

Recommendation from the Planning Commission (PC) to City Council

Re: A Pleasantrees Medical

Marijuana Dispensary at 21 N Main Street

1. Background

On June 24, 2019, Pleasantrees, a Detroit based marijuana company, made a presentation to City Council regarding their proposal to create a Medical Marijuana Dispensary in the old Antique Shop at 21 North Main Street. The Council recommended that Pleasantrees present to the Planning Commission as the regular channel for a proposed “change of use” for a property.

2. Planning Commission Presentation – October 7, 2019

In October, 2019, Pleasantrees made a similar presentation to the Planning Commission. They outlined a plan to remodel 21 N Main Street and set up a licensed medical marijuana dispensary in compliance with Michigan law.

The session was educational and informative. The audience of approximately 30 people spoke for and against the sale of marijuana within the Village limits. The orderly discussion lasted for about 90 minutes with Commissioners speaking first and then the floor was opened to the public.

The Planning Commission agreed to weigh what they had heard and re-group for a decision at a later meeting.

3. Planning Commission – November 4, 2019

At the November 4th PC meeting, Important concerns were discussed about this potential land use:

- A. The proposed Dispensary would be located less than 6 feet from an adjoining Residential zoned property (Radcliffe).
- B. The State of Michigan had just opened the application process for Recreational marijuana licenses and will be giving priority to Medical facilities to include recreational. Subsequently, the State is now moving more aggressively to allow some Medical Dispensaries to sell some Medical Cannabis stock as Recreational sooner than expected. While Medical Marijuana dispensaries have tight controls on client entry, age and identification with a medical card, recreational stores are more wide open with less controls. The State is clearly moving to Recreational.

4. Final Points to Council:

In a final measured PC discussion, the members agreed that, in this case, the PC was tasked with evaluating a “change of use” for the 21 North Main property. We were NOT tasked with approving either Medical or Recreational “opt-in” or “optout” for Clarkston. Those “opt-in” or “opt-out” decisions are the sole responsibility of City Council and/or the residents through the ballot. To date, the Council has said “no”.

Since Council has not approved marijuana sales in Clarkston in any form, the PC sees no reason to further debate this “change of use” issue for 21 North Main Street and has closed this case. Note: The City Attorney agrees with this disposition.

Submitted to City Council for the Planning Commission

December 2, 2019

Rich Little, Chair, Planning Commission