

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2020
MEETING OF THE MORTON GROVE APPEARANCE COMMISSION
RICHARD T FLICKINGER MUNICIPAL CENTER
6101 CAPULINA AVENUE, MORTON GROVE, IL 60053

Pursuant to proper notice in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the regular meeting of the Appearance Commission was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairperson Pietron, who led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Sopkin called the roll. In response to ongoing restrictions and recommendations in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with State of Illinois Executive Orders, the Village invited Appearance Commission and public participation through virtual attendance as an alternative to in-person attendance. In attendance were:

Members of the Commission Present:

J. Pietron (Chairperson) (In Person)
P. Minx (Via Zoom)
M. Ingram (Via Zoom)
D. Hedrick (Via Zoom)
R. Block (Via Zoom)
D. Manno (Via Zoom)
W. Zimmer (Via Zoom)

Members of the Commission absent:

None

Village Staff and Dignitaries Present:

Z. Heidorn, Land Use Planner – Coordinator/Staff Liaison (In Person)
J. Thill, Village Trustee (In Person)
R. Minx, Village Trustee (Via Zoom)
W Grear
K. White, Morton Grove Park District Board President
M. Manno, Morton Grove Park District Commissioner

Chp Pietron now announced the first order of business which was the approval of the minutes of the November 2, 2020 meeting.

Cmsr Minx moved to approve the November 2, 2020 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Cmsr Block. Secretary Sopkin called the roll. The vote was as follows:

Ingram	<u>Aye</u>	Manno	<u>Aye</u>
Hedrick	<u>Aye</u>	Zimmer	<u>Aye</u>
Minx	<u>Aye</u>	Pietron	<u>Aye</u>
Block	<u>Aye</u>		

Chp Pietron moved on to the next agenda item, **Appearance Case AC 20-08, Volta Charging LLC, 6701 – 6939 Dempster Street (Kensington Subdivision) Requesting an Appearance Certificate With Associated Sign Waivers for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (10-19-103-001-0000, 10-19-200-007-0000, 10-19-200-010-0000, 10-19-200-009-0000).**

Present were Bryn Paslawski and Sam Applegate of Volta Charging LLC.

Ms. Heidorn, Staff Liaison, started the presentation with an overview describing the project and the site details. Ms. Heidorn explained that Volta Charging LLC is requesting an Appearance Certificate with associated sign waivers for electric vehicle charging stations at the Sawmill Station development. Requested waivers will allow off-premises electronic messaging signage, additional ground monument signs, additional ground monument sign area, and higher than permitted signage illumination. While two of the stations are currently installed on the site, up to six additional stations will be proposed on the commercial lot and will be authorized under the Appearance Certificate, if approved. She noted that following distribution of the staff report for Case AC 20-08, the applicant clarified that the charging stations will not be used to audibly amplify messaging of any kind. The stations will only communicate public safety broadcasts and commercial messaging through visual displays. As such, staff no longer believes the recommended condition of approval relating to charging station amplification is appropriate. Ms. Heidorn turned the presentation to Ms. Paslawski.

Ms. Paslawski introduced herself and Ms. Applegate, who is the Engineering Coordinator for this project. They asked if there were any questions relating to this project.

Cmsr Zimmer noted that not all aspects of development can be covered by Village regulations. In cases such as these, it is important to weigh the overall benefit to the community. He stated that he has no issue with the proposed stations.

Chp Pietron asked how business hours are determined, since the station displays will be shut off or turned to a black screen after business hours. Ms. Applegate responded that business hours are typically determined by the site partner, but that Volta would be more than happy to tailor the hours to the Village's specifications. Chp Pietron asked about the maintenance of these stations, if they would take an active approach. Ms. Applegate responded that Volta could remotely monitor many aspects of the stations, including charger docking, and that an ongoing maintenance program would be implemented with a site visit at least once per quarter. There would also be a phone number at each station for customer use to report issues.

Cmsr Block asked if the stations were going to include signage for businesses not located on the property. Ms. Applegate responded that the stations would allow for any business to advertise on a station. Any local business could tailor their advertising campaign to be featured on only one station or regionally. The advertising is part of Volta's business model, which provides free electric vehicle charging to users. The advertising package or sponsorship is not limited to the tenants within the shopping plaza.

Cmsr Zimmer moved to approve **Appearance Case AC 20-08, Volta Charging LLC**, subject to the conditions listed in the staff report dated December 1, 2020. The motion was seconded by Cmsr Manno.

Secretary Sopkin called the roll. The vote was as follows:

Ingram	<u>Aye</u>	Manno	<u>Aye</u>
Hedrick	<u>Aye</u>	Zimmer	<u>Aye</u>
Minx	<u>Aye</u>	Pietron	<u>Aye</u>
Block	<u>Nay</u>		

Chp Pietron moved on to the next agenda item, **Other Business/Public Comment.**
There was no other business or public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Commissioner Block moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ingram and approved unanimously pursuant to a voice vote at 7:11 pm.

Stacy Sopkin

Minutes by: Secretary Sopkin

Minutes were approved on _____ by a voice vote of the			
Commissioners, with the votes as follows:			
Ingram	_____	Manno	_____
Hedrick	_____	Zimmer	_____
Minx	_____	Pietron	_____
Block	_____		