Gerri Caruso - FASSV request . User Permit Request #2004-0766

From: "Patrick Blanc" <patrickblanc@comcast.net>
To: <councildeanchu@yahoo.com>, <gcaruso@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us>
Date: 1/12/2005 12:30 AM
Subject: FASSV request . User Permit Request #2004-0766

Dear honorable Mayor, council members, and Sunnyvale city planning commission:

We are writing to you to request that you reconsider your decision of 11/16/04 regarding the French American School of Silicon Valleys request for permission to place a modular library building on its campus at 1510 Lewiston Drive, Sunnyvale (Use permit#2004-0766).

We understand that you are concerned about increased traffic and parking problems. The proposed addition will have zero impact on the site traffic and parking patterns. The three classroom modular building will allow our school to create a library and a technology lab. The school is not adding students or staff. It is just trying to provide our kids with a better environment to learn.

I urge you to revisit your decision. The cost of the traffic study would be overwhelming for our small, non profit school. It would definitely be the end of our children's hope to get a new library. I am convinced that you will appreciate how important a computer lab can be to the future of our kids in Silicon Valley.

Our family have had the pleasure to live in Sunnyvale for a decade now. The presence of a French School in Sunnyvale largely influence our decision to establish our residence here. We have been proud homeowners of a house in the Cherry Chase neighborhood for more than seven years. When we remodeled our home in 1999, we personally dealt with the planning and building permit departments. We had nothing but praise for their knowledge, professionalism and willingness to work things out with us. For the benefits of our kids and for all the other children attending the FASSV, we can only hope for another successful collaboration.

We thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Mr amd Mrs Blanc Patrick, Camille (3 year old, FASSV student) and Mathis (8 months old, future FASSV student and already interested in computers!!!)

1214 Lynn Way,Sunnyvale

ATTACHMENT 1
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From: Biz Eischen <biz_eischen@yahoo.com>
To: <council@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us>, <councilDeanChu@yahoo.com>, <gcaruso@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us>
Date: 1/11/2005 8:13:49 AM
Subject: French American School Permit Appeal

Dear honorable Mayor, council members, and Sunnyvale city planning commission:

We are writing to you to request that you revisit and reconsider your decision of 11/16/04 regarding the French American School of Silicon Valley's request for permission to place a modular library building on its campus at 1510 Lewiston Drive, Sunnyvale (Use permit #2004-0766). Fearing increased traffic congestion, the planning board requested the school to provide a master parking and circulation management plan before continuing the approval process.

Our small school needs space for a library and computer room. The modular building would provide that much needed space. The school is not adding students, the same numbers of teachers and parents will be using neighborhood streets; there will be no change in traffic patterns. In this case, a traffic study/plan is an unnecessary and costly requirement for our small, private, non-profit school serving 90 South Bay families.

As parents wanting the best education for our child, we urge you to remove your contingencies on our small school regarding this permit request and to approve the request so that the children may have a library.

On behalf of the 130 pre-K and elementary students at the French American School of Silicon Valley, we thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Charles and Elizabeth Eischen

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Yahoo! Mail - now with 250MB free storage. Learn more.
http://info.mail.yahoo.com/mail_250

December 15, 2004

To whom It May Concern

Ref.: Use Permit Application

I am writing to support FASSV in its appeal to the City of Sunnyvale about the installation of 3 modular rooms on the Serra School Campus, a CUSD property.

The conditions added by the City of Sunnyvale Planning Commission as a pre-requisite to the approval of the construction might very well make it impossible for FASSV to go ahead with the project of improving its students' educational experience, as they include a study of the parking and traffic situation in the neighborhood of the campus, to be paid by the school in its entirety.

It was recognized by all parties that the project will have zero impact on the traffic and the parking situation in the area. The traffic and parking situation in the neighborhood have to be improved, but it is an issue that involves 3 other schools which should also participate in its study and resolution.

FASSV has already done a lot to improve the situation by keeping FASSV parents away from the most congested area by changing the entrance to its building. The school can be trusted to cooperate fully to implementing any plan that might make the area safer.

It seems to me that FASSV's project should be considered by the neighborhood as an opportunity to find solutions to a situation that has been a concern for a long time.

As the school's librarian, I may add that our whole school community has been looking forward to having a regular, full-size library and use one of the modular buildings as its location. Losing the opportunity to finally fulfill that dream-particularly considering the reasons why that could happen- would be a great disappointment. In a school, the library is always a special place, loved by everyone. It offers a privileged environment where teachers and students have the opportunity to have special activities and enrich their basic curriculum. Having such a place would greatly benefit our students' education.

I do hope that FASSV's appeal will be an opportunity to reverse the decision taken by the Planning Commission and grant the use permit without conditions while initiating the process which will make circulation and parking safer in the school's neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Clarisse Jousselin
FASSV Librarian
1522 Lewinston Drive
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
(408) 746 0460

ATTACHMENT 1
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From: "Seema Varma" <Seema.Varma@nsc.com>
To: <GCaruso@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us>
Date: 11/29/2004 11:55:22 AM
Subject: FASSV school buildings

Dear Ms. Caruso,

I am writing to ask for your help in getting my daughter's school (FASSV: French American School of Silicon Valley) to get a User's Permit so they can occupy the modular buildings we have all agreed is really essential for the good health of the school.
We are disappointed by the outcome of the hearing on Nov 8 and are hoping to find ways we can all come to a common ground without delaying this project for another school year. As always, the concerns of the school's neighbours are important to us, but I cannot understand how the school buildings will impact the traffic situation - there will be no change in the number of families arriving and departing, nor will there be changes in the timing of the arrivals and departures. The school enrollment is not increasing since no new classrooms are being added.

You have heard from other families in the the school, but I believe my family is quite different from others and I'd like to give you my perspective on the school and why I consider it an important asset to the Sunnyvale community and a place that should be nurtured and nourished so it can flourish.

My husband and I are both from India (the country in South Asia, not the Native American culture!). For us it is extremely important that our children grow up in a heterogeneous environment and learn not only about America, our adopted country, and about India, their parents' native country, but about the world and its culture,languages, food and peoples. Despite the fact that neither my husband nor I speak any French, our daughter is in her fifth year at the school and speaks French fluently. Our connection to the school has truly enriched the life of not only my daughter, but our whole family because we have gained so much in the way of appreciating a whole different culture. The presence of the school also attracts many families like ours to Sunnyvale alongwith a number of French families. I truly believe that families like ours who are law-abiding, tax-paying, civic-minded, dedicated to our communities and to raising our children in a supportive and rich environment are an asset to Sunnyvale. To that end, supporting the school and taking steps to make sure it thrives is in the interests of the students and their families, but also in the wider interests of the city of Sunnyvale.

This is an excellent school with very high goals for its students and a very high expectation from its staff. The ONLY thing small about the school is the space that it occupies. The additions are very important to the children's education and I really request you to provide us all the assistance that you can in order for the school to have the space that is so greatly needed. If there is something I can do to facilitate, I would be happy to do so.

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Thank you for taking the time to read my long but heartfelt letter. With warm regards and wishing you a happy holiday season,

Seema Varma
1063 Heatherstone Way,
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
(408)-523-1409
Seema.Varma@nsc.com

CC: <Seema.Varma@nsc.com>

ATTACHMENT 7
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Gerri Caruso - French-American School request to install modular building on the ~~Serra School~~ Campus in Sunnyvale

From: "Marie-Helene Le Tuan" <marie-helene@fassv.org>
To: <Council@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us>, <CouncilDeanChu@yahoo.com>, <gcaruso@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us>
Date: 11/23/2004 11:05 AM
Subject: French-American School request to install modular building on the Serra School Campus in Sunnyvale
CC: <bernard@fassv.org>

I am writing to support FASSV in its appeal to the City of Sunnyvale about the installation of 3 modular rooms on the Serra School Campus, a CUSD property.

I find it extremely regrettable that the conditions added by the City of Sunnyvale Planning Commission as a pre-requisite to the beginning of the construction will probably make it impossible for FASSV to go ahead with its project of improving its students' educational experience. The Commission's conditions include a costly study of the parking and traffic situation in the neighborhood of the campus, for which the school would be solely responsible. Yet, it has been recognized by all parties that the project will have zero impact on the traffic and the parking situation in the area. The necessity to improve the traffic and parking situation in the neighborhood is not questionable, but as it is obviously a separate and global issue, its study and resolution should be conducted as such, and involve all Serra School tenants, 3 other schools who are also factors in the problem.

FASSV has already been instrumental in improving the situation by changing the entrance to its building in order for FASSV parents to stay away from the most congested area, and will cooperate fully to the implementation of any plan that might be devised to improve the traffic and parking situation. While making it feasible for the school to go ahead with the installation of the additional rooms will actually benefit the whole community, it seems to me that if FASSV has to give up its project, the neighborhood will have lost a chance to see the improvement of a situation that has been a concern for a long time.

I do hope that FASSV's appeal will be an opportunity to reverse the decision taken by the Planning Commission and grant the use permit without conditions, while simultaneously developing a task force to address the current circulation/parking conditions in the school's neighborhood.

Thank you very much for your attention.
Sincerely,

Marie-Helene Dickman
FASSV staff

ATTACHMENT 7
Page 7 of 11

Gerri Caruso - Re: Fassv portable building

From: Christine Gazounaud <gazounaud@comcast.net>
To: "Gerri Caruso" <GCaruso@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us>
Date: 11/22/2004 8:56 PM
Subject: Re: Fassv portable building

Dear Mr. Caruso,
I sincerely appreciate your quick answer to my email. I will transmit your recommendations to the Fassv Community. I hope that the City can help us find a compromise that would not penalize our kids like this one.
Thank you for letting Mrs. Ryan know about my first email, my 2 first attempts to send it to her never worked because the email address I entered was not correct.
With my best regards

Christine Gazounaud

At 11:54 AM 11/21/2004, you wrote:

> Dear Ms. Gazounaud:
>
> Thank you for your email. I wanted to let you know that the administration of FASSV shares your opinion regarding the conditions of the project approval. A scope of work was prepared by the City's traffic division staff for the recommended parking and circulation study. Based on information from Mr. Moreau of FASSV, the traffic study was cost prohibitive to the school. The school has filed a formal appeal of the decision made by the Planning Commission in order to have the requirement for the parking and circulation study reconsidered by the City Council.
>
> However, as with several of the private schools in the City, a requirement to improve traffic conditions and resolve conflicts that the drop-off and pick-up pattern of the school causes in the neighborhood has been added to projects that require City approval. The FASSV was not singled out for this requirement. The City staff was maintaining consistency for all similar projects. The City staff still considers the requirement for a parking and circulation study a necessary component of this project.
>
> A hearing date will be set as soon as possible with the City Council for the appeal. Although the staff recommendation is not likely to change, the Council has the final decision authority on this matter. I recommend that you attend the City Council hearing and speak on the issue. I will include your email as an attachment to the staff report so that all Council members have a chance to read your opinion. You may also send additional information if you wish and I will make sure that the City Council receives it for consideration. I will also make sure you are on the mailing list for the hearing.
>
> Thank you for your comments. If you would like to contact me directly, my extension at City Hall is 730-7591.
> Sincerely,
>
> Gerri Caruso

Principal Planner

>>> Christine Gazounaud <gazounaud@comcast.net> 11/21/2004 7:24:40 AM >>>
Dear Mr. Chu,

Please find below the copy of an email I sent on November 12 to Mrs Trudy Ryan, I am afraid she never received it because I did not receive any answer nor at least an acknowledgement. Since then I received at least one answer to a question, the format of the study, therefore this email is still relevant. Please, let me know if you received my input on this issue and if you can answer the very last question.
Thank you for time,
Sincerely,
Christine Gazounaud

Dear Mrs. Ryan
Please forgive in advance my level of English, despite several years spent in Sunnyvale, I am not as fluent in writing in English as I would be in French.
I am contacting you because I have a hard time to understand the reason why the French American School of Silicon Valley's project to add a portable building for a library and offices is held for traffic problems.
The impression I got from the hearing held at the City Hall on November 8, 2004, is that everybody agreed that this project is great, that adding learning capabilities for our children is worth it and that the impact on traffic is zero.
I was expecting some fears from our neighbors regarding enrollment and therefore adding to the existing problems but everything was pretty clear that night. There will be no impact on traffic.
How can you tight a library creation to an existing problem of traffic?
I must also say that we have all been working on solutions to improve the situation, the parents at school have dramatically changed their habits to relieve the congestion in the parking lot of our neighbors. Mrs Langlais has called several times the Traffic Department last year without any answer.
How can we penalize the kids for a traffic problem that occurs only 20 to 30 mn in the morning and 20 to 30 mn in the evening when Fassv students go to school and leave the site?
No, I do not see the decision to hold the project until a traffic study is conducted as a win-win situation as stated at the end of the Hearing that day. Who will conduct this study , which format is the commission requesting?
If this is something very expensive and that takes time, it is totally unfair to penalize our children like that.
I have always considered that Fassv was an asset for the City, bringing International notoriety, bringing nice families and students who perform very well in the public schools around when they graduate, all of this without costing much to the City.
Today the school is asking for something that everybody sees as legitimate, but the City's answer is very disappointing.
I would really be upset to have to raise money to pay for a traffic study instead of books to fill the building we are really looking for. I don't think the CUSD will pay for an expensive study, and I do not believe that the other businesses on site will pay either.
I am asking you advice today on how we can help this project to be achieved so that our kids can finally have a nice computer lab (my 2 older kids who graduated from Fassv and are now enrolled at Cupertino middle School have spent so few time in front of computers before going to CMS, this is in the heart of Silicon Valley!!), a nice library (the parents at

Fassv have raised money to buy books since 2000, they were never purchased because there is no room to store them, the money is on the PTA account waiting to be spent), a real office for our Directors (stop by and visit it, you would not believe it), a decent space for our teachers to eat, rest and prepare their classes.
I still have one daughter enrolled there in 3rd grade, I really hope she will enjoy the many hours I spent on raising money for this project.
Please, let me know what we can do as parents to speed up the process.
Thank you for your time
Best Regards,

Christine Gazounaud

Christine Gazounaud
589, Cheyenne Drive
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
tel: 408 245 4669

Christine Gazounaud
589, Cheyenne Drive
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
tel: 408 245 4669

Christine Gazounaud

RECEIVED
JAN 13 2005
PLANNING DIVISION

CONSULADO GENERAL DE MÉXICO

January 12, 2005

Ms. Trudi Ryan
Planning Officer
Planning Commission
City of Sunnyvale
456 West Olive Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707

Dear Ms. Ryan,

As the Mexican Consul General in San Jose, covering the Santa Clara County among others, I chose to live in Sunnyvale not only because of its life quality, but particularly because of its international elementary school (*French American School of Silicon Valley*). I have two small daughters, and as a diplomat used to travel from one country to another, I am fully aware that continuity in their education is essential for their development. FASSV, a unique institution in your town that has gained a world-wide reputation, offers that possibility to my daughters and many other children coming from different countries. Believe me, without FASSV many families would not be living in Sunnyvale.

I am writing to you to request that you revisit and reconsider your decision of November 16, 2004 regarding the French American School of Silicon Valleys request for permission to place a modular library building on its campus at 1510 Lewiston Drive, Sunnyvale (Use permit #2004-0766). Fearing increased traffic congestion, the planning board requested the school to provide a master parking and circulation management plan before continuing the approval process.

Our small school needs space for a library and computer room. The modular building would provide that much needed space. The school is not adding students, the same numbers of teachers and parents will be using neighborhood streets; there will be no change in traffic patterns. In this case, a traffic study/plan is an unnecessary and costly requirement for our small, private, non-profit school serving 90 South Bay families.

As a parent wanting the best education for our children, we urge you to remove your contingencies on our small school regarding this permit request and to approve the request so that the children may have a library. On behalf of the 130 pre-K and elementary students at the French American School of Silicon Valley, I thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Bruno Figueroa
Consul General

ATTACHMENT I
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Gerri Caruso - French American School of Silicon Valley

From: "Anne-Marie Brest" <annemarie.brest@sbcglobal.net>
To: <councildeanchu@yahoo.com>, <gcaruso@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us>
Date: 1/15/2005 9:55 PM
Subject: French American School of Silicon Valley
CC: <annemarie.brest@sbcglobal.net>, "Dave Greenhill" <David.Greenhill@Sun.COM>

Dear honorable Mayor, council members, and Sunnyvale city planning commission:

We are writing to you to request that you revisit and reconsider your decision of 11/16/04 regarding the French American School of Silicon Valleys request for permission to place a modular building on its campus at 1510 Lewiston Drive, Sunnyvale (Use permit #2004-0766). Fearing increased traffic congestion, the planning board requested the school to provide a master parking and circulation management plan before continuing the approval process.

Our small school needs space for a library and computer room. The modular building would provide that much needed space. The school is not adding students: the same numbers of teachers and parents will be using neighborhood streets; there will be no change in traffic patterns. In this case, a traffic study/plan is an unnecessary and costly requirement for our small, private, non-profit school serving 90 families.

As parents wanting the best education for our children, we urge you to remove your contingencies on our small school regarding this permit request and to approve the request so that the children may have a library and a computer room.

On behalf of the 130 pre-K and elementary students at the French American School of Silicon Valley, we thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Anne-Marie Brest and David Greenhill
(Parents of a kindnergartener and a third grader at FASSV)