

APPROVED
Sign Committee
**Workshop Discussion: Members from the Plan Commission, Economic
Development Commission, and the Zoning Board of Appeals**
Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2004 12:00 Noon
Committee Room

Present: Chair Nicholaou, Commissioner Randall, Commissioner Chalberg,
Commissioner Benes, and Commissioner McCormick, Commissioner Waechtler

Absent: None

Staff: Joseph Skach, Director of Planning and Community Development
Lori Sommers, Strategic Planner

Public: Michael Bogent, DG Chamber; Carrie Swimmer, 4905 Main Street; Ed Carrol,
Sign Shop Express; Linda McLaughlin, DG Downtown Management; Gary Marel, DG Business
Owner

Chair Nicholaou opened the meeting and described that the various picture boards at the front of the room were taken of signs around downtown Downers Grove and elsewhere and that these boards would aid the Sign Committee and the public in their discussions.

1. Review and Discuss Concentrated Central Area/Fairview Concentrated Business District

Discussion:

The Sign Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed draft Concentrated Central Area/Fairview Concentrated Business District starting where they had left off at the last meeting, wall signs. The Sign Committee discussed exterior raceways and the statement of “is highly discouraged” is something Village staff could enforce. It was decided that it would read as *Individual letter signs are highly encouraged and if an exterior raceway is visible then the raceway shall match the color of the wall directly behind the sign.* The Sign Committee noted that a wall sign attached to a building should have a limitation on how far it would be allowed to extend. The Sign Committee concurred with twelve inches.

During the discussion on projecting/blade signs the Sign Committee decided that both the wall and projecting/blade signs should possibly be broken up into first floor and second floor and above regulations. The Sign Committee reviewed and discussed the related issues regarding signage above the first floor and decided to review them again after having some time to review what currently exists in the Village regarding signage above the first floor.

The discussion moved on to awnings in the Concentrated Central Area/Fairview Concentrated Business District. The Sign Committee reviewed the draft proposed language. The Sign Committee concurred that logos should be allowed on awnings but should not be exempt from the proposed provisions. The Committee also discussed at length the regulation stating that awning or canopy letters not exceed ten inches in height and it was suggested that this limitation be eliminated. The Sign Committee further concurred that no canopy or awning should be

illuminated and that the maintenance of awnings should be expressed and enforced in the new code.

In general, the Sign Committee stated that they liked the existing awning and canopy signage in the downtown and would like to protect the existing and future creativity of the businesses awning signs. The Committee discussed the possibility of allowing bonus signage on awnings if a business did not put up a wall sign.

2. Public Comment

Discussion:

In general the public expressed concern about the two hundred (200) square foot limit per building frontage and that it would not be adequate for businesses. Comments were also made regarding the ten inch letter height on awnings and that there are existing awnings with greater than ten inch lettering.

A comment was made in regards to how the City of Naperville conducted their sign code revision over 1.5 years and that the Village should take the opportunity to review other municipal sign codes.

3. Next Meeting

Chair Nicholaou stated that the next Sign Committee meeting would be next Thursday, September 2, 2004, in the Committee Room at Noon. Chair Nicholaou went on to state that the Sign Committee would finish up the Concentrated Central Area/Fairview Concentrated Business District and review the prohibited sign section.

Chair Nicholaou stated that the Sign Committee and Village staff has not rushed any of the sign regulations and stated that he does not feel that the Village is doing it in a piecemeal fashion. Chair Nicholaou continued to state that the Sign Committee continues to invite the public to comment on the sign regulations and further stated that the Sign Committee takes all public comments seriously.

4. Adjourn - 2:45 PM