

My name is Suzy Cheely and I am the Director of Design and Engineering for Busch Gardens Williamsburg (a division of SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment LLC), here in James City County.

I am here tonight to request a modification to the Zoning Ordinance as relates to the required review process for minor amendments to previously approved site plans that cannot be seen from Adjacent Property Owners.

Each year, we have several applications for small sheds, additions of small closets, or even small carts that require the same review process as a new full size restaurant or shop. Many times it is an urgent need from one of our departments as a result of a special event, concert, or unusually large crowds.

Our request is to waive the requirement for a site plan review for a certain size shed or cart – say 500 sf, for example, and allow us to proceed directly to Code Compliance and submit for a Building Permit. Without waiting for approval from Planning, the building permit can be issued within a few days.

An alternate request is to allow us to apply for a Building Permit and concurrently request an “administrative” review from Planning. The site plan submittal could still be logged in, the planners would still have a chance to review, the fee would still be collected, but final “approval” would not hold up the issuance of the building permit, and installation of our shed or cart.

Obviously, we would not make this request for carts that require water or sewer hookups or that would require a land disturbance permit. This would strictly be for small structures that could easily be permitted. We would be happy to meet with staff on site to show them the location of the proposed addition at their convenience.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. I’ll be happy to answer any questions.