City of Battle Ground
Planning Commission
Public Meeting
December 5, 2012
7:00PM

The public meeting of the Battle Ground Planning Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairperson Michael Harden, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 109 SW 1st Street, Battle Ground, Washington.

Community Development Technician Jessica Herceg called roll. The following were:

Present:	Chairperson Michael Harden, Planning Commissioners, Kevin Morse, Linda Daley and Michael Dalesandro
Absent:	Wade Hammerstrom and Brad Hunt
Also Present:	Sam Crummett, Planning Supervisor Jessica Herceg, Community Development Technician

Commissioner Dalesandro made a motion to excuse Commissioner Hammerstrom; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Morse. A vote followed, all in favor, motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Crummett informed the Planning Commission that Commissioner Hunt has resigned due to scheduling conflicts during standard meeting times. Staff has informed the executive department and they are now in the process of recruiting additional members. The current Planning Commission consists of five members, of which three constitute a quorum. Mr. Crummett anticipates new members in the beginning of 2013.

No other communications were offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve the October 10, 2012 Planning Commission meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Daley. A vote followed, all in favor; motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING: SIGN CODE UPDATE (LEG:05-12)

Chairperson Harden opened the public hearing at 7:03 PM.

Chairperson Harden closed the public hearing at 7:03 PM.

Commissioner Harden invited Mr. Crummett to introduce the proposed code changes.

Mr. Crummett summarized the key changes as follows:

17.139.040
Changes to the definition section of the code include:

- Add language which clarifies that "monument signs" will be regulated as freestanding signs.

- Add a definition for "vehicle sign" which will help staff to regulate the potential of off-premise advertisement of businesses throughout our city. Specifically for those vehicles which have advertising but are not actively working on a job (ex. vehicles parked and left in parking lots).

- Modify the definition of electronic reader board sign such that multiple colors may be used at any given time, and the timing requirement of text is no longer specified.

Commissioner Morse made a motion to strike the word "text" from BGMC 17.139.040 (dd) Electronic Reader Board definition. The revised sentence would read "Electronic reader board sign" means any sign that by the use of light provides a changeable message." Commissioner Dalesandro seconded the motion.

There was additional discussion regarding the original intent of the electronic reader board ordinance and the rights of business owners.

Staff identified a potential conflict between the proposed motion and existing code language, specifically animated signs being listed as prohibited. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Morse proposes to amend the first motion to strike the word "text" from dd. Electronic Reader Board definition. The revised sentence would read "Electronic reader board sign" means any sign that by the use of light provides a changeable message." And strike BGMC 17.139.075 (C) "Animated Signs" from prohibited signs. Commissioner Harden seconded the motion; a vote followed. Three votes in favor, one opposed; motion passes.

17.139.100
Table 17.139-1

- Allow electronic reader boards in the light industrial (ML) zoning district.
- Monument signs are removed from the table; they are to be regulated as freestanding signs.
- Remove the "conditional approval" designation from the table.

17.139.120
Language is proposed which will require any member of a political campaign to sign a form which states that they will abide by the rules regarding placement and removal of political signage. Discussion occurred regarding:

- Political Signs
    - Accountability for collection of signs after election

  - Signs in City right of way
  - Case law for signs and free speech
  - Enforcement for signs left after election
- Garage sale signs
- Ground-mounted lighting for signs

Additional discussion occurred regarding
- Abandoned signs
- Damaged signs
- Permitting requirements
- Grandfathering of non-conforming signs
- Code enforcement

Commissioner Harden makes a motion to recommend approval to the City Council as written with the one amendment as noted earlier. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morse. A vote followed. Three votes for, one opposed; motion carries.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Mr. Crummett provides updates as follows:
- SW Scotton Way extension project is complete. The ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for 12/12/12.
- SE Grace Avenue is mostly complete, striping and landscaping are weather dependent.
- Civil engineering review for Walmart should begin before the end of the year. Grading activity will occur in early spring, with site construction extending throughout 2013. The applicant indicates that the store will likely open in early 2014.
- Single family permit issuance
- Demolition of Victory Outreach on N. Parkway Avenue
- Demolition of BGHS 500 building along W Main Street
- Building at NE corner of Parkway Avenue and Main Street
- Fencing activity along NE Grace Avenue

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Morse made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dalesandro. A vote followed, all in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Michael Harden, Chairperson Date

Meetings of the Battle Ground Planning Commission are digitally recorded. These records are kept on file in the office of the City Clerk for a period of six (6) years.