

SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

1. Call to Order. Chairperson Kelly Stravens called the Planning Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Other commission members present were Bobbie Beese and Dan Hansen. Josey Booth was excused. Staff present: Tom Richardson, City Planner.

2. Approval of Minutes. Mr. Hansen moved to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2013 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stravens. The motion carried unanimously. There was no regular meeting in July.

3. Public Hearing: Special Sign Permit, Crary Clark Domanico, SSP 13-01. Mr. Stravens reopened the hearing on the special sign permit which was continued from the June 24 meeting.

Mr. Richardson explained the status of the application, saying that the commissioners had questions about the application at the hearing on June 24 when the applicant was not present, and so the commission decided to continue the hearing to give the applicant another opportunity to answer questions.

Mr. Stravens restated his concerns that the sign is too large, that he would prefer 3'x6' or a similar size if there is a standard size, that the sign should be moved back from the street as far as possible, and that the proposed pole sign does not reflect the type of business which is a professional office. He said he does not think the time and temperature sign is necessary and it does not advertise the business on the premises.

The applicant, Jim Domanico, said many of his customers do not see his existing monument sign because of the trees on the next block to the east and the cars in the parking lot to the west. He said he needs to move the sign higher to make it visible to traffic. He said the purpose of the time and temperature sign was to draw attention to his sign and provide a service to the public.

Mr. Stravens said the bottom of the sign could be lowered to 10 feet since the sign is not above a walking path and does not obstruct visibility. He said the area below the sign should be landscaped to keep people from walking under the sign. He asked Mr. Lee if the sign could be any smaller. Mr. Tom Lee of Signs Now said the 3'x6' sign would be too small considering the speed of traffic on Trent and the distance setback from the street. The size will be dependent on the size of the lettering which is calculated based on the speed of traffic. Mr. Lee suggested changing the shape of the sign to make it more aesthetic, making it more monumental or classical, by removing the top corners and adding a curve to the top.

Mr. Hansen asked if the LED message center was a "deal-killer." Mr. Domanico said he would like to have the LED sign to attract attention to his business.

Ms. Beese asked if the identification sign could be a darker color to reduce the glare, not a bright white. Mr. Lee said they could do that.

Mr. Stravens closed the hearing.

Mr. Hansen said he is not bothered by the identification sign as much as the message center. It just screams "look at me."

Mr. Stravens said the code says all signs must advertise the business. Message center signs at other businesses primarily contain messages advertising the business on the premises. The proposed time and temperature sign does not do that. He wants to avoid the look of Division Street where there are so many signs that you cannot really see any sign. Lowering the sign would make the pole sign look more fitting with the business. Ms. Beese said she is concerned that lowering the bottom of the sign too much would set a bad precedent.

Mr. Hansen said the city should show some restraint with glaring signs, and he is concerned about what this sign would mean for future signs on other properties. The LED sign does not seem to be appropriate here.

Mr. Hansen moved to approve the special sign permit with the following conditions:

1. the 4'x8' identification sign will be redesigned, removing the top corners (i.e. "dogeared");
2. the bottom of the sign will be no less than 10 ft from the ground with a maximum height of 14 ft to the top of the sign; the applicant will landscape the area at the base of the sign (which could be grass or shrubs);
3. the sign pole will be moved as far back from the street as possible while still being visible from vehicles travelling on Trent Ave., with no portion of the sign overhanging the street right-of-way;
4. the electronic message sign (time and temperature) is not permitted.

Motion seconded by Mr. Stravens. Motion carried unanimously. The application for the pole sign was approved with the conditions noted above; the electronic message sign was denied.

4. Staff Report. Mr. Richardson said that the DAHP representative is scheduled to attend the planning commission meeting in August. He reported on the status of the implementation of Initiative 502 (legalization of marijuana). He expects this to be on the planning commission's agenda this fall.

Mr. Stravens asked if the city could move the city boundary to the center of the river, as City of Spokane Valley did when it was incorporated. This would give Millwood more control over the

impacts from river traffic on the shoreline. Mr. Richardson suggested that the commission could send a letter to city council on the matter.

Mr. Stravens asked Mr. Richardson to let the mayor know that he would like to be re-appointed to the commission before the mayor leaves office at the end of December.

5. Public Comments. None.

6. Adjournment. There being no further business, Mr. Stravens adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.


Chairperson


Secretary