

RENTON PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2010
6:00 p.m.

Renton City Hall
Council Chambers

Planning Commissioners Present: Michael Drollinger, Ray Giometti, Michael O'Halloran, Kevin Poole, Ed Prince, Martin Regge

Planning Commissioner Absent: Michael Chen, Gwendolyn High, Nancy Osborn

City Staff Present: Chip Vincent, Planning Director; Jennifer Henning, Current Planning Manager; Angie Mathias, Associate Planner; Kris Sorensen, Assistant Planner; Judith Subia, Administrative Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER: Commission Chair Giometti called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL: Commission Secretary Drollinger called roll. Commissioners Chen, High, and Osborn were absent and excused.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of October 20, 2010 were approved as written.
4. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: Letters from Bill Taylor of Renton Chamber of Commerce, Terra Fisher of Daktronics, Patti King of Northwest Sign Council, Timothy Zamberlin of National Sign Corporation, and Ken Peskin of International Sign Association regarding the Sign Code Amendments.
5. AUDIENCE COMMENTS: Scott Parrott of Tubert Sign Company and Northwest Sign Council: Mr. Parrott wants to continue participation in the sign code amendments process.
6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None
7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:
 - Chip gave an update on the sign code amendments. There have been a few good meetings with stakeholders in the community. Since those meetings, staff has received numerous comments. Staff asked for the Commission's support and direction to separate the Rainier Avenue sign code from the citywide sign code to allow further review of the code. The citywide sign code will be carried over to next year's docket cycle.
 - Chip discussed the Fairwood Annexation vote.
8. DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS (TITLE IV) AMENDMENTS DOCKET DELIBERATIONS & RECOMMENDATION:
#D-54: Sign Code
Jennifer presented this docket item. A more extensive stakeholder process will be conducted in order to provide adequate time to evaluate the implications of the proposed changes and solicit public feedback. Staff has revised the recommendation to create language to allow non-conforming pole signs, impacted as a result of right-of-way acquisition associated with the Rainier Ave Improvement Project, to be relocated. Staff further recommends to create amortization language for Non-Conforming Pole Signs, with the exception of auto dealer within the Automall Overlay District (on Rainier Avenue between Grady Way and S

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2nd Street) requiring they be removed within 5 years from the date of the proposed new code's adoption date. Sign owners with newer signs will have the opportunity to request a 5-year extension in cases where significant value will be lost.

Public Comment

Kenneth Peskin of International Sign Association: Mr. Peskin discussed his correspondence. The impact of lowering all pole signs will diminish the visibility of the sign by approximately 40%. The sign is significantly more visible if it is higher.

Scott Parrott of Tubeart Sign Company: Mr. Parrott shared a conversation with a representative from Blazing Onion, a company that he works with, who was not happy with the proposed code. Mr. Parrott asked the Commission to continue to include them in the sign code discussions.

Bill Montero of Tubeart Sign Company: Mr. Montero said that the main purpose of signs is for advertising. Limited backlighting would hurt businesses.

Planning Commission Recommendation

MADE BY PRINCE, SECONDED BY DROLLINGER to separate the Rainier Ave signs from the citywide sign code. FIVE FOR, THREE ABSENT. MOTION CARRIED.

MADE BY PRINCE, SECONDED BY REGGE to accept the Staff recommendation on the Rainier Ave sign code. FIVE FOR, THREE ABSENT. MOTION CARRIED.

#D-49: Drive-In/Drive-Through Retail and Services

Planning Commission Recommendation

MADE BY PRINCE, SECONDED BY POOLE to accept the Staff recommendation. FIVE FOR, THREE ABSENT. MOTION CARRIED.

#D-50: Small Scale Research Facilities

Jennifer presented this docket item. Staff has revised the recommendation to add language to the code which provides for the Reviewing Official to determine whether or not a project has a minimal effect on the environment.

Planning Commission Recommendation

MADE BY REGGE, SECONDED BY PRINCE to accept the Staff recommendation. FIVE FOR, THREE ABSENT. MOTION CARRIED.

#D-51: Religious Institutions in Non-Residential Zones

Planning Commission Recommendation

MADE BY PRINCE, SECONDED BY POOLE to accept the Staff recommendation. FIVE FOR, THREE ABSENT. MOTION CARRIED.

#D-52: Evaluation of Residential Development Standards

Planning Commission Recommendation

MADE BY PRINCE, SECONDED BY REGGE to accept the Staff recommendation. FIVE FOR, THREE ABSENT. MOTION CARRIED.

#D-53: Fee-in-Lieu Provision for Parks

Planning Commission Recommendation

MADE BY PRINCE, SECONDED BY O'HALLORAN to accept the Staff recommendation. FIVE FOR, THREE ABSENT. MOTION CARRIED.

#D-56: Cedar River Pipeline Zoning

Planning Commission Recommendation

MADE BY PRINCE, SECONDED BY POOLE to accept the Staff recommendation. FIVE FOR, THREE ABSENT.
MOTION CARRIED.

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: The next Commission meeting will be on December 1, 2010.
10. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Ray Giomatti

Michael Pruninger, Secretary

Signed copy available
from City Clerk's Office.