In the Matter of a Request for Approval of the First Phase of the USM Campus Landscaping Master Plan Improvement Pursuant to the Special Use Permit of University School of Milwaukee

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022 – 03** 

WHEREAS, the Village of River Hills adopted Resolution No. 2013-12 granting an Amended and Restated Special Use Permit (hereinafter "Permit") to the University School of Milwaukee Corporation (hereinafter "USM") on May 15, 2013 (amending and restating prior Special Use Permits as set for in that Permit) authorizing the use of the lands and buildings specified at 2100 West Fairy Chasm Road for a private school subject to all of the terms, conditions and restrictions of such Permit; and

WHEREAS, USM has submitted a letter dated February 10, 2022, requesting approval for the first phase of a USM campus landscaping master plan improvement, to provided buffers for the Fairy Chasm neighbors to the south and further supplement planning along the earthen berm, as well as for those neighbors adjacent to the northeastern section of campus whose views have been impacted by Emerald Ash Borer activity in their trees (hereinafter "the 2022 First Phase Landscaping") as outlined in the letter a copy of which is attached as Appendix A that is incorporated and made part of this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the first phase of the USM campus landscaping master plan improvement provides the following: 1) A vegetated buffer and earthen berm for neighbors located northeast of campus and scattered plantings of native flowering shrubs, small trees along the evergreen screen to enhance biodiversity and seasonal interest; 2) Enhance existing berm and screen plantings along West Fairy Chasm with additional evergreen tree plantings; and 3) Incorporate shrub planting at the slope along the driveway between the new baseball field and existing track facility; and

WHEREAS, the Permit specifically requires that the physical locations of substantial landscaping and planting screens shall be subject to approval by the Village Board prior to construction or installation; and

WHEREAS, USM has requested that the Village Board approve the first phase of a USM campus landscaping master plan improvements that are shown in the attached Appendix B.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board finds that the proposed 2022 Phase I Landscaping Master Plan Improvements and their locations: (1) are not hazardous, harmful, offensive or otherwise adverse to the environment in the Village; (2) will not be detrimental to the safety, health, morals, aesthetics and general welfare of the Village; and (3) a need exists for them at their locations as proposed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Village Board that the 2022 Phase I Landscaping Master Plan Improvements are approved and may be physically located and installed as set forth in the attached Appendix B.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Village Board of the Village of River Hills this 9th day of March

2022.

Countersigned:

Tammy LaBorde, Village Clerk

\$tephen Anderson, Village President

THE EXPERIENCE FOR A LIFETIME February 10, 2022

Mr. J. Stephen Anderson River Hills Village Board 7650 North Pheasant Lane River Hills, WI 53217

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I am writing to seek Village Board approval for the first phase of a USM campus landscaping master plan improvement. As you may know, in December 2019 we removed approximately 9000 dead ash trees from 41 campus acres, primarily on the east side of our campus. We worked with our east side neighbors to leave about an eight-foot strip of dead ash trees to maintain a buffer. Those trees were removed in fall of 2021. We have many more ash trees to remove on the west side of campus. During this time the School engaged SLAM, a national architecture firm, to design a master campus landscape architecture plan. Members of the SLAM team have been on campus for multiple workshops to allow different groups of people to develop a shared project vision. A neighbor workshop was held on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. While the master plan is close to completion, the work will take many years and lots of funding to complete.

The first phase of improvements is proposed to provide visual buffers for our Fairy Chasm neighbors to the south to further supplement planting along the earthen berm, as well as for those neighbors adjacent the northeastern section of campus whose views have been impacted by Emerald Ash Borer activity in our trees. An additional shrub planting is also being proposed near the new baseball field.

We are asking for approval of the first phase of our master plan which includes:

- Provide a vegetated buffer and earthen berm for our neighbors located northeast of campus. Provide scattered plantings of native flowering shrubs and small trees along the evergreen screen to enhance biodiversity and provide the seasonal interest.
- 2. Enhance existing berm and screen plantings along West Fairy Chasm Road with additional evergreen tree plantings.
- 3. Incorporate shrub planting at the slope along the driveway between the new baseball field and existing track facility.

There will be no changes in outdoor lighting or sound. Project plans are being submitted with this letter and are ready for your approval at your next Village Board Meeting on March 9th, 2022.

We are finalizing the landscape plan for the area between the Head of School residence and County Line Road and hope to have that plan ready for approval at the May 18, 2022 Board meeting.

University School of Milwaukee is committed to providing improvements that fit within the character of the existing campus and community. Thank you for your University School plan interest and for your support of our efforts to rebuild our campus landscape.

Gregg Bach

Assistant Head of School









