

From: David Miller, Vice-Chairman Planning Commission
To: Board of Zoning Appeals
Meeting Date: September 22, 2021
Re: CUP – VPC Hypothermia Shelter – 124 Park Street NE

Overview

The applicant is seeking to renew the Conditional Use Permit they currently hold to allow a hypothermia shelter as part of their operations of the church.

No citizens spoke on this matter with the Planning Commission.

PC Action and Concerns

Vienna Presbyterian Church (VPC) has operated a hypothermia shelter for the homeless over the last several years, exclusive of 2021 due to COVID-19. In October of 2014 the church first applied for, and was granted, a CUP to operate a hypothermia shelter on their premises. The CUP was renewed in 2016. The shelter runs for one to two weeks during the winter months, depending on the scheduling with other churches in the area. At the time the BZA set the following limits;

1. CUP is valid for five years.
2. Guests are limited to 50 people.
3. Hours of the operation are limited to 4:30-pm to 7am.

This season (2022) the shelter is anticipating to operate from February 6 to February 20. They anticipate up to 50 guests per night and anywhere from 20-30 volunteers helping. They are requesting to operate going forward from November to March each year for a two-week period, with no specific expiration date (ie in perpetuity). For this year in particular the applicant is working actively with Fairfax County Health Department to work out the logistics of dealing with COVID_19 concerns for both guests and volunteers.

The Planning Commission felt this is a worthy endeavor and benefits the greater population, not just the Town. As the applicant stated in our meeting, it is a 'hallmark of our Town' and the Church. As such the PC fully supports the church in this CUP request.

Mr. Meren made a motion to recommend to the BZA approval of the Conditional Use Permit for a hypothermia shelter as part of the operations of the church located at 124 Park Street NE.*

**While not part of the formal motion by the PC the applicant is seeking approval in perpetuity. The Vice-Chairman does not feel the overall PC would object to such a request.*

2nd: Ms. Baum

Roll Call Vote: 6-0-1

(Mr. Kenney abstained)