. Mr. Graham's residence is adjacent to the property being considered for annexation and rezoning for use as a Sports Village, which are Items 2.A and 2.B on the November 12, 2012 meeting agenda.

My client does not object to the annexation of the property, as requested in Item 2.A. However, my client is very concerned about the unrestricted zoning of the property to GPI, as requested in Item 2.B.

Land Development Code, Section 20-219(a) describes the purpose of the GPI District:

The GPI District is a Special Purpose Base District primarily intended to accommodate Institutional Uses occupying significant land areas but not appropriate for development in the H District or on property designated on the official zoning map as U. The District regulations are designed to offer the

institution maximum flexibility for patterns of uses within the District while ensuring that uses and development patterns along the edges of the District are compatible with adjoining land uses. (emphasis added)

Though capitalized, the term “Institutional Uses” is not defined in the Land Development Code.

The Use Table appearing in Article 4 of the Land Development Code drastically expands the nature of land uses allowed in the GPI District by adding “Entertainment & Spectator Sports, General” and “Entertainment & Spectator Sports, Limited” to the permitted uses. The term “Entertainment and Spectator Sports” is defined in Section 20-1725 as “Provision of cultural, entertainment, athletic, and other events to spectators. Also includes events involving social or fraternal gatherings...” General Entertainment and Spectator Sports is defined expansively as, “Those uses generating an attendance of 501 or more people such as theaters (movie or legitimate), large exhibition halls, field houses, stadiums and sports complexes.” (emphasis added). Limited Entertainment and Spectator Sports is defined as uses conducted within an enclosed building with a capacity of 500 or less people.

Our client does not want this project turned into an entertainment venue instead of a sports village for the community. Preliminary plans included a 5,000 seat outdoor amphitheatre that seemed a curious addition to a sports facility. The plans submitted on November 8, 2012 do not include the amphitheatre, but those plans are subject to change. In addition, my client has obvious concerns about light pollution, noise and traffic issues that will be inevitable with such a development. Some of these issues are appropriate for the site plan review stage, but other issues can and should be addressed now in the context of the zoning request.

In considering the zoning request, the Planning Commission should take into consideration questions and concerns about the plans for ownership, development and management of the project. The City will apparently be responsible for the operation and management of the recreation center, but it appears that Bliss Sports, LC (Thomas Fritzell) will be the lessee and operator of the facilities on the KU side of the project. KU Endowment will simply own the land and improvements. Bliss Sports, LC would be able to use the facilities in any manner allowed in the GPI District.

To help alleviate concerns about how the property might be used in the future with GPI zoning, the Commission should use one of its tools – conditional zoning – to set some very basic parameters to ensure that the use of the property is consistent with a sports and recreation facility. If the property is rezoned to the GPI District, it should be conditioned upon the allowed uses being amended to

- (a) clarify that the zoning is conditioned upon the land being used for a sports village project and not any other project;
 - (b) exclude the use of the facilities for outdoor entertainment, such as an amphitheatre, as described in General Entertainment and Spectator Sports, Code Section 20-1725(2);
- and

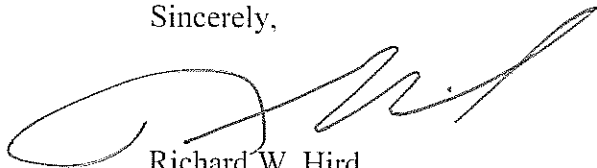
(c) exclude the use of outdoor lighting after 11:00 p.m.

We understand that our elected officials have not yet approved the financing for the project and there are many other hurdles to overcome; however, we respectfully submit that the addition of the conditions to the GPI zoning, as requested above, would be a good first step toward resolving some of the issues.

I would be most appreciative if you would circulate this letter to the members of the Planning Commission. In accordance with the Bylaws of the Planning Commission, I will recuse myself from the discussion and vote on these agenda items and another member of our firm will appear on behalf of Mr. Graham.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard W. Hird', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Richard W. Hird
Petefish, Immel, Heeb & Hird, LLP