

***DRAFT***

**Sign Committee**

**Workshop Discussion: Members from the Plan Commission, Economic  
Development Commission, and the Zoning Board of Appeals**

**Meeting Minutes**

September 2, 2004 12:00 PM

Committee Room

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

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** Joseph Skach, Director of Planning and Community Development  
Beth Janicki-Clark, Village Prosecutor  
Don Scheidler, Code Services  
Lori Sommers, Strategic Planner

**Public:** DG Chamber; Linda Kunze, Downtown Management Board; Barb Wysocki, DG Chamber; Willis Johnson, Tivoli Enterprises; Greg Doody, Aurelio's Pizza; Sam Douglas, Main Street Pizza; Jeff & Mary Mack, Mary Mack's Skin Care, Marta Cullen, Dream Interiors; Mary Mesgel, Balleydoyle Irish Pub; Cheryl Staley, Happy Dog Barkery; Julie Balsamo, DG Wine Shop; Debra Gibson, Mulberry Street; Marilyn Weiher, Chuck's Market; Mary Switalaki, Fashion Encore; Phil Cullen, Balleydoyle; Nancy Derk, D&M Gem Creations

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**1. Review and Approve Minutes**

The Sign Committee review and approved the meeting minutes from August 12, 2004 and August 19, 2004. Chair Nicholaou requested a change in the August 26, 2004, noting that his comments regarding the Committee and Staff's review of the sign regulations were made at the end of the meeting instead of the beginning. The Sign Committee approved the August 26, 2004 Minutes subject to the requested changes.

**2. Public Comment**

**Discussion:**

Chair Nicholaou noted that the public comment would be limited to ten minutes since the Sign Committee is trying to get through the Concentrated Central Area/Fairview Concentrated Business District today. Chair Nicholaou reminded the group that the Sign Committee is here to discuss the future in terms of the sign regulations not what is currently in effect.

The general comments from the public where that the businesses in the downtown area wanted to keep sandwich boards, stating that the sandwich board signs help the downtown businesses, adds character, and creates visibility for stores. They went on to comment that the stores take the sandwich board signs in when closed and in the past there has been no accidents or problems with snow removal. Furthermore, they want to promote Downers Grove as a business friendly community.

Chair Nicholaou responded by stating that the sandwich board signs are currently illegal under the ordinance. The Village needs to start the sign code revision process on a common playing

field with all existing signage and enforce the rules, as they currently exist. The public will have many opportunities to provide their input. The Village Prosecutor also stated that the sandwich board signs are currently prohibited and the Village is proposing that they continue to be, however, if they Village decides that they should be allowed the Village will need to protect itself and require a permit process along with insurance and bond postings.

### **3. Review and Discuss Concentrated Central Area/Fairview Concentrated Business District Signage**

#### **Discussion:**

Members discussed the draft proposed revisions to the Concentrated Central Area/Fairview Concentrated Business District sign regulations. The Sign Committee discussed the proposed wall signage regulations and how they would be measured. The Sign Committee requested verification of whether the proposed maximum coverage of 20% for window signs would be calculated as part of the total maximum allocation of signage allowed for the business. After much discussion the Sign Committee and staff came to the conclusion that the proposed maximum 20% window coverage would not be calculated as part of the total maximum allowed for each business. The Sign Committee did note however, that the 20% would be calculated on both permanent window signs and temporary window signs.

Chair Nicholaou stated that a section should be added for Protected Signs in the Concentrated Central Area/Fairview Concentrated Business District section that would help preserve those signs that provide a historic character to Downers Grove. It was noted by the Sign Committee that this section would be defined those signs protected by a date certain and that that date has yet to be determined. Additionally, the Sign Committee noted that if the existing owner or potential new owner wishes to take down the sign at anytime that they would be allowed to do so.

### **4. Next Meeting**

Chair Nicholaou stated that the next Sign Committee meeting would be next Thursday, September 9, 2004, in the Committee Room at Noon. Chair Nicholaou went on to state that the Sign Committee would start the discussion of signage on Ogden Avenue.

### **5. Adjourn - 2:30 PM**