

Cold Spring Planning & Zoning February 8, 2012

The regular meeting of the Cold Spring Planning and Zoning Commission was called to order by Chairman Christopher Vaught. Pledge to the flag was led by the city clerk. Roll call showed the following present – Alan McCullough, Tony Ponting, Donna Schmidt, Vince Sticklen, Tami Trunick, and Christopher Vaught. Also present were City Clerk Rita Seger, Attorney Brandon Voelker, and Andy Videkovich, NKAPC.

Chair Vaught pointed out the exits from the building, per Fire Department regulations.

The January 11, 2012 regular meeting minutes were reviewed by all. Vince Sticklen made a motion to approve these minutes and Tami Trunick seconded motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Christopher Vaught stated that on January 11th he signed an ID Plat for the subdivision of a non-buildable parcel “A” from Donald Woeste, Living Trust to Donna Pickett. Vince Sticklen made a motion to approve this signing, and Alan McCullough seconded the motion. Roll call vote showed six yeases and no noes. Motion carried.

There were no public hearings scheduled.

The next item on the agenda was discussion on incorporating LED signage in the current City of Cold Spring sign regulations. Andy Videkovich, NKAPC stated that over the past couple of years NKAPC has been getting more and more requests for LED signs in Cold Spring. Right now those signs are only permitted in the SDA zone. They are becoming more and more popular, especially with churches. Last month we had the hearing with the church requesting an LED sign. Based on prior conversations and a request from Brandon Voelker, Mr. Videkovich put together text to incorporate LED signs into the existing regulations. The model sign regulations, which this Board discussed at various meetings in 2011 is completely separate, although the language here is similar to that model. The idea is to have this text appropriated into the existing regulations rather than a having a complete overhaul of the sign regulations.

Mr. Videkovich verified that the board members received a copy of his text recommendations. On the first page he included language which is similar to the model regulations. This language sets the parameters for changeable copy signs, with text changing only every 8 seconds, no movement or flashing simulations, and automatic light controls for night hours. On page 2 the language is about separation distances from residential zones or uses based on the size of the sign. He noticed that a correction needs to be made on page 2 section f. It says that the size of the area of the electronic message board should be no more than thirty percent (30%), but it should read no more than twenty-five percent (25%) as shown on all of the following pages. Also, Mr. Videkovich recommends adding a definition so it is clear on what an automatic changeable copy sign is. It can't be the portable signs with flashing arrows. In terms of classification he has added the language to all classifications that are pole or ground signs. This would not include window or wall signs.

Tony Ponting questioned if they included any language as far as color restrictions, such as allowing multi color or just the red. Andy Videkovich has never seen restrictions on things like that and doesn't know if they could be regulated. Some electronic signs have full video screens and some that are a single color. Brandon Voelker stated that it would be hard to pick specific colors, but he does agree with the concern that if you had a number of colors would it be tacky looking. It would be difficult to say what color would be good or bad. Tami Trunick stated that we could regulate the sign to be just one color, and not stipulate what that color should be. Brandon Voelker agreed that this would be the better way to go.

Tami Trunick said that she was under the impression that Alexandria only allows red for schools or government, and everyone else has to be in the amber color. Andrew Videkovich stated that he will certainly check on that.

Vince Sticklen stated that he wants to make sure that the language is changed so that the changeable copy can only be twenty-five percent (25%) of whatever the size of the sign is. This was the problem we had with the church application.

Mr. Videkovich stated that he will do some additional research and incorporate some language changes. Since we don't have any applications for next month's meeting, it is up to this Board if we want to get together next month or just hold off until we get in an application. If this Board were to find these as minor changes they don't have to get back together at all. Christopher Vaught said he would entertain a motion to do so, otherwise, he is in favor of holding off until the corrections are made, and then revisit this issue. The Board agreed.

Andrew Videkovich stated that council should be made aware of this discussion so that they are not surprised about this application. Brandon Voelker stated that since you are changing a text, this body or council can sponsor a text amendment. Since Lou Gerding is present tonight, he might bring up this discussion to council.

Mr. Videkovich stated that we have been getting more of this type of signage requests, and in the past it was just not something that was contemplated in the zoning ordinance. Brandon Voelker stated that he too has fielded calls from businesses wanting automatic changeable copy signage. If we are not going to allow this signage we can say we considered it and if no action is taken, that says we don't want this type signage. At least this way, we will be consistent.

Per House Bill 55, P & Z member Vince Sticken received 1.5 hours of continuing education, and BOA member Dave Thiem received 1.5 hours of continuing education. Tami Trunick made a motion for approval, and Tony Ponting seconded the motion. Roll call vote showed six yeses and no noes. Motion carried.

Alan McCullough made a motion to adjourn the February 8, 2012 meeting and Donna Schmidt seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Seger, City Clerk