

Mackinac Island Planners Say No to Cutsinger Weekly Rentals

By Karen Gould

In a 5-4 vote Tuesday, July 10, the Mackinac Island Planning Commission denied a rezoning request for David Cutsinger's house on French Lane. A public hearing on the issue, attended by 22 residents, preceded the vote.

Mr. Cutsinger sought to change the property from R-3 (high-density residential) to historic. The zoning change would have allowed him to request a change of use for the property from a single family home to hotel. That, in turn,

would have allowed weekly rentals, provided he could comply with building codes for such use.

Property to the south of Mr. Cutsinger's 1358 French Lane home is zoned hotel-boarding-house, and to the north, property is zoned historic.

"I just want to rent the house on a weekly basis," said Mr. Cutsinger, who attended the meetings.

Without records explaining the original reason for the R-3 zoning of the home, commissioners based their decision

Tuesday on the assumption that previous planners did not intend the property to be spot zoned, although they and the audience never reached a consensus as to whether the zoning of the property actually constituted spot zoning. Also, planners said their decision to deny the request was, in part, a response to objections over the rezoning from seven Island residents. Two letters were received by the commission in support of the change.

Commissioners also said that any zoning changes should not be made based simply on the financial benefit of the property owner.

Most of the surrounding dwellings are used for employee housing.

Letters from Victor Callewaert and Ron Dufina supported the rezoning request.

"I believe it would afford the

structure and site protection in its present state as well as allowing the owner a use of the property that is compatible with surrounding properties," wrote Mr. Dufina in a letter to the commission.

French Lane property owner Jennifer Griffin, in a letter against the change, wrote, "It is my desire to maintain, pursue, and preserve quiet enjoyment in one of the only and last downtown area neighborhoods on Mackinac Island, Michigan. The long-term neighbors in this area have maintained a high regard for each other's privacy and security. I see no benefit to a zoning change."

Residents attending the hearing expressed concerns over the number of bicycles already at the home and the number of people in the area.

Mr. Cutsinger said he had offered use of his property for

bicycle parking for a neighbor.

Residents also said that those seeking a weekly rental would be more inclined to party than employees, who would want to keep a job. Weekly renters would disrupt the neighborhood street, they said, and by the time a complaint would be registered, the renters would be gone.

"I don't want it to become a party Island like Put-in-Bay Island in Ohio," said Eunice White, who is in the process of moving to Mackinac Island.

Commissioner Mary Dufina, who rents both to employees and hotel guests, said she was "surprised to hear that hotel guests were worse than employees or regular folks that live in homes."

A motion to recommend to the city council that the zoning

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

JULY 19 - 29

Grand Hotel

Daily entertainment at the following venues:

Lunch Buffet – Piano 12-2 p.m.

Afternoon Tea – Classical Harp 3:30-5 p.m.

Cupola Bar – Piano Bar 5:30-7:30 and 8:30-11 p.m.

Jockey Club – Piano Bar 6-10 p.m.

Woods – Piano 6-10 p.m.

Main Dining Room – Jazz 6-9 p.m.

Demitasse – Parlor/Classical Harp 8-9:30 p.m.

Terrace Room – Grand Hotel Orchestra 9:30-11:30 p.m.

Gate House – Live music Friday and Saturday, Karaoke Sundays, Ladies Night Mondays, and Jazz Tuesdays. All entertainment begins at 9:30 p.m.

July 20-21.....Grand Slam

July 22-24.....That 80s Band

July 25.....Jamaican Jam

July 26-28.....Soulstice

Mission Point Resort

Piano music in The Epicurean, 6-10 p.m. with John Kissane Tuesday-Sunday and Marilyn Putz on Mondays.

Bistro on the Greens:

July 19-21.....John D. Lamb

July 23-28.....Nelson Olstrom

Horn's Gaslight Bar and Grill

Entertainment begins at 10 p.m.

July 20-22.....Uptown

July 23-24.....Aaron Vaughn

July 25.....DJ Night with Brevin

July 26.....Mike Ridley

The Pink Pony

Entertainment tentatively begins at 9:30 p.m.

July 19-25.....Myk Rise

July 26-28.....Incognito

Patrick Sinclair's Irish Pub

Entertainment from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

July 20-21.....Pub Runners

July 25.....Karaoke Night

July 26.....Seventies Night

Lilac Tree Hotel

Entertainment begins at 9 p.m.

July 20-21.....Stu Stewart, comedian

July 25-29.....Stu Stewart, comedian

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