

PROCEEDINGS: CITY OF IDA GROVE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MARCH 21 MINUTES

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEETING MARCH 21, 2023

The Ida Grove Board of Adjustment met in the Ida Grove City Hall on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, for a Special Use Permit application submitted by Lex Jacobson on behalf of Godbersen-Smith Construction, dba: GOMACO Trolley Co. (also referred to as GTC).

The meeting was called to order by temporary Chairwoman Kim Carnine at 5:35 p.m. as per public notifications. Roll call showed Board of Adjustment members present as: Kim Carnine, Jeff Gilbert in person, and with Kip Gebel participating by phone. Adam Wunschel and Kristen Behrendsen were unable to attend.

City Representative present was: Kelly Young, Project Management Clerk.

Citizens present at the meeting were: Lex Jacobson.

The agenda was posted as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Special Use Permit Request – Godbersen-Smith Construction Co.
5. Other Business
6. Adjournment

Moved by Kip Gebel and seconded by Jeff Gilbert to approve the agenda as posted. Motion carried with all members present voting "Aye."

Lex Jacobson discussed and explained the need for the installation of a railroad loop within the property for the purpose of testing streetcars that have been manufactured or refurbished, or which are being developed for sale on the property owned by Godbersen-Smith Construction, and located at 301 E. 2nd St., Ida Grove, IA and described as: 18-19-2311, Pt NE NE, 23-87-40.

Lex answered questions the Board had regarding distances from the trail, public safety concerns, removable buffers and possible number of times that the testing might occur.

The Board discussed what conditions it might be put in place on the permit if approved.

It was moved by Jeff Gilbert, and seconded by Kipp Gebel to approve the permit with the following

conditions:

1. All trolleys that enter the proposed GTC loop, must first undergo full operational verification within the confines of the GTC facility. An exhaustive and documented static functional test completed prior to an exhaustive and documented dynamic functional test before the cars are ever put into motion on the proposed GTC loop. GTC will undergo the types of activities typically undertaken by system operators to ensure a safe operating environment. Testing on the new loop would need to reflect industry standard practices with regard to items such as maximum safe speeds and allowable stopping distances, so that safe operation for the general public can be assured.

These may include requirements such as those found in the following standards:

APTA RT-VIM-RP-008-03 Rev 1: Rail Transit Vehicle Pre-Departure Inspection.

APTA RT-FS-S-002-02 Rev. 1: Rail Transit Track Inspection and Maintenance.

APTA RT-OP-S-003-02 Rev 2: Requirements for Safe Operations in Yards and Maintenance Facilities.

APTA RT-SCS-S-001-05 Rev 1: Vintage and Heritage Trolley Vehicle Equipment.

Rail wheel chocks to be used when car is unmanned.

Establish and man a public safety zone while testing is being completed.

Rail track buffers in place with the capability to stop a rollaway car.

2. Due to the nature of the project, and the time it has taken for all parties involved to get the project to this point, the Board agreed to remove the requirement to start construction within 6 months, and extend the completion date requirement from 1 year to 2 years.

3. Limit the hours of testing to be done only between the time of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Motion carried with all members present voting "Aye."

Being there no further business, temporary Chairwoman Carnine declared the meeting adjourned at 6:30.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kim M. Carnine
Recording Secretary
Ida Grove Board of Adjustment