

NEWBERG TEMPORARY AND PORTABLE SIGN AD HOC COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 16, 2014, 4:00PM

Newberg City Hall (414 E. First Street)

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Dennis Lewis called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Members present: Chair Dennis Lewis Councilor Lesley Woodruff, vice-chair
Sam Farmer Art Smith
Nate Travers Marlene Grant

Members Absent: Mark Vergets

Staff Present: Steve Olson, interim planning and building director
David Beam, economic development planner
Brad Allen, code compliance officer
Mandy Dillman, minutes recorder
Truman Stone, city attorney

III. APPROVAL OF MARCH 5 AND MARCH 19, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

The committee approved the temporary and portable sign ad-hoc minutes for March 5 and March 19, 2014.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. David Beam, economic development planner, examined with the committee items Mr. Roger Currier brought forth an in e-mail regarding the rentable portable sign concept for garage sale signage. Mr. Art Smith agreed having a consistent, rentable garage sale sign program was a good idea. He was not sure if Mr. Barton Brierley, former planning and building director, estimate of six hours to remove nonconforming portable signs each week was accurate, but surely changing to a garage sale rental program would save the city some time and money from this weekly task. He felt, however, there would still be other signage up from citizens not renting from the program. Chair Lewis agreed there would always have random signs and raised concern for how they would police the sign program. Councilor Lesley Woodruff felt they should look into other cities approaches to sign rentals and create a program from there. Mr. David Beam, economic development planner, said he would follow up at the next meeting with information from other cities programs.

V. POTENTIAL RECCOMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL DSICUSSION

Mr. Beam explained proposed changes made to the recommendations. One suggested change was to state that a flag display must be attached to a permanently mounted pole. Also, unlimited flag displays would be allowed during holidays. This would mean clarify that a teardrop flag would be a portable sign and limited to one sign in the C2 zone or front yard/interior yard. He discussed how he made these changes based on recommendations from the previous meeting.

Chair Lewis felt the eight days for a temporary sign was not a very long time period after the amount of money a business might invest in an object like an inflatable. Mr. Steve Olson, interim planning and building director, explained it can be allowed longer at a grand opening and other events. Chair Lewis asked for clarification if pennants and streamers cannot be used unless during the grand opening or other events under the proposed changes. Mr. Beam replied he was correct.

Discussion commenced on current sign criteria suggestions of one sign per certain amount of street frontage and how limited usage of pennants and streamers would cause current businesses to change their signage plan. Furthermore, they discussed umbrellas with advertisements on them and how they would fit into the sign plan. Umbrellas were detailed further as possibly having restrictions on size or size of advertisement, being a possibility for current businesses to use instead of pennants or streamers, and how they could fall under temporary portable signs.

Chair Lewis brought forth the current increase in complaints about signs in the city. It was explained an article was published in the newspaper disclosing portable signage regulations are not being enforced while this committee takes meets. The article alludes to the increase in complaints due to the large quantity of political signage currently in the city. In addition, it mentioned citizens were calling 911 dispatch to complain about door to door campaigning in the town, which is not the appropriate approach to dissuading solicitors. It was further stated political signs are allowed 90 days before election and would normally limit size of signage and has a two limit sign per business or home. The signs are not regulated for content and actual political members running for the position are often not the ones making or distributing most of the signs. Mr. Olson said the current increase in political signs gives them an opportunity to experiment and see what it would look like without sign limits. He mentioned an option to limit them further would be to decrease the allowed amount of time they are allowed. He said he usually does not see a lot of signage until thirty days or so before election dates. The committee discussed how signs are allowed up to fourteen days after elections which is bothersome to people. It was decided by the committee to not pursue any changes to the current election sign regulations.

The issue of changing signage rules was further discussed and it was determined having separate rules for separate areas of the city might be the right decision.

Mr. Beam asked for any objections to the flag change update. Councilor Woodruff pointed out a spelling error on one page. They also discussed an issue George Fox University has over current sign regulations.

In conclusion, a suggestion was made to form an additional committee to evaluate education, enforcement, and maintenance of new sign policies had been made. It was suggested the current committee take on this responsibility due to the fact they have discussed the matter thus far. Mr. Beam suggested that they dedicate the next meeting to this topic. Additionally, it was discussed whom should participate in the next meeting including inviting the Chamber of Commerce and The Downtown Coalition.

VI. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next Temporary and Portable Sign Ad-hoc Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 2014, at 4:00 PM in the Newberg City Hall Permit Center Conference Room.

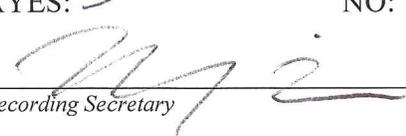
VII. OTHER BUISNESS

No items were brought forth.

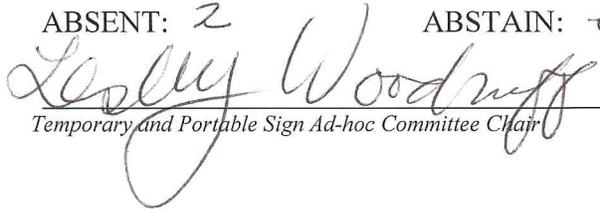
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Approved by the Temporary and Portable Sign Ad-hoc Committee this 7th day of May, 2014.

AYES: 5 NO: 0


Recording Secretary

ABSENT: 2 ABSTAIN: 0


Temporary and Portable Sign Ad-hoc Committee Chair