

MINUTES AS RECORDED

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF May 4, 2011
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AND ADJUSTMENT**

A meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Adjustment of the City of Wyandotte was called to order by Chairperson Duran at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 3131 Biddle Avenue, Wyandotte.

MEMBERS PRESENT: *Alderman
Duran
Flachsmann
Gillon
Green (alternate member)
Nevin
Roberts (alternate member)
Trupiano

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cusson, DiSanto, Olsen

ALSO PRESENT: Peggy Green, Secretary

A motion was made by Member Nevin, supported by Member Trupiano to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2011, meeting, with the correction that Member Olsen as absent and Member Gillon was present.

Yes: Duran, Flachsmann, Gillon, Green, Nevin, Roberts, Trupiano

No: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Cusson, DiSanto, Olsen

Motion passed

*Member Alderman arrived at approximately 6:40 p.m.

#3126 – GRANTED

Shelter to Home, Inc., Shelley Bawol (President), P.O. Box 127, Allen Park, Michigan (appellant) and Timothy J. Williams, 266 Oak, Wyandotte (owner)

for a variance to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy for an animal shelter at 266 Oak Street, Lot 14, Block 84, in a OS zoning district, where the proposed conflicts with Section 1100 of the Wyandotte Zoning Ordinance.

SECTION 1100:

Which does not list an animal shelter as a principal use permitted.

Proposed will be in harmony with the appropriate and orderly development of the district in which it is situated and will not be detrimental to adjacent districts or uses.

A motion was made by Member Flachsmann, supported by Member Gillon to grant this appeal.

Yes: Alderman, Duran, Flachsmann, Gillon, Green, Nevin, Roberts

No: Trupiano

Abstain: none

Absent: Cusson, DiSanto, Olsen

Motion passed

#3127 – GRANTED – SECTION 2408.F.2.(b)(3) - only

Spectacular Signs, 6056 Norborne, Dearborn Heights, Michigan (appellant) and Elie Khattar, 18650 Wick Road, Allen Park, (owner)

for a variance to obtain a sign permit to reface existing sign and for changeable message sign to be located on an existing pole at *2101 Fort Street Lots 103 to 109, incl., and S 5.50' of Lot 110, Scherer's Westgate Manor Sub., in a B-2 zoning district, where the proposed conflicts with Sections 2408.F.2.(b)(3) and 2408.F.2.(k)(2) of the Wyandotte Zoning Ordinance.

SECTION 2408.F.2.(b)(3):

The area of such sign shall not exceed 120 square feet for each sign face. Proposed sign face will be 160 square feet and the LED changeable message sign will be 40 square feet, resulting in a total of 200 square feet of sign face, whereas, only 120 square feet is allowed.

A motion was made by Member Trupiano, supported by Member Alderman to grant Section 2408.F.2.(b)(3) of the this appeal.

Yes: Alderman, Duran, Flachsmann, Gillon, Green, Nevin, Roberts, Trupiano

No: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Cusson, DiSanto, Olsen

Motion passed

SECTION 2408.F.2.(k)(2):

Changeable message signs shall only be permitted as ground or wall signs.

This section of the appeal will be reheard at the June 1, 2011 meeting for a procedural clarification. It was determined that this should have been considered a "use variance" in accordance with Section 2704.C.2(d)(1), and would require 2/3 vote of the Board, which would be 6 votes for this section of the appeal to be granted.

A motion was made by Member Flachsmann, supported by Member Gillon to grant Section 2408.F.2.(k)(2) of the this appeal.

Yes: Duran, Flachsmann, Gillon, Green, Roberts

No: Alderman, Nevin, Trupiano

Abstain: none

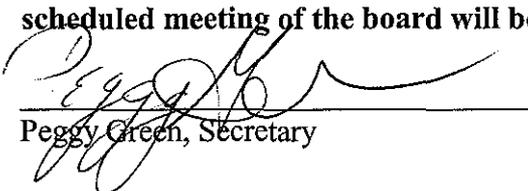
Absent: Cusson, DiSanto, Olsen

COMMUNICATIONS:

A motion was made by Member Trupiano, supported by Member Nevin to place all communications on file. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. **The next scheduled meeting of the board will be held on June 1, 2011.**



Peggy Green, Secretary

Appeal #3126

Chairperson Duran read the appeal and asked that it be explained.

Shelley Bawol, appellant, present.

Ms. Bawol explained that she had given an information packet to the Board with her application.

Chairperson Duran commented that the Board had received the packet and added that within the packet there 13 letters in support from business owners and other organizations.

Ms. Bawol explained that the word shelter is deceiving, what they really are is a pet adoption agency, they rescue pets from local shelters, they focus on shelters who have a lot of animals and foster them, they find them a home.

Chairperson Duran asked about employees. Ms. Bawol replied that it is all volunteers.

Member Roberts asked if it would be used for cats and dogs. Ms. Bawol replied that it is a cat rescue, and she does not foresee any dogs right now.

Member Flachsmann asked if they were regulated by a government agency. Ms. Bawol replied that the Department of Agriculture oversees them, they have met with them, and there are some changes that they have to make to be able to register. Member Flachsmann asked if they have to be approved by the Zoning Board first, before continuing with the Department of Agriculture. Ms. Bawol replied yes and they will have yearly renewals. Member Flachsmann asked Ms. Bawol if she would be putting the registration information with the Department of Agriculture on file with the City. Ms.

Bawol replied yes, and will also have it framed at the location. Ms. Bawol added that Animal Control Officer Gillenwater has been very helpful.

Member Nevin asked if they have an office in Allen Park. Ms. Bawol replied no, they just have a post office box there, the animals go to a foster home. Ms. Bawol explained that they started in Lincoln Park helping animals, and now they have become a nonprofit organization.

Member Nevin asked about how many people would be working at the facility. Ms. Bawol replied that was a tough question, there could be 1 – 12 on site. Volunteers come as needed and to work on events.

Ms. Bawol explained that the facility will be open to meet and greet the animals that are being adopted, and people would be coming in by appointment.

Member Nevin and Ms. Bawol discussed the nonprofit organization.

Member Nevin asked if she was leasing the property. Ms. Bawol replied yes, it is a year to year lease.

Member Nevin asked about the upkeep (landscaping, utilities). Ms. Bawol replied that they will use volunteers and maybe students that need to perform community hours, the facility will be cleaned daily.

Member Nevin asked about the utilities. Ms. Bawol replied that that is being negotiated as part of the lease.

Member Nevin asked what type of animals would be there. Ms. Bawol replied cats, at the local shelters there is a 10 to 1 ratio of cats to dogs.

Member Nevin asked about funding. Ms. Bawol replied that they are a fund raising group and they also apply for grants. Member Nevin asked if there would be fundraisers at the facility. Ms. Bawol replied not well, but some would be there, it is a beautiful facility and they would like to utilize all of it.

Member Gillon asked many cats will be in the house. Ms. Bawol replied 15 to 20. Ms. Bawol explained that they use the square footage of the facility to figure out how many would be allowed. The cats may not be there for long.

Member Gillon asked the average time for the animals to be in possession. Ms. Bawol replied 3 – 4 weeks, the cats are brought from foster care to the facility. Ms. Bawol added that people will be able to see the cats in a home like environment instead of in a cage.

Member Gillon asked if they did have dogs, how would barking dogs be handled. Ms. Bawol replied similar to how it would be handled at one's home, they want the animals at their best, the dogs will not be in a cage. Ms. Bawol added that they will be respectful to their neighbors.

Member Trupiano stated that since this is a nonprofit organization, will their income support a house of this size. Ms. Bawol replied yes, they spend about \$80,000 a year on vet care, they have been putting money away to see through the lease without having to do a fundraiser.

Member Trupiano asked if anyone will be living in the home. Ms. Bawol replied that she did not foresee that, but that could be possible if the opportunity did arise.

Member Trupiano asked if they would be subletting. Ms. Bawol replied that they had no plans to.

Member Trupiano asked if the animals would be declawed and neutered. Ms. Bawol replied that that would have been done prior to coming to the facility, the animals will have vet care, the Department of Agriculture will want to see records if they came in.

Allen Cooper, 254 Oak, present.

Mr. Cooper stated that they have 2 cats, and he does not see a problem, just as long as the number of cats do not get too high. Mr. Cooper added that Ms. Bawol's presentation was very good and he is in support.

Joe Maher, 326 Chestnut, Wyandotte, present.

Mr. Maher explained that he is the realtor involved and he is also a neighbor, and he is in support of the appeal. Mr. Maher added that he is very impressed with the group, he was with them when they met with the Department of Agriculture and there is a set of codes that they will have to cover.

Betty Cooper, 254 Oak, present.

Ms. Cooper stated that she was confused about the housing of animals, how it would be supervised, she is against declawing.

Ms. Bawol explained that it is not their practice to declaw, they allow the person adopting to make that choice. Volunteers will take care of the animals, they will be supervised daily. The animals will be able to roam the facility, and they also plan on using the bedrooms.

Ms. Cooper asked what would happen in case of a fire. Ms. Bawol replied that they would react as fast as they can.

Ray Heinbokel, Jr., 1195 16th Street, present.

Mr. Heinbokel stated that he is the owner of 318 Oak and he is just concerned about the parking issue, he has no problem with anything else.

Chairperson Duran asked Ms. Bawol the hours of operation. Ms. Bawol replied that it will be by appointment only, she does not think that there will be a high amount of people there. They will utilize Oak Street parking and the parking behind the facility. Ms. Bawol added that some of the volunteers live near, and will probably ride their bikes there.

Marlene Paulson, 225 Oak, present.

Ms. Paulson stated that she is opposed to the appeal, she does not want animals that close to where she lives, and she does not want to hear them.

2 communications were received in opposition to this appeal.
13 communications were received in favor of this appeal.

Appeal #3127

Chairperson Duran read the appeal and asked that it be explained.

Mohamad Elfarrad, appellant, present.

Mr. Elfarrad explained that he is the owner of Spectacular Signs, and representing Tire Trax. The LED sign will display various messages, there will be a one minute delay, it will help in enhance service and eliminate the signs on the building. Mr. Elfarrad explained that on the pole sign, they will just change the business name and phone number and added that the pole sign is very important to his customer.

Member Trupiano asked if they were going to change of size of the existing signs. Mr. Elfarrad replied no. Member Trupiano asked if the LED will be the same size as the existing sign is now. Mr. Elfarrad replied yes.

Member Gillon asked if the poles were going to be repainted. Mr. Elfarrad replied yes.

Chairperson Duran asked if there would be other car repairs performed there. Mr. Elfarrad replied yes.

Member Nevin commented that the background looks dark with red letters, and added that he has not seen any like this on Fort Street. Mr. Elfarrad stated that Ponderosa has one. There will be no blinking or flashing, one messages fades into another one, it will not be distracting.

Member Roberts asked if they had considered taking down the pole sign and installing a ground sign. Mr. Elfarrad replied that if the sign is lowered, it will not be visible. They will make the existing pole sign very professional looking and pleasing to the eye.

Member Nevin and Mr. Elfarrad discussed the ordinance.

Mr. Elfarrad stated that LED sign will eliminate the signs on the building.

Member Trupiano asked about the existing awnings. Mr. Elfarrad stated that they will come down.

Member Roberts asked if all signs on the building will come down. Mr. Elfarrad replied yes.

Billy, he is purchasing the building.

Billy stated that he will be the new owner, he is purchasing the building, and cleaning it up. He is going to make it look new and crisp. He has an architect that has drawn up the plans. The digital sign will display all the specials. Billy added that he got the idea from Ponderosa, and if the sign was lowered, you would not be able to see it.

Member Roberts informed Billy that anytime a business changes ownership or hands, a commercial inspection is required.

Jim, 21545 Carlyle, Dearborn, architect, present.

Jim explained that all the signs will be coming down off the building, it will look nice and be an asset to the City. The LED sign will not be a distraction, it will be visible from Fort Street, and will not bother the homes on the street behind. Jim added that they are just asking to replace the existing signs.

One communication was received in opposition to this appeal.

One petition with 16 signatures was received in opposition to this appeal.

One communication was received from DTE.

Z.B.
5-4-11

8 OF 28

✓
RECEIVED
5-4-11

May 4, 2011

Re: Appeal #3126

Animal Shelter at 266 Oak St
Wyandotte, MI 48192

Members of the Zoning Board

When we think Animal Shelter, we think dogs and cats. When we read though the packet of information it does talk about animals and in some places it does state dogs/cats. We are against this Animal Shelter at 266 Oak Street.

Cats

Wyandotte does have a problem with homeless cats and pet owners letting their cats run loose. There have been times when going to our garage the ammonia smell from the cat's urination has been so bad it takes your breath away. Therefore we do not want a quantity of cats in the area.

Dogs

- This facility does not have enough room to house dogs. Dogs need an area to be outside to run and get exercise. If housed here they would be chained up or put in small cages when outside.
- When several dogs are outside when one starts to bark then others join in. I would like to have my windows open or sit outside and not have to listen to barking dogs constantly.
- The smell, especially in the summer when hot. If the area is not continuously being cleaned up the smell would be awful.

We feel a neighborhood is not a place for an Animal Shelter. An Animal Shelter needs to be out of town where the animals have room and do not disturb the neighbors.

We are opposed to an Animal Shelter at 266 Oak St, Wyandotte, MI

Kendra and Greg Johnson
230 Oak St
Wyandotte, MI 48192

Z.B. 5-4-11

#3126 9 of 28
RECEIVED
4-19-11
BY MAIL

April 18th, 2011

Zoning Board of Appeals and Adjustment
City of Wyandotte
Wyandotte, Michigan 48192

I am ADAMENTLY OPPOSED to having an animal shelter at

266 Oak Street.

Lot 14

Block 84

OS ZONING DISTRICT where the proposed conflicts with

SECTION 1100 of the Wyandotte Zoning Ordinance

Sincerely,

Kathleen J. Gorsky

Kathleen J. Gorsky
2816 Second Street
Wyandotte, Michigan 48192
734-284-2222

Z.B.
5-4-11

10 OF 28



City of Wyandotte Animal Control

1170 Grove Street, Wyandotte, MI 48192 ~ Phone (734) 324-4445

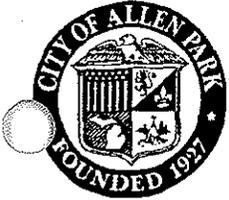
To whom it may concern,

We recently learned of Shelter To Home's plan to pursue an animal adoption agency in the city of Wyandotte and are fully supportive of their effort. Shelter To Home animal rescue has been immensely helpful to our city pound over the last four years and we would consider their current venture an asset to the residents of Wyandotte. They have helped our city pound countless times when we would have had little option but to euthanize healthy companion animals to make room for more stray or surrendered animals.

Last year WAC accepted over 700 lost and abandoned animals from residents of Wyandotte. Our city shelter is able to house a limited number of animals at one time. Many of these once cherished pets would have been euthanized to accommodate the constant influx of new animals. WAC depends on rescue organizations to alleviate some of the pressure of rehoming these companion animals in order to avoid unnecessary euthanasia. The benefit to our budget is notable as well. The cost to feed, house, vet and in some cases euthanize such a large number of animals would be markedly higher without the assistance of Shelter To Home.

Shelter To Home and PAWS of Michigan are the two rescue groups we've most often worked with over the last few years. The expansion of either group could only benefit the city of Wyandotte.


A.C.O.



2.B.
5-4-11

City of Allen Park

11 OF 28

16850 SOUTHFIELD ROAD
ALLEN PARK, MICHIGAN 48101

Phone 313-928-1400
www.cityofallenpark.org

3/17/2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as my personal recommendation regarding Shelter to Home. Let me take a moment to explain further, the involvement of Shelter to Home Inc. with our Multi-City Municipal Animal Control facility.

First and foremost, Shelter to Home Inc. has assisted our facility since 2007, by taking animals into their Adoption Program during times that our shelter becomes overcrowded. **We have been able to lean on them for assistance with sick and ailing animals, such as dogs needing treatment for Canine Heartworm, and cats needing treatment for Feline Upper Respiratory Complex Virus, all at no cost to us. *The fate of hundreds of animals would have been euthanasia if not for the assistance of Shelter to Home and their volunteers.***

As an open-intake Animal Control facility we do not have the luxury of turning away animals when we are full. We need organizations, like Shelter to Home, that can step up and help to reduce our euthanasia statistics; open-intake shelters cannot do this alone. **Support from the community and organizations like Shelter to Home are vital for our success and reducing our rate of euthanasia of adoptable companion pets.**

I know that if we have an animal needing help, I can easily reach Shelter to Home with a single phone call. In most cases, a volunteer will be at our door, ready to assist, within hours of my phone call.

We hope to continue to obtain assistance from Shelter to Home. **They continue to make our shelter a better place for animals, and for that, we appreciate them greatly.**

Sincerely,

Kalin Turri
Shelter Manager
Allen Park Animal Shelter
(313) 382-6173
kturri@cityofallenpark.org

City Vision Statement

A great community to live, work and play.

City Mission Statement

Providing service for the changing needs of the community, for the purpose of enhancing quality of life in a cost effective and efficient manner.

City Value Statement

Residents come first

CHELSEA

The Chelsea Group, L.L.C. Chelsea • Willow Tree

2944 BIDDLE AVE., WYANDOTTE, MICHIGAN 48192
734.285.7020 • 734.285.0895 (FAX)

April 11, 2011

Z.B.
5-4-11

12 of 28

Zoning Board of Appeals
City of Wyandotte
3131 Biddle Avenue
Wyandotte, MI 48192

RE: Proposal of
Shelter to Home organization
for 266 Oak Street

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Rhonda Beaty, a board member of Shelter to Home and a long-time, highly-valued employee of my company, has asked me to write a few words in support of Shelter to Home's proposal for the Victorian home/building at 266 Oak Street in Wyandotte.

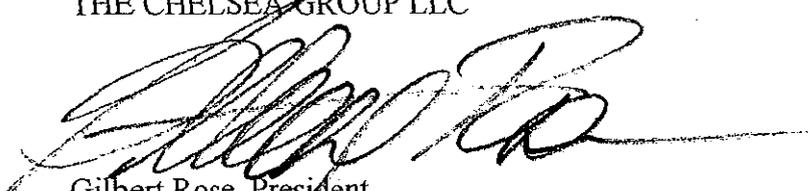
For one thing, the subject building is within the DDA District, and as one who has served on the DDA board since its inception some 17-18 years ago I can tell you that I see this as a more-than-appropriate use of this rather ornate structure. Shelter to Home appreciates the historic qualities of this home and hopes to maintain and enhance its historic characteristics, and that's a very good thing.

Moreover, this is a very responsible organization which is dedicated to its goals and passionate about them. Shelter to Home, as you probably already know, is an animal rescue mission manned by volunteers and devoted to finding suitable homes for cats. They have an impressive business plan and seem to have the resources and the energy required to take this Oak Street address, enhance it, and turn it into a permanent home for their organization.

This is a unique concept and it would bring people into town from all over southeastern Michigan. I'd very much like to see it come to pass, and I sincerely hope you will consider lending your support.

Thank you very much.

THE CHELSEA GROUP LLC



Gilbert Rose, President

2.B.
5-4-11



13 of 28

(734) 934-6900 Fax (866) 571-0417
P.O. Box 66 * Grosse Ile, MI 48138

March 24, 2011

RE: Letter of Reference
Shelter to Home
P.O. Box 127
Allen Park, MI 48101

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of my clients, Shelter to Home, a non-profit animal rescue organization currently in Allen Park. I am a strong supporter of this organization and their cause to rescue animals and to find them stable homes. With the decline of today's economy, this organization is more important than ever. Many people cannot afford to keep their pets and/or properly care for them which leaves many animals vulnerable with no home or basic care. It's a sad state when the only option left is euthanasia or an abandoned animal fending for himself.

A spacious facility to house and nurture these animals is not only a benefit to the animals, but to our community as well. Ill or neglected animals walking the streets are a poor and hazardous option for the people of the community as well as the already declining housing values.

I hope that Shelter to Home can lease the proposed property in Wyandotte as their new safe haven to care for the underprivileged animals that are in desperate need of organizations like these.

Kind regards,

Linda Francetich
Owner, Dot Com Web Productions, LLC
Trustee, Wyandotte Business Association

OUR 2011 DATES!! Sept. 30th, Oct. 1st & 2nd, 2011
www.scarecrowfestival.net

14 OF 28

4/15/2011

To Whom It May Concern –

Z.B.
5-4-11

We have had the pleasure of partner participation from the animal rescue organization "Shelter To Home" for the last three years at our annual Scarecrow Festival in downtown Trenton.

Every October, volunteers from STH help us run our event, and we help them promote the great work that they do in the community. They set up large cages onsite (including one big enough for a "bonding" session with a prospective owner) for mostly cats and a few dogs, and throughout the 2 day event, care for these animals, keeping their environment clean, the animals well fed/watered and walked if necessary.

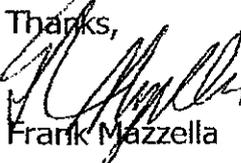
We know the vet who sees their charges personally, and can vouch for the good care they receive at her office. STH is very deserving of a permanent facility in order to continue the important work that they have dedicated a lot of time and energy to.

The care and dedication that they show in vetting prospective pet owners is to be commended. We enjoy working with them and look forward to another great event this year.

The all-volunteer Downtown Event Planners are looking forward to a great event in 2011. Please note that all volunteers donate their time to this event.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 734-771-1561

Thanks,



Frank Mazzella

Chairman – Downtown Event Planners

3/18/2011

•••

Keryn Plensdorf, DVM
Affiliated Veterinary Emergency Services
15220 Southfield Rd.
Allen Park, MI 48101
313-389-1700
Cell - 313-550-5693

15 OF 28
Z.B.
5-4-11

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of the Shelter To Home Rescue Group. I have had the pleasure of working with this group both professionally and personally for several years. Because I am an emergency veterinarian, I have had the occasion to treat several pets that Shelter To Home has either recently rescued, or that have developed medical problems after their regular veterinarian was closed for the day. During each visit, the rescue group representative expressed great concern for the pet, maintained excellent and prompt communication with the officiating members of the group, and helped provide the recommended care for the pet. Having worked with other rescue groups in the past with far different results, this group has always impressed me with their responsibility and cohesiveness where their rescued pets were concerned, as well as practicality and honesty about any limits that they may have in regards to the care of a particular pet.

I have also known Jean Capellari, one of the board members of this group, for almost 8 years, and have gotten to know several other key members of the group through her. I find that their deep concern for their wards, and their practical and responsible decision making refreshing and put me in full support of this group. I frequently recommend friends and clients to them if they are considering adoption of a new pet.

If there are any questions that you may have for me regarding my personal dealings with Shelter To Home, please feel free to contact me at the above numbers.

Sincerely



Keryn Plensdorf, DVM

St Julian's Cat Care, PLLC
Shera L. Dickie, DVM
444 Telegraph N.
Dearborn, MI 48128
313-724-9010

16 of 28
Z.B.
5-4-11

April 4, 2011

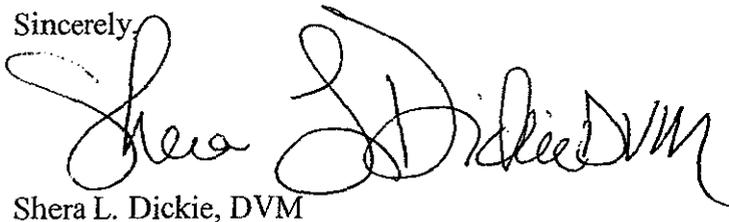
Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to recommend the group "Shelter to Home" to you. I have worked with them for the past four years and more and could not be more complimentary of their organization. All the animals are maintained in the best of care. They bring animals to me both for sick pet care as well as well pet maintenance. The group is financially solvent and has never failed to either pre-pay for services or pay at the time of care. I am familiar with many members of the group and I hold them in the highest of esteem.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at the number above or at my home number (248) 470-6067.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Shera L. Dickie, DVM

Making a Difference
Four Paws at a Time



P.A.W.S.
of Michigan

P.A.W.S. of Michigan

P. O. Box 2184

Riverview, Michigan 48193

info@pawsofmichigan.com

pawsofmichigan.com

17 of 28
Z-B
5-4-11

March 23, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

The P.A.W.S. of Michigan rescue group has worked closely with Shelter To Home in several capacities. We regularly participate in adoption events with the group, and our volunteers at the Wyandotte Animal Shelter often release animals from the shelter to the care of Shelter to Home volunteers. Shelter to Home provided invaluable advice and help to P.A.W.S. as we incorporated our group in 2007, and we have remained close partners since, working together for the welfare of Downriver animals.

We have always found the Shelter to Home group to be professional and conscientious. Shelter to Home volunteers work hard to take animals from local shelters into their foster care program, where they are given complete quality veterinary services and are cared for by experienced and compassionate foster care providers until permanent, loving homes can be found for them. Shelter to Home is responsible in their adoption policies and decisions, carefully matching adopters with animals. The group is led by an experienced, talented Board of Directors who has consistently demonstrated that the organization has the best interest of the animals at the forefront of their minds. They have earned the respect of the community, as well as other local animal welfare groups.

We are very excited about Shelter to Home's plans to open an adoption center. Having a physical location will enable them to save the lives of more local shelter animals. Even with the number of shelters and rescue groups operating Downriver, there still are not enough safe havens for homeless animals. The Shelter to Home adoption center concept is progressive and innovative, and will provide a unique and positive experience for adopters. At the same time, it will ease the burden on local shelters by allowing the group to remove more animals from the shelters into their program.

As P.A.W.S. prepares to open our low-cost spay/neuter clinic, we are counting on the support of Shelter to Home to help us get the word out about the importance and availability of our services. We value our partnership with this excellent organization, and know that they will continue to be a successful and important resource to the community as they enter this next phase of their history.

I would be happy to discuss Shelter to Home and their qualifications with you at any time.

Sincerely,

Kris Jordan

President, P.A.W.S. of Michigan

Executive Director, The PAWS Clinic

313-550-0727

kris@pawsofmichigan.com

Forgotten Angels Rescue
6382 Boxer Drive
West Bloomfield, MI 48322

18 OF 28
Z.B.
5-4-11

March 17, 2011

To whom it may concern:

In the close knit world of animal rescue, Shelter to Home has proven itself a top organization by acting as a mentor, an ally and a leader in the overall goal of increasing the number of animals saved from animal shelters. The members of Shelter to Home assisted my rescue, Forgotten Angels, when we formed three years ago, by walking us through the paperwork for the government to become a legitimate organization working for the good of homeless pets. Members of their board of directors continue to help us fine tune documents, assist us with goal development and act as role models and counselors in the difficult decisions that we face regarding which animals can be saved. Shelter to Home's commitment to the animals in LOCAL animal control agencies has inspired Forgotten Angels to form partnerships with several facilities in Oakland County. Animal rescues are bombarded with rescues to take animals from shelters throughout the Midwest United States, but seeing the difference Shelter to Home is making in the Downriver area, has helped our rescue focus our limited resources on animals close to home.

In animal rescue, partnerships and resources can mean the difference between life and death of animals. Shelter to Home is a respected and dependable partner to many other organizations including Forgotten Angels. By sharing their knowledge and resources with other animal rescues, Shelter to Home is able to help animals directly and indirectly. By linking our organization with local city events where animal adoptions are held, Shelter to Home has helped us increase our adoptions and thus increasing the number of animals we are able to take from the shelters.

We all need help from time to time, and when Shelter to Home was faced with a high quote from a veterinary for medical care of a dog, they asked Forgotten Angels to check with a vet we partner with to see if the procedure could be more affordably. We were able to arrange for the surgeries to be completed at a substantial savings. Shelter to Home repaid Forgotten Angels for the medical care immediately upon completion of each step. Their responsible and conscientious business practice ensured that my rescue was not overextended and remained in good graces with the providing vet.

Shelter to Home's goal of purchasing a building for their rescue to have a localized center of operation and site for animal care and adoptions is another example of their organization's forward thinking vision of animal rescue and continued commitment to the Metro Detroit animals in need. Shelter to Home has done amazing work through their rescue with community based foster homes and are ready to take the next step with a building. With the support and encouragement of animal rescues in Michigan, Shelter to Home will have the necessary network to ensure that the Shelter to Home "Home" will be a successful addition to the neighborhood.

19 of 28

Your consideration of this matter with regard to the animals' lives that can be saved is greatly appreciated. Thank you for caring about animals,

Camy Wituski

Camy Wituski
Director of Forgotten Angels Rescue

Z.B.

5-4-11

Faerie Tales Cat Rescue
22216 Goldenridge
Taylor, MI 48180

April 7, 2011

City of Wyandotte
3131 Biddle
Wyandotte, MI 48192

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to let you know what a great community organization Shelter to Home is. My personal experience in interfacing with Shelter to Home, over the past 5 years, has always been a positive experience. I think they are a fine addition to every community they work with.

Shelter to home is very generous with their time, knowledge and resources. They have offered me advice when I was pulling a cat and at risk 1 week old kittens, just because they knew I personally had not taken on that type of fostering and they were physically there at the same time. They provided us information on website development, when were developing our own website. They offered their information freely and did not view another rescue as a competitor but rather a friend for the cause. Shelter to home has provided us resources like food for our organization when it was more than their organization would utilize at the time.

I have witnessed Shelter to Home provide endless hours of guidance to potential adopters at adoption events, where we also attended. They show passion for the animal rescue cause and compassion for the rescued animals, what a great organization they are.

Sincerely,

Sherry Soja-Molloy
Treasurer Faerie Tales Cat Rescue

20 of 28

Z.B.

5-4-11

April 1, 2011

21 OF 28
2-B
5-4-11

To whom it may concern:

Last year, a beautiful Basset Hound named Bonnie was viciously attacked by another dog who flayed her skin open from her neck to the middle of her back. Her owners were going to euthanize Bonnie because they didn't want to pay to have her wound treated. Shelter to Home worked collaboratively with Pound Pals, a non-profit that supports the Wyandotte Animal Shelter, to see that Bonnie got what she needed to make her well. After that, one of Shelter to Home's compassionate volunteers took Bonnie into her own home and nurtured her until she regained both her health and her vibrant spirit. Today, thanks to Shelter to Home, Bonnie has been adopted into a loving, forever home and is now living a wonderful life, taking both long walks and long naps, chasing squirrels and being adored by her new pet parents. This is what Shelter to Home does every day and this is why I support their wondrous work.

Shelter to Home's mission is to take abandoned and injured animals from shelters with high euthanasia rates and place them in foster homes where they are cared for and loved until they can find forever homes for them. These innocent little creatures would otherwise languish in these shelters waiting to be killed, only because they have had the misfortune of being abandoned and perhaps being a bit too shy, needing a little extra help, or look a bit too ordinary to be among the lucky ones that are rescued from these sad and cold places, to begin new lives. Shelter to Home gives these seemingly hopeless animals a new beginning and a new life filled with love. This is what Shelter to Home does every day.

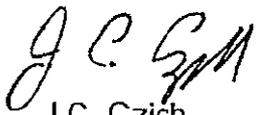
When you meet these wonderful volunteers from Shelter to Home, you are immediately struck by their genuine passion to save these unfortunate animals and to give them the chance to develop into the loving companion animals that they all deserve. Their dedication to their mission makes me proud to be associated with such a marvelous group of people that are Shelter to Home.

Now, they want to expand their mission and save even more lives by establishing a home that would be used to temporarily showcase rescued cats so that people considering adoption could interact with them in a natural and stress-free environment. The home would also be used as an educational center to promote spaying and neutering as well as proper animal care.

I firmly believe that with each innocent life that Shelter to Home saves, with each broken spirit that is healed and with each loving, forever home that is found, the world becomes a little bit of a better place for us all.

Please help this terrific group turn their dream of a Shelter to Home house into a reality.

Thank you,



J.C. Czich
Senior Environmental Engineer
Environmental Quality Office
For Motor Company

April 8, 2011

To Whom It May Concern;

We adopted Harvey Wallbanger from Shelter To Home 2 ½ years ago. He had been not just abandoned, but placed in the 'kill zone' at the animal shelter.

Shelter to Home saw his potential and brought him home. Unfortunately, he had Parvo and had to be further nurtured back to health.

We are so grateful to Shelter to Home for finding him, nursing him back to health and placing him on PetFinder for me to find.

I had been working at a homeless shelter and the clients who came in, many had to give up their animals since they lost their homes. Harvey was their welcome greeter, stopping to say "Hi" to each person in our lobby before he came into my office. He made a difference in the atmosphere of our case workers bringing smiles to their faces.

Since retiring, I get to spend more time with him and his playfulness. He smiles when we come home from our errands and understands more than we give dogs credit for understanding.

We are so grateful for Shelter To Home for bringing him a new life and renewed energy and love to our home.

Sincerely,

Tom and Jimetta Lewis
9101 Division
Casco, MI 48064-1211

22 OF 28
Z.B.
5-4-11

23 of 28
Z.B. 5-4-11

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Charlotte Bellas and I adopted my cats Skye and Foo Foo from Shelter to Home in February 2008.

After losing my beloved cat, Snookie, in January of that same year, I was devastated. I had adopted her from a shelter 16 years prior and from the moment I brought her home, to the moment she died in my arms, we were inseparable. While I knew that my Snookie, a unique and special creature, could never truly be replaced, I also knew that the best way to honor her memory was to give another homeless cat a forever home. We began our search on PetFinder.com where we looked for another gray kitty that resembled Snookie in some way. That is where we ran across Shelter to Home (STH), where we found not one, but two cats we were interested in adopting – a Russian Blue named Skye, and a little blue point Siamese named Foo Foo.

Our first encounter with STH began with a few emails, and then a phone call to Shelley Bawol. From the moment we first made contact, we knew this was a great organization. Their screening process was appropriately rigorous, and they made an effort to ensure that the match between cats and potential adopter (me) would be a good fit. You could tell they felt a responsibility to each animal to find them the best possible forever home. On top of that, their customer service was outstanding every step of the way. They followed up promptly, used efficient processes, kept excellent communications with us, and were exceptionally friendly. We interacted with 3 representatives of STH throughout the process, and each interaction was terrific. Since we live in Pennsylvania, there were additional steps involved in our adoption, including a weekend trip to Michigan to pick up our new girls, and STH was very accommodating and helpful throughout that process.

Z. B.
5-4-11

24 of 28

Our experience was simply outstanding and we would strongly recommend STH to anyone who is adopting a pet. We would love to see them be able to expand their operations by obtaining physical space in which to continue their important work.

Adopting Skye and Foo Foo has been an amazing experience, and we love them more than words can say. Skye is the sweetest, friendliest lovebug of a cat, while Foo Foo is a silly, playful little kitty who has what I can only call a sense of humor! She absolutely adores my husband and the adoration is completely mutual. They both enrich our lives so very much on a daily basis. We are extremely grateful that an organization like STH exists to rescue homeless pets like our Skye and Foofie from overcrowded, unhealthy, high-kill animal pounds, and provide them with loving foster care until such time that they can be united with the people who will love and treasure them for the rest of their lives. This is a valuable service for me as an adopter, for innocent pets who (through no fault of their own) find themselves homeless, for the overcrowded, underfunded shelters, and for the communities STH serves.

Should you have any questions regarding my experience with Shelter to Home, please feel free to contact us at:

*Charlotte & Brad Bellas
114 Saddlebrook Dr.
Indiana, PA 15701
(724) 464-0629
charlotte.will@comcast.net*

3127

Zoning Board Wyandotte, Michigan
3131 Biddle Ave.
Wyandotte, Mi. 48192

2218 23rd Street
Wyandotte, Mi
48192

Attn: Peggy Green
Zoning Board Secretary

25 of 28
5-4-11

Z.B.

Ref: Appeal #3127

Although 2218 23rd is lot#150, we feel that there are enough signs already taking up the Landscape, without making them larger and distracting (moving). We are definitely against this appeal and want to go on record accordingly. Wyandotte's zoning ordinances are very liberal with respect to sign size and location.

Respectively

Richard Godette Marcia Godette

Richard and Marcia Godette

✓
RECEIVED
4-21-11

2-B. 5-4-11

April 25, 2011

#3127

26 of 28

✓ RECEIVED
5-2-11

Department of Engineering and Building
3131 Biddle Ave.
Wyandotte, MI 48192

Dear Zoning Board of Appeals Members:

We the undersigned are writing because we oppose appeal #3127. This appeal request is for the variance of a sign on the existing pole at 2101 Fort Street. As property owners in the immediate area, we contend that the current city Zoning Ordinance regarding signs and changeable message signs are fair and appropriate and that no variance should be granted.

In addition, we submit to the Zoning Board these reasons for not granting the sign permits:

1. The current sign is easily seen on Fort Street and not blocked or hidden by any building or trees, therefore does not need to be made larger.
2. A changeable message sign on a pole would be a distraction to drivers on Fort Street.
3. A changeable message sign on a pole would be distraction to residents in the nighttime.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and understanding.

If you need any further information, please feel free to contact Mark Warren at mtwarren512@yahoo.com or 313.300.0772.

Sincerely,

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Mark Warren	2076 23RD ST
Laurence Chlebel	2071-23rd ST
John Stockmayer	2045-23rd
Ken [unclear]	2055 23RD
Marcus Lawrence	2044 23rd
Raymond Lawrence	2044 23rd
Heather Hall	2110 23rd
Joan J. Schroeder	2038 23RD

Z.B. 5-4-11

27 of 28

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Deborah A Schrod	2038 23rd
Carl Stachnaster	2045 23rd
Tom Shelton	2050 23rd
Carol Shelton	2050 23rd
Reta Mark	2086 23rd
Suzanne R. Burt	2086 23rd
Yvonne May	2089 23rd
Cheryl Wilken	2076 23rd

Z.B.
5-4-11

28 OF 28
DTE Energy



#3127
✓ RECEIVED
5-4-11

April 29, 2011

Peggy Green, Zoning Board Secretary
Zoning Board of Appeals and Adjustment
3131 Biddle Avenue, City of Wyandotte
Michigan 48192

RE: Appeal #3127: A variance to obtain a Sign Permit to reface existing sign and for changeable message sign to be located on existing pole at #2101 Fort Street in a B-2 Zoning District.

- Not involved. See Remarks!
- Involved: but asking you to hold action on this petition until further notice.
- Involved but have no objection to the property change -- provided that an easement of the full width of the public right-of-way (street, alley or other public place) is reserved.
- Involved: the nature of our services, and the estimated costs of removing, rerouting or abandonment of such all gas mains and/or services

REMARKS:

DTE Energy-MichCon Gas Company has no involvement, nor objection to the Appeal No. 3127 as mentioned above. See enclosed strip print and attached notice of public hearing, for your use and information.

Please abide by Public Act 53, three (3) working days before you dig, dial toll free MISS DIG at: 1-800-482-7171.

Michcon Gas Leak Emergency Phone Number: 1-800-947-5000.

Sincerely,

Eddie A. Reyes
Senior Drafter
Data Integrity and Technology

EAR/
Enclosure