



MEMO

MEMO DATE: September 27, 2019
MTG. DATE: **OCTOBER 1, 2019**

TO: Village of Cottage Grove Plan Commission

CC: Village of Cottage Grove Board of Trustees
Matt Giese – Village Administrator
Lisa Kalata – Village Clerk
Lee Boushea – Village Attorney
Michael Maloney – Village Engineer

FROM: [Erin Ruth, AICP – Village Planning Director](#)

RE: **Farris Auto – Conditional Use Permit Status Review**

BACKGROUND

Property Owner: Farris Auto

Location: 212 W. Cottage Grove Road

Area: 1.4 acres

Agent: Jon and Gerard Farris

Existing Zoning: PB, Planned Business

Proposed Zoning: PB, Planned Business

OVERVIEW

In April 2015, Farris Auto received a conditional use permit to operate a vehicle repair and sales business at 212 W. Cottage Grove Road subject to several conditions (see attached Village Action Report).

Since then, the owners Jon and Gerard Farris purchased the 0.75 acre parcel occupied by the garage (they had been leasing it from UW Credit Union), as well as the adjacent 0.65 acre parcel that had been leased by a lawn mower repair business.

Over the past few months the Village has received complaints regarding the number and condition of cars on the lot.



The conditional use permit limits the number of cars on sale on the property to five. The permit also states that “inoperable or salvage vehicles shall not be stored on site, except inoperable vehicles awaiting repair in the short term.”

At the time the permit was granted, the business was expected to be primarily a customer-based repair shop where cars would pass through in a few days at most, with sales expected to be a minor aspect of the business. Since then, the business has begun purchasing cars to repair and resell. While those cars are also “awaiting repair” they do not move through the site as quickly and the site can get cluttered with cars.

Now that Farris Auto owns the site, this may be an opportune time to address the complaints both with a short-term plan to remove extra cars, and to plan for a more permanent solution that could allow the business to operate successfully while also fitting in with the neighborhood.

At this meeting staff and the business owners are seeking feedback on the site and whether or when to schedule a public hearing to reconsider aspects of the conditional use permit.