1	REGULAR MEETING - ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
2	CITY OF NOVI
3	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024
4	Council Chambers/Novi Civic Center
5	41725 Novi Road
6	Novi, Michigan
7	
8	BOARD MEMBERS:
9	Joe Peddiboyina, Chairperson
10	Mike Longo, Secretary
11	Siddharth Mav Sanghvi, Member
12	Linda Krieger, Member
13	Jay McLeod, Member
14	W. Clift Montague, Member
15	Larry Butler, Member
16	ALSO PRESENT:
17	Elizabeth Saarela, City Attorney
18	Alan Hall, Deputy Community Development
19	Director
20	Sarah Fletcher, Recording Secretary
21	REPORTED BY:
22	Melinda R. Womack
23	Certified Shorthand Reporter



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- 1 MR. PEDDIBOYINA: Good evening.
- 2 Welcome to the City of Novi Zoning Board of
- 3 Appeals. Today is February 13, 7 p.m. And call to
- 4 the order and Pledge of Allegiance followed by
- 5 Mike Longo. Please stand up.
- 6 (Pledge of Allegiance recited)
- 7 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
- 8 Please be seated and mute your cell phones. And
- 9 if you have anything, you know, once we call the
- 10 case you can come to the podium. Roll call,
- 11 please.
- MS. FLETCHER: Chairperson Peddiboyina?
- 13 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yes, please.
- MS. FLETCHER: Member Sanghvi?
- 15 MEMBER SANGHVI: Present.
- MS. FLETCHER: Member Longo?
- 17 MEMBER LONGO: Here.
- MS. FLETCHER: Member Montague?
- MEMBER MONTAGUE: Here.
- MS. FLETCHER: Member Krieger?
- 21 MEMBER KRIEGER: Present.
- MS. FLETCHER: Member Butler?
- 23 MEMBER BUTLER: Present.



- 1 MS. FLETCHER: Member McLeod?
- 2 MEMBER McLEOD: Here.
- 3 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you.
- 4 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
- 5 And we have a full quorum. And public hearing and
- 6 format and rules, and you have a form there. And
- 7 today we have all of the cases we have. And you
- 8 can see and you can present when you have your
- 9 cases, come to the podium. Please tell your name,
- 10 first name and last name to the secretary for the
- 11 court record, and also, if you have any
- 12 presentations you can present. And the audience,
- only three minutes time allowed. Thank you.
- 14 And approval of the minutes, January
- 15 2024. Any changes or anything, please let me
- 16 know, or let us know. Somebody can make a motion
- 17 on that?
- MS. KRIEGER: Approval of minutes. I
- 19 move to approve the minutes for January 2024.
- 20 MEMBER LONGO: Second.
- 21 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
- 22 Looks like everything is okay and approved.
- 23 And board members elections, we are



- 1 moving to the other matters. That is the only one
- 2 change. Any other changes you'd like to see on
- 3 this today's agenda?
- 4 MR. HALL: Mr. Chairman, the first item
- 5 on the agenda for the antique barn, they would
- 6 like to postpone indefinitely the project. They
- 7 decided to go to the Planning Commission and seek
- 8 design consideration there. So when they come
- 9 back, they're going to have to pay all their fees
- 10 to get back on to see the Board again.
- MR. PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank you.
- 12 And once we come to the case and we'll see, and
- 13 will make a motion on that.
- 14 Public remarks. Anybody would like to
- 15 have any changes to the public remarks on decision
- 16 today is the time. And as our City said, you
- 17 know, PZ23-0061 The Antiques Barn, we are
- 18 postponing to that case to the next coming meeting
- 19 following.
- 20 MS. SAARELA: No. It will be
- 21 indefinitely. So just a motion to basically take
- 22 it off the agenda for now.
- MR. PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Anybody have



- 1 any objections on this?
- 2 MEMBER LONGO: You need a motion?
- 3 MR. HALL: Yes, you do.
- 4 MEMBER LONGO: I so move.
- 5 MS. KRIEGER: Second.
- 6 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Any nays?
- 7 Thank you. All say aye in favor.
- 8 THE BOARD: Aye.
- 9 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
- 10 Case number two.
- 11 MS. KRIEGER: I'm sorry. I move to
- 12 approve the agenda as amended for 2024 with The
- 13 antiques Barn being moved indefinitely.
- 14 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
- 15 Second?
- 16 MEMBER LONGO: Second.
- 17 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Mr. Longo.
- 18 Thank you, so much. Anybody, any objections on
- 19 that? No? Okay.
- Case number two for tonight, PZ24-0001
- 21 Trek Inc 46470 Desoto Court, north of West Road,
- 22 west of West Park Drive, Parcel 50-22-04-379-002.
- 23 The applicant is requesting a variance from the



- 1 City of Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 5.2.12.E for
- 2 a reduction in required parking spaces to 66. 90
- 3 parking spaces required a reduction variance of 24
- 4 parking spaces. This variance will eliminate the
- 5 need for additional parking for the proposed
- 6 warehouse addition. This property is zoned Light
- 7 Industrial. I-I. Parties present, please come to
- 8 the podium and present your case. If you have
- 9 any -- group got anything you can put it in the
- 10 projector so the audience and members can see that
- 11 one. You can tell your first and last name
- 12 clearly for our secretary.
- MR. PRUSS: My name is Allan Pruss with
- 14 Monument Engineering. Address is 298 Veterans
- 15 Drive in Fowlerville.
- MEMBER LONGO: Are you an attorney?
- 17 MR. PRUSS: Pardon me?
- 18 MEMBER LONGO: Are you an attorney?
- MR. PRUSS: No, sir. I'm the civil
- 20 engineer and surveyor for the project.
- 21 MEMBER LONGO: You promise to tell the
- 22 truth in this case?
- MR. PRUSS: Yes.



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- 1 MEMBER LONGO: Thank you.
- 2 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Please go
- 3 ahead and proceed on this case.
- 4 MR. PRUSS: Okay. I'm going to rotate
- 5 this so it's kind of orientated for everybody
- 6 properly. Thank you. We are proposing a building
- 7 addition here. This is addition building here.
- 8 We are asking for relief from the required number
- 9 of parking spaces. We are not able to physically
- 10 meet the zoning ordinance for the number of
- 11 parking spaces. The ordinance doesn't allow for
- 12 parking in the front yard in an industrial
- 13 setting. And the east side of the building, or
- 14 the side yard, we need to be 100 feet setback from
- 15 the residential property to our east.
- 16 Any additional parking that we would
- 17 place on the north side of the building for the
- 18 addition would create another issue with the fire
- 19 department. They have the international fire code
- 20 requires that any dead-ends longer then 150 feet
- 21 have a turnaround. In this case, so we create
- 22 that issue there, but on the east side, I'm going
- 23 to switch sheets here. There's a -- I apologize.



- 1 You can't really see on the overhead, but there is
- 2 a large hill here about 15 to 20 feet in some
- 3 places, so we handle a number of existing
- 4 easements and utilities. So we're seeking the
- 5 variance. I do have, if I could approach the
- 6 Chairman, I do have something from the Condominium
- 7 Association with no objections to the request for
- 8 the variance.
- 9 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: You can put
- 10 it on the projector. The secretary can read on
- 11 that.
- MR. PRUSS: Absolutely.
- 13 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: I can read
- 14 from there.
- MR. PRUSS: Can everybody read that
- 16 okay? So this is from the President of the
- 17 Condominium Association. We are part of the
- 18 Condominium.
- 19 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
- 20 MR. PRUSS: And we are here to answer
- 21 any questions. Have representative from Trek and
- 22 from the contractor.
- 23 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Would you



- 1 like to speak anything on this case please,
- 2 tonight?
- 3 MR. PRUSS: I do apologize this is the
- 4 addition is for warehousing only. And we plan on
- 5 having no new employees. The current operations
- 6 has sufficient parking.
- 7 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. From
- 8 City?
- 9 MR. HALL: Mr. Chairman. So yes,
- 10 you're increasing the building just for warehouse
- 11 purposes and there's no offices or anything inside
- 12 the warehouse. That's correct.
- MR. PRUSS: Correct.
- 14 MR. HALL: And there's no increase for
- 15 number employees, there's no reason to increase
- 16 the parking because it's already sufficient.
- 17 MR. PRUSS: That's correct.
- 18 MR. HALL: The planning department, I
- 19 spoke with them. They're in favor because it does
- 20 reduce the impervious area on the site to increase
- 21 storm water advantages. We have no objections.
- 22 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
- 23 Mr. Secretary?



- 1 MEMBER LONGO: There were 29 mailed
- 2 out. None returned. One objection and one
- 3 approval. The objection was still opposing this
- 4 addition as it will impact the value of our
- 5 neighborhood with close proximity of another
- 6 structure in the back of it. Unless it is not
- 7 totally invisible from our neighborhood, I'm
- 8 objecting. This is from Laurent Curtil.
- 9 MR. PRUSS: Comment on that. As I
- 10 pointed out earlier, the east side has an existing
- 11 hill or berm that is part of the screening
- 12 process, but we are also being required to replace
- 13 the original landscape trees on top of the hill.
- 14 So we'll be providing additional landscaping
- 15 screening to help address the adjoining resident
- 16 issues.
- 17 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Are you done?
- 18 MEMBER LONGO: Yes. That's the only
- 19 one.
- 20 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. From
- 21 public hearing anybody would like to comment?
- 22 Anybody online or any way. Looks like none.
- Can you show me, you want one mark



- 1 objection where you want to put the landscaping in
- 2 the background? Can you show me, please?
- MR. PRUSS: Sure. So along this, along
- 4 this edge here, we will be replacing any trees.
- 5 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Pine trees?
- 6 MR. PRUSS: Yes. So any trees that
- 7 were part of the original landscaping plan from
- 8 2010 that have not survived to this day are being
- 9 replaced in kind. So we'll be adding, I can't
- 10 remember the exact number of trees, I think it's
- 11 about 15 or 16 trees along that berm to fill in
- 12 the gaps.
- 13 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: What are the
- 14 areas there you are going to fill up with pine
- 15 trees or some trees.
- MR. PRUSS: Correct.
- 17 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
- 18 Have nothing to say. Open to the board. Dr.
- 19 Sanghvi?
- 20 MEMBER SANGHVI: Thank you. I came and
- 21 visited your place last week and drove around. I
- 22 have a couple of questions. How many people on an
- 23 average visit your facility every day?



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- 1 MR. PRUSS: I'm going to turn this over
- 2 to Tim. He's with Trek.
- 3 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Can you
- 4 please tell your name for the record.
- 5 TIM: My name is Tim. I'm from Trek
- 6 Inc.
- 7 MEMBER LONGO: Tim, are you an
- 8 attorney?
- 9 TIM: No.
- 10 MEMBER LONGO: Do you promise to tell
- 11 the truth in this case?
- 12 TIM: I do.
- 13 MEMBER LONGO: Thank you.
- 14 MEMBER SANGHVI: How many people on an
- 15 average visit your facility every day?
- 16 TIM: The only people that -- on
- 17 average? Less than one, probably.
- 18 MEMBER SANGHVI: Less than one.
- 19 TIM: Yeah, because we don't see
- 20 customers there where it's only a shipping and
- 21 receiving and a warehouse. So we don't have --
- MEMBER SANGHVI: That was the only
- 23 thing I wanted to know. I drove around there and



- 1 saw what's going on.
- TIM: Yeah.
- MEMBER SANGHVI: You don't need more
- 4 parking spots than what you already have.
- 5 TIM: We don't really need them.
- 6 MEMBER SANGHVI: You got only one or
- 7 two people coming there every day.
- 8 TIM: That's correct.
- 9 MEMBER SANGHVI: I wanted to know that
- 10 before supporting your request, okay? I have no
- 11 problem.
- 12 TIM: Thank you.
- 13 MEMBER LONGO: In addition to what he
- 14 was asking, how many employees do you have,
- 15 roughly?
- 16 TIM: In the building?
- 17 MEMBER LONGO: That work there, yes.
- 18 That work there.
- 19 TIM: Like eight.
- 20 MEMBER LONGO: So 66 is way enough.
- 21 TIM: Yes.
- 22 MEMBER LONGO: Thank you.
- 23 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Any other



- 1 Board members?
- 2 MR. McLEOD: Question. Don't know if
- 3 this is for the City or for them. But if you're
- 4 maintaining the same number of parking spots that
- 5 you have currently, what triggered the need for
- 6 this discussion? Was it to -- were they
- 7 noncompliant before?
- 8 MS. SAARELA: No. They're adding on to
- 9 the building.
- 10 MR. McLEOD: So the additional square
- 11 footage of building it triggered parking spaces.
- MS. SAARELA: Correct.
- MR. HALL: They're increasing their
- 14 warehouse activity.
- 15 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Do you have
- 16 any future plan hiring more employees when you're
- doing this expanding your warehouse?
- 18 TIM: Not at this time. I mean there's
- 19 always that possibility you might add one or two,
- 20 you know, right now we're adequate staffing
- 21 levels.
- 22 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Anybody ask
- 23 any questions?



- 1 MS. KRIEGER: How high is the other
- 2 building going to be?
- 3 MR. PRUSS: How high is it?
- 4 MS. KRIEGER: The addition?
- 5 MR. PRUSS: I believe it's 23 feet or
- 6 24 feet.
- 7 MR. SCHWARTZ: Good evening, Jon
- 8 Schwartz BRIVAR Construction, general contractor
- 9 for the building. I'm not an attorney.
- 10 MEMBER LONGO: Do you promise to tell
- 11 the truth?
- 12 DEFENDANT: I do. I do.
- 13 MEMBER LONGO: Thank you.
- 14 MR. SCHWARTZ: The east elevation here
- 15 will be less than the current east elevation of
- 16 the existing building, which I believe is
- 17 approximately 30 feet. I believe we started
- 18 approximately 29 and tail off to a 27 on the eve,
- on the east eve. So it's a continuously slope
- 20 from this location out to this corner.
- 21 MS. KRIEGER: So sloping down from the
- 22 three story to a two story so light would go into
- 23 the neighboring subdivisions.



- 1 MR. SCHWARTZ: Light?
- 2 MS. KRIEGER: Daylight.
- MR. SCHWARTZ: Daylight? Our building 3
- is set back such that there's no shadow line to 4
- 5 any structure or to the subdivision road or
- anything. But, again, this, this gradient rises 6
- 7 up almost 15 feet.
- MS. KRIEGER: That clarifies the 8
- concerns. And then the other one, the loading is 9
- 10 all going to occur on the west side of the
- 11 building?
- 12 MR. SCHWARTZ: The loading occurs, the
- existing loading occurs here. The new dock, the 13
- 14 second dock will be right here. They'll be a
- 15 green belt in between.
- 16 MS. KRIEGER: Curious. Is Trek related
- to the bicycle company? 17
- 18 TIM: No, ma'am.
- 19 MS. KRIEGER: That's all. Thank you.
- 20 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
- 21 Any other board members would like to ask? Okay.
- 22 Looks like none. Okay. Linda, can you make a
- 23 motion?



- 1 MS. KRIEGER: In case number PZ24-0001
- 2 Trek for 46470 Desoto Court, I move to grant the
- 3 variance for this case because the Petitioner has
- 4 shown practical difficulty for requiring this
- 5 need. Without the variance, the Petitioner will
- 6 be unreasonably prevented or limited with respect
- 7 to use of their property because of their not
- 8 needing as many parking spaces as related to the
- 9 business, so gives more green space. The property
- 10 is unique because it's in a cul-de-sac and
- 11 abutting other easements. Petitioner did not
- 12 create the condition because the location is a
- 13 condominium complex for businesses. The relief
- 14 granted will not unreasonably interfere with
- 15 adjacent or surrounding properties because they
- 16 are keeping the buffer zone with the landscaping
- 17 cared for and will not interfere with residential
- 18 areas. And the relief is consistent with the
- 19 spirit and intent of the ordinance because it is a
- 20 reasonable request.
- 21 MEMBER LONGO: I second that.
- 22 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
- 23 MEMBER SANGHVI: Second.



CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Roll call?

- 2
- MS. FLETCHER: Chairperson Peddiboyina?
- 3 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yes, please.
- 4 MS. FLETCHER: Member Sanghvi?
- 5 MEMBER SANGHVI: Yes.
- MS. FLETCHER: Member Longo? 6
- 7 MEMBER LONGO: Yes.
- 8 MS. FLETCHER: Member Montague?
- 9 MEMBER MONTAGUE: Yes.
- 10 MS. FLETCHER: Member Krieger?
- 11 MEMBER KRIEGER: Yes.
- 12 MS. FLETCHER: Member McLeod?
- 13 MEMBER McLEOD: Yes.
- 14 MS. FLETCHER: Member Butler?
- 15 MEMBER BUTLER: Yes.
- 16 MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Motion
- 17 passes.

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- 18 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA:
- 19 Congratulations.
- 20 Thank you, very much. TIM:
- 21 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you,
- 22 very much. The cases coming back to board member
- 23 selection. Would you like to any changes? You



- 1 want to say? It's open to the board. Go ahead
- 2 Dr. Sanghvi.
- 3 MEMBER SANGHVI: As far as I can see,
- 4 the current officers have no problem to continue.
- 5 But then I don't believe in fixing something that
- 6 ain't broke. So I suggest that we continue with
- 7 the same slate, unless you don't want to continue
- 8 any one of you.
- 9 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you,
- 10 Dr. Sanghvi?
- 11 MEMBER SANGHVI: That includes the
- 12 chairperson, vice chair, secretary.
- 13 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Any other
- 14 board member?
- MS. KRIEGER: Are you okay with that,
- 16 Clift?
- MR. MONTAGUE: Yeah.
- 18 MS. KRIEGER: All right. Cool.
- 19 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
- MS. SAARELA: My motion, the motion to
- 21 approve that slate.
- MS. KRIEGER: I second that motion.
- 23 CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you so



1	much.
2	MS. SAARELA: All in favor.
3	CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: All in favor
4	say aye.
5	THE BOARD: Aye.
6	CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Any nays?
7	Thank you. And that is before I adjourn any other
8	things? Looks like none. Before I adjourn say
9	all in favor aye.
10	MS. KRIEGER: Of what.
11	CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Adjourn.
12	MS. KRIEGER: I move to adjourn.
13	CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
14	(The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.)
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23

1	CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY
2	
3	STATE OF MICHIGAN )
4	) SS
5	COUNTY OF OAKLAND )
6	
7	I, Melinda R. Womack, Certified Shorthand
8	Reporter, a Notary Public in and for the above county and
9	state, do hereby certify that the above deposition was taken
10	before me at the time and place hereinbefore set forth; that
11	the witness was by me first duly sworn to testify to the
12	truth, and nothing but the truth, that the foregoing questions
13	asked and answers made by the witness were duly recorded by me
14	stenographically and reduced to computer transcription; that
15	this is a true, full and correct transcript of my stenographic
16	notes so taken; and that I am not related to, nor of counsel
17	to either party nor interested in the event of this cause.
18	M1 1 10 0 11 10
19	Melencla R. Domoch
20	Melinda R. Womack, CSR-3611
21	Notary Public,
22	Oakland County, Michigan
23	My Commission expires: 06-22-2025 )



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