

APPROVED

MINUTES OF
THE VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
DESIGN COMMISSION MEETING
HELD AT THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL BUILDING
33 S. ARLINGTON HEIGHTS RD.
OCTOBER 14, 2014

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

Members Present: Ted Eckhardt, Chair
Alan Bombick
John Fitzgerald
Jonathan Kubow

Members Absent: Anthony Fasolo

Also Present: Peter McGovern, T.P. Carpentry for *1717 N. Ridge Ave.*
Steve Gawlik, S.G. Architects for *1717 N. Ridge Ave.*
Bruce Miller, Trademark Builders for *900 N. Vail Ave. & 209 N. Chestnut*
Michael Dubois, Owner of *209 N. Chestnut Ave.*
Steve Hautzinger, Staff Liaison

REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER FITZGERALD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KUBOW, TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2014. ALL WERE IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

ITEM 5. SIGN CODE MODIFICATIONS

DC#14-078 – Sandwich Board Signs – Community Wide

It was noted that there was no one present in the audience.

Mr. Hautzinger explained that the discussion of Sandwich Board Signs Community-Wide is a follow-up to the Village Board approval of Downtown Sandwich Board signs on May 19, 2014. Sandwich Board signs community-wide was previously discussed with the Design Commission on August 26 and September 9, at which time the commissioners expressed general support of allowing sandwich board signs community-wide, and requested Staff to provide code language for the commissioners' review. Also, the commissioners expressed concerns about allowing sandwich board signs made of plastic, both in the Downtown and community-wide. **Chair Eckhardt** stated that allowing plastic sandwich board signs was a big concern, anywhere in the Village.

Mr. Hautzinger referred to and reviewed the proposed text amendment language. Per direction from the Design Commission, the language was changed to state 'plastic sandwich board signs are prohibited', instead of discouraged. This would apply to sandwich board signs in both the Downtown and Community-Wide.

The language being proposed for Sandwich Board Signs Community-Wide is based on the previously approved requirements for Sandwich Board Signs in the Downtown. However, the location requirements for community-wide sandwich board signs are different than the Downtown requirements as follows: Item C.1, *Location*, 'Sandwich board signs shall only be located on private property and must be within 10 feet of the building entrance. They are not allowed within the public right of way or in parking lots. They shall not extend beyond the length of the business frontage'. This language is different from the Downtown because of the different environment. In the Downtown, business entrances abut the sidewalks, so sandwich board signs are allowed in the public way, but outside of the Downtown, the intent is to keep sandwich board signs near the building entrances, away from the roads.

Mr. Hautzinger reviewed the two options being proposed by Staff. Option 1 would be to make no changes to the current code and continue to not allow sandwich board signs outside of the Downtown, and sandwich board signs made of plastic would remain 'discouraged' in the Downtown. Option 2 would be to modify the side code to allow sandwich board signs outside of the Downtown. Finally, per the Design Commission's request, the requirements for sandwich board signs in the Downtown can be modified to prohibit sandwich board signs made of plastic.

Commissioner Fitzgerald was in favor of the proposed language as currently worded. **Commissioner Bombick** was okay with the wording as well; however, he was concerned about a lot of small businesses located in strip centers on major thoroughfares that are too small to have a sign on the shopping center shared tenant sign and are virtually invisible from the street

because many of the major streets have been widened in the last 10 years with high speed limits. He felt that allowing sandwich board signs outside the Downtown and within a shopping center would work; however, it did not address the bigger idea, which is why these signs are popping up all over, because the businesses do not have an identity and visibility to cars traveling too fast. **Chair Eckhardt** understood Commissioner Bombick's concerns, and he asked Staff if temporary signs are allowed for businesses that might be having a special event. **Mr. Hautzinger** replied that temporary signs are allowed through the sign permit process. **Chair Eckhardt** was glad to hear this, although he was concerned about allowing more than one temporary sign for the same business, which resulted in clutter. He added that he was in favor of the language being proposed by Staff for Sandwich Board Signs Community Wide, as well as the language prohibiting plastic sandwich board signs in both the Downtown and Community-Wide.

Commissioner Kubow agreed with the revised language to prohibit plastic sandwich board signs in both the Downtown and Community-Wide, as well as allowing sandwich board signs community wide, which will help struggling businesses.

Chair Eckhardt added that once approved by the Village Board, communication should be made to the Chamber of Commerce regarding Sandwich Board Signs Community-Wide, and the process of applying for a temporary sign.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER KUBOW, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BOMBICK, TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SIGN CODE REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 30 TEXT AMENDMENTS FOR SANDWICH BOARD SIGNS COMMUNITY-WIDE, PER THE STAFF REPORT DATED 10/14/14, AND A REVISION TO PROHIBIT SANDWICH BOARD SIGNS MADE OF PLASTIC IN THE DOWNTOWN (B-5).

FITZGERALD, AYE; BOMBICK, AYE; KUBOW, AYE; ECKHARDT, AYE.
ALL WERE IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.