URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION APPLICATION CITY OF MADISON

This form may also be completed online at: http://www.cityofmadison.com/planning/documents/UDCapplication.pdf 215 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd; Room LL-100 PO Box 2985; Madison, Wisconsin 53701-2985 Phone: 608.266.4635 | Facsimile: 608.267.8739

| Date Submitted: March 8th | Informational Presentation |
|--|--|
| UDC Meeting Date: April 6th | Initial Approval |
| Combined Schedule Plan Commission Date (if applicable): | N/A Final Approval |
| Please complete all sections of the application, includin | ng the desired meeting date and the type of action requested. |
| | |
| . Project Address: 2139 Zeier Road, Madison, WI | 53704 |
| Project Title (if any): <u>Party City</u> | |
| . This is an application for (Check all that apply to this UD | |
| $oxtimes$ New Development \Box Alteration to an Existing | or Previously-Approved Development |
| <u>A. Project Type</u> : | |
| Project in an Urban Design District* (public hearing-\$ | |
| • | ban Mixed-Use District (UMX) (\$150 fee, Minor Exterior Alterations) |
| | nstitutional District (CI) or Employment Campus District (E |
| Planned Development (PD) | |
| General Development Plan (GDP) | |
| | |
| Specific Implementation Plan (SIP) | |
| Specific Implementation Plan (SIP) Planned Multi-Use Site or Planned Residential Comparison | omplex |
| Planned Multi-Use Site or Planned Residential Co <u>B. Signage</u> : | · _ |
| Planned Multi-Use Site or Planned Residential Co <u>B. Signage</u>: Comprehensive Design Review* (public hearing-\$500 fm/s) | ree) X Street Graphics Variance* (public hearing-\$300 fe |
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4. Applicant Declarations:

A. Prior to submitting this application, the applicant is required to discuss the proposed project with Urban Design Commission staff. This application was discussed with Al Martin and Matt Tucker on $\frac{2/3}{16}$.

(name of staff person) (date of meeting)

B. The applicant attests that all required materials are included in this submittal and understands that if any required information is not provided by the application deadline, the application will not be placed on an Urban Design Commission agenda for consideration.

| Name of Applicant Bret Skirvin | Relationship to Property Authorized Agent |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Authorized Signature See hard copy | Date 3/7/2015 |







March 7, 2016

Attn: Mr. Al Martin City of Madison 210 Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard Madison, WI 53703

RE: Party City – Sign Variance

Mr. Martin,

Enclosed in this UPS package please find the items that we have discussed that are necessary in order to move forward with the sign variance and the public hearing before the Urban Design Commission. The variance in question is sought for the Party City located at 2139 Zeier Rd., Madison, WI 53704

If there is anything else needed, please let me know and I will get it to you as soon as possible. Our intention is to be hard at the April 6th UDC hearing.

Sincerely,

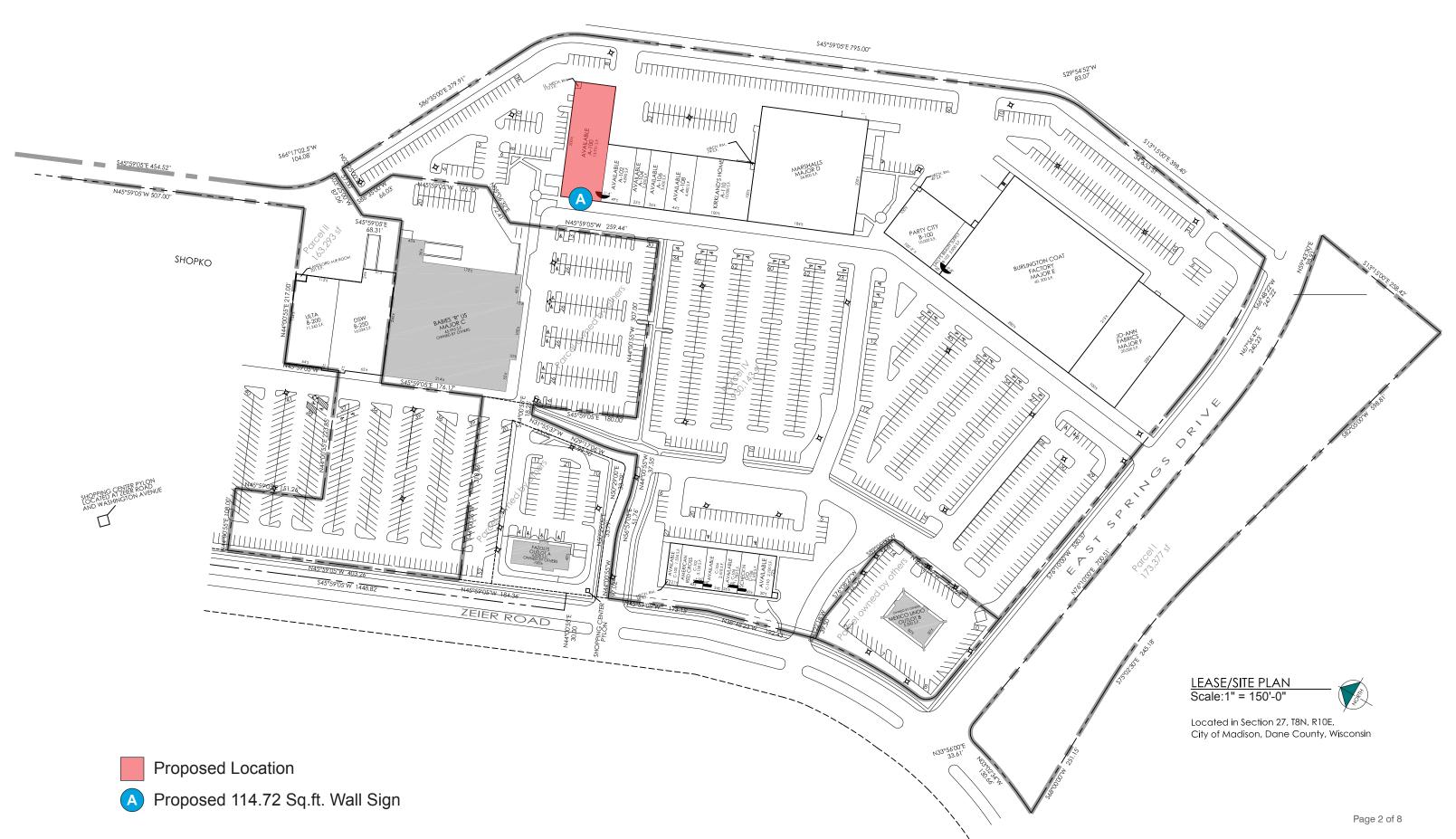
Bret Skirvin SES 574.232.7471 bas@siteenhancementservices.com

Party City



2139 Zeier Road Madison, WI 53704

03/07/16



Site Plan



Potential routes to site

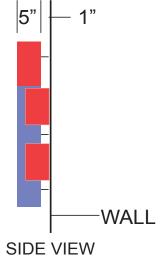
Aerial



Proposed

114.7 Sq Ft

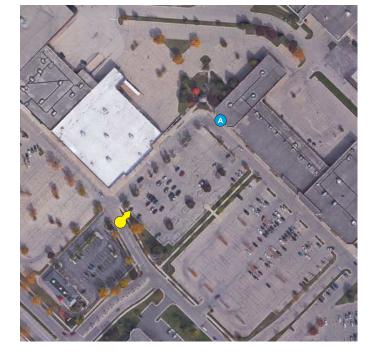




Page 4 of 8



Proposed - 114.7 sqft







Proposed - 114.7 sqft









Primary Wall Sign - ~220 sqft

Primary Wall Sign - ~225 sqft

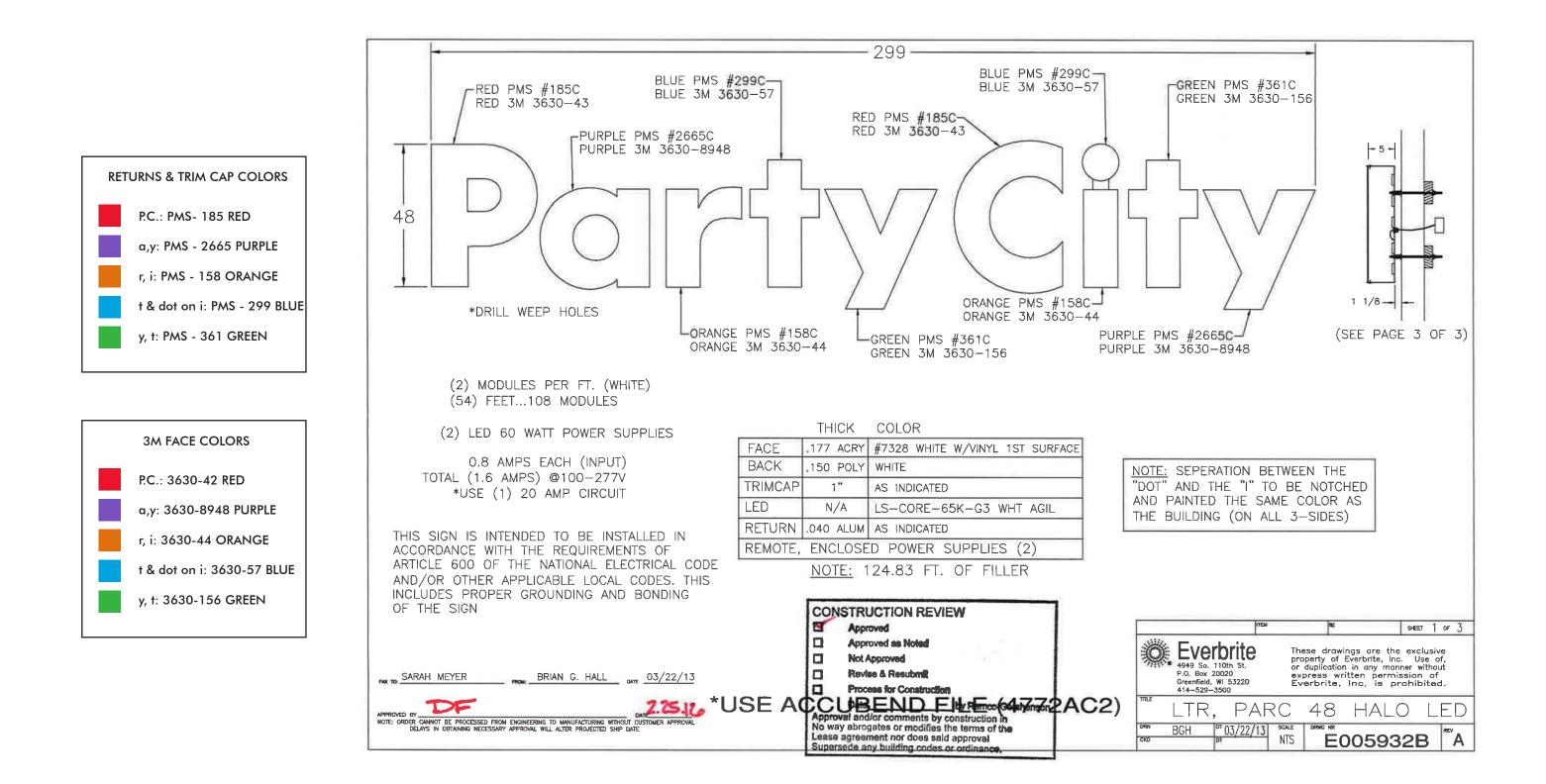


Primary Wall Sign (Without Tag) - ~182 sqft



Primary Wall Sign - ~80 sqft

Other Businesses



Specifications



7 March 2016

Party City 2139 Zeier Road Madison, WI 53704

Justifications

Pursuant to section 31.07(4)(a) *The maximum net area of all wall, roof and above-roof signs* within a single signable area shall be no more than two (2) square feet of signage for each lineal foot of building frontage...In no case shall a wall sign exceed eighty (80) square feet in net area, Party City is proposing to install a 114.72 square foot wall sign on their front façade. This request is in excess of 34.72 square feet of the allowable area.

The following standards must be met in order for the board to grant this variance:

- There are conditions unique to the property of the applicant that do not apply generally to other properties in the district.

The tenant space that Party City is occupying has a setback thas is over 500 ft from Zeier Road. The shopping center in which they are locating is extremely large, and has several ingress/egress points that span from E Towne Blvd, Zeier Rd and E Springs Dr. Further hindering visibility issues is vegetation that populates the lot within the shopping center. Once a motorist enters into the plaza, they rely on tenant signage to guide them to their destination. If held to a code compliant 80 sq. ft. sign, Party City would not be able to provide adequate visibility for their sign to be used as a wayfinding device. The proposed variance is the minimum relief that would allow Party City to establish their location within this expansive shopping center.

- This variance is not contrary to the spirit, purpose, and intent of the regulations in the zoning district and is not contrary to the public interest.

In the Statement of Purpose for the Commercial Center District, it is stated that the district is established to recognize the existence of large-format retail within the city that remains largely auto-oriented, and to encourage their transformation into mixed-used centers that are equally conducive to pedestrian, bicycle, transit and motor vehicle activity. The request that Party City is seeking would be within the spirit of the Commercial Center District. In order to establish a pedestrian and bicycle-friendly mixed-use center, traffic safety is of the utmost importance. If granted, the variance Party City is requesting would help maximize the traffic safety within the plaza by improving its navigability. When motorists have sufficient advanced notification of their desired destination, they are able to commit all their attention into locating the most direct route to said destination. This minimizes the possibility of traffic hazards caused by a motorist's attention being diverted from the road.

- For an area variance, compliance with the strict letter of the ordinance would unreasonably prevent use of the property for a permitted purpose or would render compliance with the ordinance unnecessarily burdensome.

If held to compliance with the strict application of the sign control ordinance, Party City would face unnecessary burdens. Due to the vast size of the shopping center, Party City would struggle with identifying their location to the motoring-public. The tenant space Party City will occupy has a considerable setback from both the adjacent right-of-ways and the several ingress/egress points into the plaza. An 80 sq. ft. maximum wall sign may be substantial for other commercial properties within the zoning district, but the site characteristics of the plaza in which they are occupying make compliance with the ordinance unnecessarily burdensome.

• The alleged difficulty or hardship is created by the terms of the ordinance rather than by a person who has a present interest in the property.

The hardships facing Party City are not self-created. Party City is moving into an existing tenant space within the shopping center. The relief Party City is seeking is a direct result of the existing site conditions within the plaza and the strict application of the ordinance. Party City is not seeking an economic advantage through excessive branding. They are seeking the minimum relief required to provide advance notification to the motoring-public and maximize traffic safety within the vicinity.

The proposed variance shall not create substantial detriment to adjacent property.

The proposed variance will not create substantial detriment to adjacent property. The request is minimal and would contribute to a safer and more pedestrian-friendly environment. The merchandise sold at Party City is very unique to the entire shopping center, and a majority of their customers only shop there on special occasions, i.e. holidays, birthday parties, graduation, etc. So Party City would gain no competitive advantage if the variance were granted

- The proposed variance shall be compatible with the character of the immediate neighborhood.

The proposed variance fits with the character of the shopping center, and the zoning district as a whole. The sign is of similar proportions to the sign band as other businesses within the plaza. The sign is also composed of internally illuminated channel letters, which is prominent throughout the area.

In conclusion, if the variance requested is approved, Party City will be able to properly function as a commercial business. The request is minimal and is consistent with the character of the adjacent commercial properties. It would improve traffic safety and aid in navigation for the motoring public and pedestrians alike. This request is a direct result of the strict application of the ordinance and the unique site-characteristics of this plaza. The sign would also be of no detriment to any of the tenants in the plaza, and would provide no economic advantage.