

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING NOTES
PROPERTY: 2727 S. Third St.
Service Corporation International

The neighborhood meeting was held on February 17, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. The applicant, White and Sons, was represented at the meeting by Mark Ballard; land use counsel, Cliff Ashburner and architect, Sophia Mazzucco of Milestone Design Group.

Mr. Ashburner opened the meeting explaining the proposed conditional use of the subject property and announced a slideshow regarding the process/proposal.

He advised all that wanted a copy of the meeting materials to sign up at the front table and offered comment cards to those who didn't want to speak.

The interest from the neighborhood meeting attendees centered around the environmental impact. Cliff indicated crematories do not need air permits in Kentucky as there is no odor or smoke. There are two other crematoriums in Nulu and one in Buechel. Questions about the toxins produced upon cremating bodies and Mark Ballard addressed those specifics. Funeral homes now are cremating bodies more than the traditional funeral home burials. The technology is very modern, it is fully automated, scrubbed regularly and any smoke goes under the crematory.

One attendee asked if Cliff would consult the Green Heart Study regarding air quality initiative that suggests adding trees. A discussion of how to enclose the portico and plant a couple extra trees at the current driveway location was conducted. Cliff asked if the railroad track directly behind the funeral home was active. The neighbors emphatically said yes. Cliff indicated that would cause more of an environmental concern than this current use.

Jennifer Chappell of District 15 was in the audience. She likes the collaboration of the funeral home and the neighbors working together for their neighborhood. Mr. Ballard indicated he anticipated two bodies a day because it takes between 2.5 – 4 hours per cremation, including the scrubbing procedure between bodies. He explained he no longer wants to contract this work out because he wants to take control of what is done and provide his clients with chain of custody he can depend on, unlike the situation recently in Jeffersonville, Indiana. He says this service is valuable to families.

Cliff appreciated the comments and concluded the meeting at 7:40 pm.