

APPROVED

MINUTES OF
THE VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
DESIGN COMMISSION MEETING
HELD AT THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL BUILDING
33 S. ARLINGTON HEIGHTS RD.
AUGUST 22, 2017

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

Members Present: John Fitzgerald, Chair
Ted Eckhardt
Aaron Coon
Kirsten Kingsley

Members Absent: Jonathan Kubow

Also Present: Jeff Eichhorn, DeBaker Design for *1412 W. Maude Ave.*
Zac Funk, Owner of *1412 W. Maude Ave.*
Steve Hautzinger, Staff Liaison

REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 8, 2017

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER ECKHARDT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COON, TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 8, 2017. ALL WERE IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Fitzgerald stated that the Sigwalt Apartments (DC#17-089) project has been rescheduled to the Design Commission meeting on September 12, 2017, and the 107 N. Pine Avenue (DC#17-070) project has been put on hold by the petitioner.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER ECKHARDT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KINGSLEY, TO MOVE THE REVIEW OF 1412 W. MAUDE AVENUE (DC#17-095) UP TO THE START OF THE AGENDA.

KINGSLEY, AYE; COON, AYE; ECKHARDT, AYE; FITZGERALD, AYE.
ALL WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ITEM 2. SIGN CODE MODIFICATIONS RE-REVIEW

DC#09-025 – Village-Wide Electronic Signs

Mr. Hautzinger gave a brief summary of the status of the Draft ordinance for Village-Wide Electronic Signs. On June 27, 2017, with only three commissioners present, Staff gave a preliminary presentation of the Draft ordinance to the Design Commission, and received feedback from the commissioners. A motion was made to continue the discussion to a future meeting when all five commissioners are in attendance. On July 11, 2017, with all five commissioners present, Staff again presented the Draft ordinance to the Design Commission, and the commissioners provided specific feedback on each section of the ordinance, as well as general comments and a motion to revise the Draft ordinance to include the feedback given by the commissioners and brought back to the Design Commission for a final review and motion. At this time, the Draft ordinance has been revised based on feedback from the commissioners, and the Design Commission is requested to review the Draft ordinance for recommendation to the Village Board.

Mr. Hautzinger presented the amended version of the Draft ordinance to the commissioners, and summarized the changes that were made since the last meeting. In follow up to the last meeting's discussion, he pointed out that Staff recommends keeping the minimum 300-feet of spacing required between Electronic Message Signs on the same side of the street (Section 30-705e). Overall, Staff felt this would not be an issue and would work well since the majority of commercial uses have large lots, although there are some cases where clusters of smaller lots may trigger the need for a variation to this separation requirement.

Commissioner Eckhardt pointed out that one commissioner is not here tonight and he has always felt that all 5 commissioners should be present to vote on this important matter; however, he was ready to make a motion tonight that includes a statement that none of the commissioners here tonight support electronic signs in the current format that are seen in neighboring communities. This being the Design Commissions' position, he acknowledged that the Village Board could feel differently and support electronic signs in the Village. He wanted to make a motion to forward this matter to the Village Board, specifically without an approval or a denial. He further stated that the commissioners feel the Draft ordinance is complete, well documented, and possibly a good working document; however, the motion would be to only forward the Draft ordinance to the Village Board. He asked if any of the commissioners wanted to debate this matter further, although he felt it was pointless to do so.

Commissioner Kingsley said that she would second the motion as summarized by Commissioner Eckhardt.

Commissioner Coon had a few follow-up questions. With regards to Section 30-702c, he asked if there are separate landscape requirements specifically for electronic monument signs, that could either be strengthened to help balance the unsightly appearance of an electronic sign. **Mr. Hautzinger** replied that current code requirements for ground signs would apply for electronic ground signs as well, which is that a ground sign must have landscaping 2-feet around the perimeter at the base of the sign. He suggested that the issue of enhanced landscaping be addressed by the commissioners on a case-by-case basis at the time of a review of an electronic ground sign. **Mr. Hautzinger** pointed out that the Draft ordinance does not specifically require a landscape plan to be submitted as part of an application for an electronic sign; however, this could be added. **Commissioners Eckhardt and Kingsley** were in favor of adding this to the ordinance.

With respect to Section 30-705e, **Commissioner Coon** commented that smaller businesses could be squeezed out by larger businesses with the minimum 300-feet of spacing required between electronic signs on the same side of the street, and to be more fair, he felt there should be a conditional review process that would be triggered if a business wanted to appeal the 300-foot rule. **Mr. Hautzinger** explained that if this issue were to arise, then a sign variation request would be included in addition to the conditional review process for an electronic sign. **Commissioner Coon** had no further comments and was in support of Commissioner Eckhardt's motion to be made.

Chair Fitzgerald was also in favor of Commissioner Eckhardt's motion to be made; however, he wanted the motion to be very clear on the Design Commission's position not to recommend allowing electronic signs. **Commissioner Eckhardt** clarified that the motion would state that the commissioners do not recommend approval or denial of the Draft ordinance, but to only forward it to the Village Board. He would also include a statement that the Design Commission does not endorse electronic signage. **Chair Fitzgerald** reiterated that specific language should be included in the motion to be very clear. He had no further comments.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER ECKHARDT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COON, TO FORWARD THE DRAFT ELECTRONIC MESSAGE SIGN ORDINANCE DATED 8-22-17 TO THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WITHOUT APPROVAL OR DENIAL, AND THE FOLLOWING:

1. A REQUIREMENT THAT A LANDSCAPE PLAN BE SUBMITTED WITH EACH APPLICATION FOR AN ELECTRONIC SIGN.
2. ELECTRONIC SIGNS SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR SIGN VARIATIONS, IF NEEDED.
3. THE DESIGN COMMISSION THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS HAS BEEN CLEAR IN THAT THEY DO NOT ENDORSE AT THIS TIME TO ALLOW ELECTRONIC SIGNAGE IN THE VILLAGE.

COON, AYE; KINGSLEY, AYE; ECKHARDT, AYE; FITZGERALD, AYE.
ALL WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.