

May 30, 2018

Studio 55 Architects L.L.P.
10700 Highway 55, suite 275
Plymouth, MN 55441
763.544.8370
studio55architects.com

Re: WhirlyBall Bloomington Project, 2405 E Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington, MN

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in reference to the WhirlyBall facility being developed at 2405 E Old Shakopee Road in Bloomington, Minnesota. As background, on August 28, 2017, the project was approved by the Bloomington City Council, at which time exterior finishes of stucco, brick, glass and metal were proposed. Over the past 9 months, the project has undergone some revisions, including the exterior materials used. The project now utilizes architectural concrete, glass, and metal.

The Bloomington City Code, in §19.03, defines “architectural concrete” as:

“ARCHITECTURAL CONCRETE. Any cast-in-place concrete or pre-cast concrete where the exposed exterior concrete surface has been shaped, ground, scored, split or otherwise altered to produce a specific aesthetic texture or shadow and in which any color is integral to the concrete.”

The property in question at 2405 E Old Shakopee Road is zoned as Commercial Service CS-1. City Code section 19.63.08(c) Exterior Materials and Finish establishes the requirements for exterior wall finishes in a variety of residential, commercial, and office districts, including CS-1. Specifically, §19.63.08(c)(1) states that:

“Exterior wall finish. Exterior wall surfaces of all buildings, excluding those portions of foundation walls extending normally above finished grade, shall be faced with glass, exterior cement plaster (stucco), natural stone, brick, architectural concrete, metal in accordance with adopted policies and procedures set forth in the adopted resolution, or an equivalent or better. Except for glass or metal, all color shall be integral to the exterior wall finish material....”

The totality of the precast concrete panels in the revised project plans are specified with the “exposed exterior concrete surface” meeting the standards of the City Code. Specifically, the lower section of the panels will receive a chemical retardant treatment during manufacturing whereby the dark, fine-grained igneous rock of the concrete mix is exposed. An example of this can be seen on the OATI building at 7901 Computer Ave (zoning district C-4). The upper sections will be scored via a fine sandblast technique to mimic the appearance of limestone. Inset reveals are utilized in the upper section to break each face into smaller elements. Importantly, as referenced in the Code, all color is integral to the concrete.

The product and methods being proposed specifically align with the approved exterior building materials as referenced in City Code §§ 19.03 and 19.63.08(c).

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Kind regards,



Jack Amdal, AIA
612-802-2855 cell