

Staff Report BZA23-003-VA

Lennar Side Setbacks | Distance Between Dwellings

Meeting Date: June 1, 2023

Docket BZA23-003-VA Lennar Side Setback and Distance Between Dwelling Units Variances. The applicant is requesting two Variances (1) to reduce the side setbacks on an existing structure to reduce the side setbacks to 4' 4" and 4' 5" where the minimum required is 5', and (2) reduce the distance between dwelling units to 9' 8" where the minimum required is 10'. The sites in question are located at 5169 and 5179 Bayberry Court in the Cardinal Pointe neighborhood in Whitestown. The applicant and owner is Lennar Homes of Indiana, Inc.

Site Location

The site is located on the south side of Bayberry Court north of County Road 750 S. The Golf Club of Indiana golf course is located north of the site. The houses in question are under construction and there are other existing single-family homes surrounding the site.



Zoning

The site in question is zoned Planned Unit development- Golf Club of Indiana and part of the Neighborhood Residential Sub-District. The Neighborhood Residential Sub-District "permits medium-density single-family and two-family residential uses and Golf Club uses. Development in this Sub-District including the area of the Golf Course typically ranges from 2 homes to 3 homes per acre." The site is surrounded by other properties zoned under the same PUD designation.



Golf Course of Indiana Planned Unit Development Ordinance

Section 3.2 Bulk Standards provides provisions for lot standards and height regulations. The PUD states the minimum side yard setback is 5 feet and the minimum distance between dwelling units is 10 feet.

Section 3.2 Bulk Requirements:



- A. Maximum Height of Buildings (feet): 35
- B. Minimum Ground Floor Area one story (sqft): 1,200
- C. Minimum Ground Floor Area multi-story (sqft): 900
- D. Minimum Lot Width (feet) (measured at Building Line): 50
- E. Minimum Road Frontage (feet): 40
- Minimum Lot Area (sqft): 6,000 (3,000 for two-family uses on individually platted lots)
- G. Minimum Front Yard Setback (feet): 25
- H. Minimum Side Yard Setback (feet): 5
- I. Minimum Rear Yard Setback for Primary Structure (feet): 20
- J. Minimum Rear Yard Setback for Accessory Structures (feet): 5
- K. Maximum Density (dwelling units/acre): 3 (applied to the aggregate of the Neighborhood Residential and Open Space / Golf Course Sub-Districts)
- Minimum Open Space: 30% (applied to the aggregate of the Neighborhood Residential and Open Space / Golf Course Sub-Districts)
- M. Maximum Lot Coverage: 60%
- N. Minimum Primary Structure Width (feet): 18
- O. Minimum Distance Between Dwelling Units (feet): 10
- P. Whitestown Municipal Utilities for Water and Sewer Required: Yes

Proposed Development

The applicant is requesting a Variance to reduce the minimum side setback from 5' to 4' 4" and 4' 5" for the property at 5169 Bayberry Court. The house is currently under construction. Due to the reduction in side yard setback, a reduction in distance between dwelling units is then required. The applicant is proposing to reduce the minimum distance between dwelling units at 5169 and 5179 Bayberry Court from 10' to 9' 8". The house on the other side of 5169 Bayberry Court meets the minimum required distance between dwelling units.

The submitted materials indicate the following:

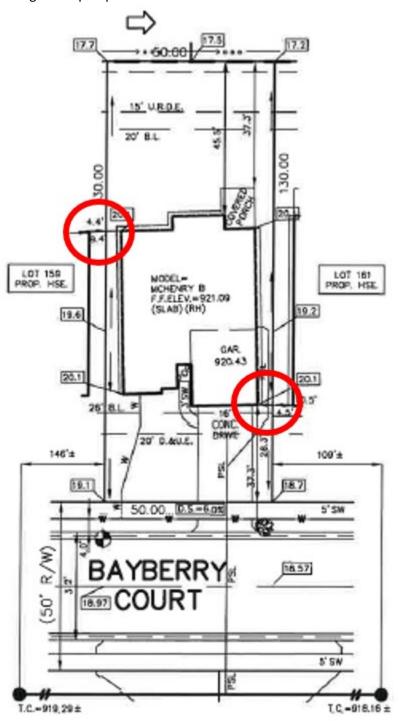
For the site at 5169 Bayberry Court requesting the side setback reduction and the resulting distance between dwelling unit reduction:

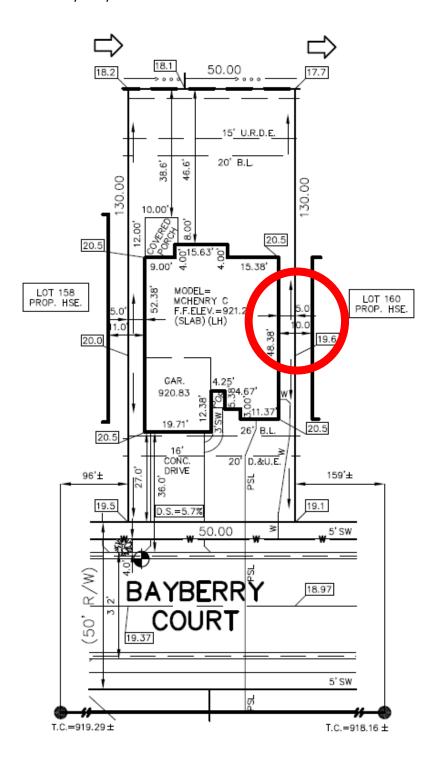
- The lot is approximately 6,500 square feet and 50 feet wide;
- The proposed structure is approximately 1,975 square feet; and,
- The proposed structure meets the front and rear setbacks.

For the site at 5179 Bayberry Court affected by the reduced side setback and needing the distance between dwelling unit reduction:

- The lot is approximately 6,500 square feet and 50 feet wide;
- The proposed structure is approximately 1,957 square feet; and,
- The proposed structure meets the front, rear, and side setbacks.

Below is the plot plan of 5169 Bayberry Court. 5179 Bayberry Court is located adjacent to the left of the site when looking at the plot plan.





Staff Recommendation

Staff is providing an unfavorable recommendation for the Lennar Homes 1. Reduction in the minimum setback side yard and 2. Reduction in the minimum distance between dwelling units Variances docket BZA23-003-VA.

Staff's recommendation to the Board of Zoning Appeals finds the variance does not comply with the following requirements in accordance with UDO Section 11.14 F. 2. And is not consistent with Indiana Code IC36-7-4-918.5 and denial be based upon:

1. The approval <u>will</u> be injurious to the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community because:

Approval of the variance will be injurious to the public health, safety, morals, and the general welfare because as currently constructed, the house does not meet zoning or building code standards. The structure is required to have walls with a 1-hour fire rating if less than five feet from the property line. The structure is not constructed to meet that code provision making it an unsafe structure for the neighboring residences.

- 2. The use or value of the area adjacent to the property included in the variances <u>will</u> be affected in a substantially adverse manner because:
 - The use or value of the surrounding area to the property will be negatively affected if the variance is approved because adjacent homes to the sides are no longer the required 10 feet from the structures as required by the PUD; this means the adjacent structure is also non-conforming. Good planning practice discourages the existence of non-conformities and encourages bringing them into conformance. By allowing the structure to remain out of conformity, future residents are negatively impacted by the nonconformance and increased risk of fire spreading.
- 3. The strict application of the terms of the Ordinance will not result in practical difficulties as applied to the property for which the variance is sought because:

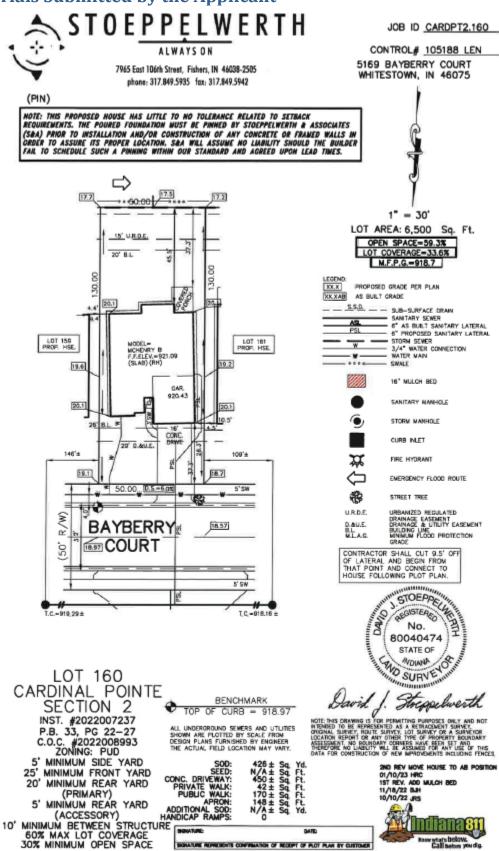
 The strict application of the ordinance does not result in practical difficulties because the need for the variance is due to the applicant's own noncompliance with the PUD. The structure was constructed not meeting the standards, it was not a hardship imposed by the code to comply. Allowing the variance opens the gates for future homes to not due their due diligence during construction then making similar mistakes. There are no practical site difficulties or physical site constraints that would have otherwise required the home to be constructed non-conforming.

Both variance requests need to be voted on individually, denying one variance would be equivalent to denying both variances given their interconnected nature and the consistent findings criteria applied to both.

If the Board of Zoning Appeals approves the requested variance, staff recommends the following conditions:

- 1. The structure at 5169 Bayberry Court must be brought up to meet the building code including the 1-hr fire rated wall in the areas where the structure is less than 5 feet from the property line.
- 2. The applicant must disclose the variances for the sites in question to future buyers of the houses. The applicant will record the official BZA findings of fact against the properties with the Boone County Recorder's Office.

Materials Submitted by the Applicant



RESERVES CONFINATION OF RECEPT OF PLOT PLAN BY CUSTOMES

Call below.

Exhibit E- Photos







