

Jain Society of Central Florida, Inc.
Revised Summary of Request 6-11-26

Summary of the Subject Property

The subject property is owned by Jain Society of Central Florida, Inc. (“Jain Society”). Jain Society is an IRS registered non-profit, tax-exempt religious organization. Presently, the subject property has two buildings (the “facility”): a Derasar (worship hall) building (3,879sqft seats approx. 112) and the main multipurpose Event/Dining/Meditation (MP) Hall (7,832sqft seats approx. 160). Both are single-story structures. The facility is within a gated area and is remotely controlled by Board members and select volunteers. The worship hall access is also remotely controlled and opened for visitors using camera surveillance during nonscheduled hours. The multi-purpose hall access is controlled by a combination lock and is available with special permission from the Board of Directors. Jain Society has acquired the adjacent vacant property, Seminole County Parcels 01-21-29-5CK-530C-0050 and 01-21-29-5CK-530C-0070, to utilize as overflow parking for the facility.

Property Management and Use

The facility is maintained and managed by the Board of Directors and as such has no full-time or part-time employees. The facility is not designed for overnight stay and the society rules do not allow anyone to stay overnight. The worship hall and the multipurpose hall are used simultaneously. The worship hall is used regularly to worship and hold prayer sessions. Members can visit the worship hall any time during the day, seven days a week. The group worship (prayer) sessions are held every Sunday from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM. The average participation during the scheduled Sunday session is between 50 to 70 people. Worshipers come and go as they wish, so the parking lot is sparsely used. The worshipers may choose their own time for prayer sessions and then either leave or attend lunch and other activities in the hall. The MP Hall is currently used for multi-purpose as the name suggests.

No food is cooked on the premises and the proposed renovation does not contemplate food preparation on the premises. The kitchen is an accessory residential-style kitchen, not a commercial kitchen. The oven, range, and skillet/griddle shown on the conceptual plan are intended to remain as ancillary warming and reheating equipment to support the community hall’s assembly use. These appliances are not intended to establish a restaurant, commercial food preparation facility, commercial kitchen operation, or daily cooking operation open to the public. The Society does not propose the preparation of raw food, frying, grilling, broiling, or other grease-producing cooking operations on-site. No commercial menu preparation or food sales operation is proposed. The final building permit construction documents will identify the specific appliance types, fuel sources, ventilation, exhaust, hood, fire-suppression, gas, electrical, and plumbing requirements, as applicable. Any kitchen ventilation or fire-protection systems required by the Florida Building Code, Florida Mechanical Code, Florida Fire Prevention Code, NFPA 96, and the Authority Having Jurisdiction will be provided at the time of building permit review.

Jain Society celebrates three (3) to four (4) major religious events during the year. During those special occasions, Jain Society receives full participation of up to approx. 160 people. The current hall setup forces us to have limited children and adult activities. The special event sessions, which include prayer, special performances by children and adults, religious discourse, meditation sessions, etc. tend to last longer. It is important to note that since the entire facility is open and various activities occur concurrently, the attendees have to divide and participate in various special smaller group activities. This creates time and space issues at the current indoor facilities.

Reason for Expansion

Jain Society expects an increased attendance at weekly services and is rising to 80-120 members. Membership has also requested an increase in the number of yearly major celebrations to five (5). The increase in worship attendance together with demand for more and various religious activities, it is necessary for Jain Society to increase facility hall space. Further, the greater Jain community also desires to invite more religious scholars from outside for special visits throughout the year. These demands have created the need to expand the multi-purpose hall facility to include a second floor. A separate hall on the second floor would be designed to allow multiple activities in parallel while the ground floor dining hall will be dedicated to food serving and fixed dining seating.

The need for expansion is also to provide a quiet segregated area for religious discourses, children learning, event celebration preparation, meditation, lunch/dinner food table and chair setups, etc. The planned two-story building will provide sufficient space to satisfy the stated purpose.

Finally, after receiving community input and County staff comment, there is a need to add additional overflow parking at the facility. Development of the adjoining vacant parcels into a parking facility can accomplish this goal.

MP Hall Renovation Plan

The new plan does not affect the worship hall. The proposed plan is for an upgrade/renovation of the single-story multipurpose (MP) hall into a two-story building and clearing a portion of the adjacent vacant parcels for a parking . The current MP hall building will be demolished and a two-story building will be built per the architecture plan. The drawing (Arc/MEP) uses the existing building foundation footprint. The new plan provides a separate dining hall on the ground floor, general activities on the second floor, and a meditation room on the south side of the hall.

Septic Tank System and Drain Field

The plan is to replace the existing septic tank and the drain field size will be increased to meet the code and will be submitted as a part of the application drawing set.

Parking

Jain Society has acquired the adjacent vacant property, Seminole County Parcels 01-21-29-5CK-530C-0050 and 01-21-29-5CK-530C-0070, to utilize as overflow parking for the facility. The revised proposed site plan shows a design that will meet County requirements for parking.