

Early Input Session #1

Monday, December 19, 2016

Group Meeting, 11am

Sign Contractor and Business Representative

Sign Contractor – business growing, multi-state, even international. Relies on legal review by client if vary from code (w/ a “variance fee.” Very experienced team. Believes in “prudent signage.”

Business Representative- Visitor Center in new Mountain Builds: touch screen. Up for 5 months, notified by City of violation. Developed proposal, case studies from other cities. C3 Real Estate wants a similar sign - were denied. ZBA denied application. Under window sign category? Or EMC? Shared case studies – wants us to use them to support a code change.

Business Representative – wants new space in code: storefront Interactive Marketing Technology (very flexible = hours, lumens, how are these different than the Front Range directory EMC?). Inside of glass, not touch screen – button technology. Can be programmed (timing, frequency, lumens etc.)

Case Study – “Cons”? Sign Contractor– owner wanted something not allowed in code.

EMCS – Most cities in NOCo 50% EMC, differ in terms of size, timing. Only 2 color regulations right now are allowed. Wants full color with limitations. Larimer CO is more flexible, consider mirroring. How to monitor illumination? Light gun. Timnath entry signs: color blast, projection, 6500 calvins. Big Al’s; the Rio in Frisco (seen from Interstate); RARE (Mtn + College). Windsor – used to be 24 hr. change, FC is 1 min. EMCs are going down in price. The Group could use the EMC to advertise community events + advertise other businesses. 50 % rule is prudent (per sign face). Limitations should only be in special districts (i.e. residential sign district).

Process – Can obtain sign permit in 1 hour if code is met. Overland is 7 business days. Windsor is 5-7 business days. Not as much wiggle room on how code is interpreted by current team. Predictable. Larimer much more flexible on EMC. Fort Collins has a smoother process compared to other NOCo cities – can get on variance calendar quickly.

HOA Code – supersedes City Code

Planned Sign Code Program – Sign Contractor has not prepared one here. He seems to discourage it.

How do we get to a LED Sign that does not look like an EMC?

Efficiency Works – LED can open up rebates (subsidiary of PRPA). Can be 30-40 % rebates of total cost. Matt Cotié.

Other Issue:

- Grades – sometime too steep to fit monument sign within setback due to landscape berms or retaining wall. Wants a little more flexible on grade, if meet height and size requirements. Wants' "prerailing grade" of site rather than grade @ the sign.
- Doing a great job, Zoning Staff. That is the difference with Fort Collins – they work with sign contractors. Loves "sign surveys" that FC offers – tracks history by business. Do no follow Boulder's model – it is very very difficult.
- Innovative ideas are not always horizontal signs.