

APPROVED

MINUTES OF
THE VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
DESIGN COMMISSION MEETING
HELD AT THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL BUILDING
33 S. ARLINGTON HEIGHTS RD.
SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

Chair Bombick called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Ted Eckhardt, Chair
Anthony Fasolo
John Fitzgerald

Members Absent: Jonathan Kubow
Alan Bombick

Also Present: Ania Keller, DenDorBres LLC for 924 N. Salem Ave.
Steve Hautzinger, Staff Liaison

REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 26, 2014

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER FITZGERALD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FASOLO, TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2014. ALL WERE IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

ITEM 3. SIGN CODE MODIFICATIONS (continued from 8/26/14)**DC#14-078 – Sandwich Board Signs – Community Wide**

The commissioners stated their preference to wait until all 5 commissioners were present to discuss the project, as long as it is not an urgent matter. **Mr. Hautzinger** explained that the language being proposed for sandwich board signs community wide is based on the language recently approved for sandwich board signs in the Downtown, with the exception of Item C-Location.

Chair Eckhardt asked how the proposed language addressed white plastic sandwich board signs in the Village. **Mr. Hautzinger** referred to the Proposed Text Amendments, Item E2–Construction, which states ‘pre-engineered plastic sandwich board signs are discouraged’. He explained that this language was consistent with the approved language for sandwich board signs in the Downtown. **Mr. Hautzinger** explained that this language was established by the Design Commission in response to public comments made at the previous Design Commission meeting on April 8, 2014.

Commissioner Fitzgerald did not recall the commissioners previously stating that they were allowing the choice of plastic sandwich board signs, and he would vote ‘no’ to plastic signs. He felt the language ‘discourage’ should not even be included because it meant nothing.

Chair Eckhardt was not opposed to the material of plastic, because plastic could be made to look like real wood and is more durable; however, he did not like the smooth, white plastic signs with the handle molded into the top. He asked if a photo of this type of sign could be included in the text amendments as an example of a prohibited plastic sign.

Commissioner Fitzgerald recalled the commissioners’ previous comments that plastic signs only be allowed if they are black or dark in color, but **Mr. Hautzinger** clarified that comments about dark color signs actually pertained to chalkboard signs, not plastic signs. The commissioners’ previous concerns regarding composite plastic/wood signs was taken into consideration in Item 1 - Construction, where the language ‘or similar appropriate material as approved by Village Staff’ was added. **Mr. Hautzinger** also clarified that Staff’s position has always been to prohibit pre-engineered plastic sandwich board signs, and the current language being proposed is a result of public comments made during the previous Design Commission meeting on April 8, 2014.

Chair Eckhardt said that he would be very descriptive with the language about the type of plastic sandwich board signs that should not be allowed, and the other commissioners agreed. **Chair Eckhardt** also said that he was not in favor of the current language under “Construction”, and felt that the two missing commissioners should be included in this discussion. **Commissioner Fitzgerald** added that the commissioners are very particular about every other type of sign in the Village, especially in the Downtown, and since sandwich board signs are signs as well, why should this be allowed. **Commissioner Eckhardt** felt that businesses outside the

Downtown were more likely to have cheaper, less attractive sandwich board signs than businesses in the Downtown.

The commissioners asked Staff to revise the language under "Construction" to prohibit plastic sandwich board signs, to be reviewed at a future meeting when all 5 commissioners were present to comment.

Mr. Hautzinger commented that permits are currently required for sandwich board signs in the Downtown; however, the intent is not to require permits for sandwich board signs for businesses outside the Downtown, which will be monitored through code enforcement.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER FITZGERALD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FASOLO, TO TABLE THE DISCUSSION REGARDING DC#14-078, SANDWICH BOARD SIGNAGE COMMUNITY-WIDE, UNTIL 4 OF THE 5 COMMISSIONERS ARE PRESENT, AND THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. THAT STAFF PROVIDE REVISED LANGUAGE UNDER E. CONSTRUCTION THAT WOULD CONSIDER ELIMINATING ALL WHITE, PRE-ENGINEERED PLASTIC SANDWICH BOARD SIGNS**

**FITZGERALD, AYE; FASOLO, AYE; ECKHARDT, AYE.
ALL WERE IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.**