

Harvard Square Advisory Committee

c/o Cambridge Community Development Department

344 Broadway

Cambridge, MA 02139

617/349-4647

Case No: 71 Mount Auburn Street – BZA-013467-2017

Applicant: Zambrero NE Operations LLC c/o Kevin P. Crane, Esq.

Proposal and Zoning Issues: The Board of Zoning Appeal Special Permit application is for a Fast Order Food Establishment, Sections 4.35.0, 11.30 and 10.30.

Harvard Square Advisory Committee: July 10, 2017

Summary: Kevin Crane, representative for Zambrero discussed the existing Mexican restaurant and the history of Fast Order Food at this particular corner. The proposed sign will be a face replacement of the existing sign. The number of seats has been decreased to 16 to accommodate an ADA compliant restroom. Bianca Azzopardi, the manager for the development of the site, discussed that this would be the first American location and the humanitarian relief function of Plate 4 Plate. Steven Anderson, the operator of the site, explained that the cooking will be off site so there will be no grease or hoods required, the waste will be limited to some production waste from making salsa and guacamole on site, they will be assuming the existing waste and recycling contract with removal of waste three times a week and compost once a week. Deliveries of beverages, food and plant based biodegradable paper products will be three times per week. The hours of operation will be 7 days a week, 11 am to midnight. Alcohol is not part of the business plan.

HSAC Comments and Concerns:

The Committee asked about the lighting – low LED, and the sign is proposed to be internally illuminated (CDD staff note: this requires Historical Commission approval). The Committee supports some lighting after hours to promote safety on the street.

The Plate 4 Plate donation is managed by a nonprofit in North Carolina, which delivers around the world.

The Committee would like to see trash and recycling pick up coordination with the other building occupants if minimize the number of trucks to the site.

The Committee supports more hours, later including 2 am.

The eat in/take away ratio is about 35/65 based on the Australian operations.

Public comment:

This is another corporate food company, protect what is left of the Harvard Square legacy.

Motion:

The Committee voted to support and recommend the granting of this BZA special permit and supports the reduction of the number of seats to provide an ADA accessible restroom.

There is concern that local ownership is disappearing from Harvard Square.

This is replacing an existing Mexican restaurant.

Committee members forward the usual suggestions to the Board of Zoning Appeal if this application is approved:

- The business should be open as many hours as possible.
- Deliveries, trash and recycling pick up should be managed to minimize congestion along Mount Auburn Street and coordinated with the other establishment(s) to reduce the number of trucks and trips to the site.

The motion was approved by 7 members present and one member abstained from the vote.

Members present: J. DiGiovanni, A. Offiong, A. Crosbie, M. Frank, L. Curry, W. Barry, F. Kramer and G. Gifford.

Respectfully Submitted for the Committee,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liza Paden".

Liza Paden
Community Development Department staff