

# CITY OF DUNDEE

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**Meeting:** Planning Commission Meeting  
**Location:** City Council Meeting Chambers  
620 S.W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Dundee, Oregon 97115  
**Date:** August 19, 2015  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

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## **I. Meeting called to order.**

Chairman Gerald Fiedler called the meeting to order. Commissioners present, which consisted of quorum were Gerald Fiedler, Vice-Chairman Michele Kropf, Isaiah Cox, Gary Rodney, David Hinson, and Francisco Stoller. Danny Sikkens had an excused absence.

Also in attendance were City Administrator Rob Daykin and Interim City Planner Jim Jacks.

## **II. Sign Code Discussion**

Planner Jacks read the staff memo into record. He stated that although the example pertaining to illumination from Keizer was written with "nits" after discussion with the City of Keizer it turned out that "nits" are very difficult to measure. He therefore stated that instead of relying on the objective number standards to change the language to give the City Administrator the ability to make a determination-- in effect, using a nuisance approach. He also stated that he'd like to do more research prior to the public hearing to come back and see if there is any wording in the general Ordinances that can be changed to better address the lightening standards.

Commissioner Cox stated that a lot of cities do not allow white and blue. He also stated that he wasn't sure about whether he agreed with the trademark statement due to other widely known businesses having to change their trademarks. Planner Jacks responded that it was a risk depending upon the business and how determined they are to have their logo on their sign.

Vice-Chairman Kropf stated that the cities represented were larger and had more traffic; she also commented that it seemed simpler to take them out of the code since that's what the Planning Commission had talked about the last two meetings.

Commissioner Cox agreed that Commissioner Kropf did have the simplest approach. However, he stated that if it was something that was going to go forward he wanted to try to make sure that some safety measures for colors were in place. He noticed from the Dark Sky Ordinance that the language was almost directly taken from the International Dark Sky Association website and that their recommendation was to remove white and blue bulbs as these colors were a safety concern.

Commissioner Stoller stated that he believed electronic signs were trashy.

Commissioner Rodney stated that he had a concern that if they were to adopt standards for electronic signs his concern about not allowing dissolving or fading copy would unintentionally create a flashing copy. He believed that the dissolving would be a more pleasing effect.

Chairman Fiedler stated that the one minute came from the original sign code revision because it had to do with time and temperature. It was the intent to not have scrolling or flashing signs. He also stated that a person wasn't going to be able to see the entire message and there were safety concerns regarding a driver watching the sign instead of a road.

Commissioner Hinson stated that it was his recollection that the conversation had to do with safety.

Commissioner Stoller stated that he did not see a fit for Dundee when a changeable copy sign or banner worked as well without the flashing and changing.

Commissioner Cox asked if it was possible to make a recommendation to City Council that they did not want electronic message signs with a contingency that if they decided to adopt the allowance that Planning Commission recommended certain things.

It was questioned who initiated the process and what that process was to be; also whether CA Daykin had an idea of which way Council would vote. CA Daykin responded that he did not have a determination.

There was talk about the concerns—rather than stating that Planning Commission didn't want electronic signs period—there was explanation of the specific concerns. (Examples given were the concerns that the entire town would be blanketed with electronic signs; and that they wanted to maintain a small-town feel.)

There was discussion about using lumen standards. CA Daykin stated that they were still looking into this possibility but hadn't found a workable one yet. It was suggested to look at cities that were the same size as Dundee for the standards they had in place. It was also suggested to look at the National Dark Sky website since they had recommendations for city planners.

Planner Jacks asked for staff direction on what to bring forward for the public hearing next month. It was questioned whether the Order of Recommendation could start being worked on now. Worry was expressed that Council would only look at the message that the Planning Commission did not want electronic signs and not received the message as to why they were opposed to them. It was expressed that they wanted to make sure that City Council would look at the reasons behind the opposition.

Planner Jacks reviewed the proposed changes point-by-point. He also added that the City could make it a requirement that specifications be submitted with a sign permit application giving the nits/lumens/light measurements.

Commissioner Cox stated that when he was researching "nits" on Google all he could find was that it was used to measure the light emitted from a computer screen. He stated that what he also found was that there was a heat index.

Continued discussion on how to measure light; what types of copy changes would be best; and, safety regarding bulb colors.

The workshop discussion was concluded with a final discussion on the desire to write the Order of Recommendation in such a way that expressed the Commissions desire to not allow electronic signs, but also recommend standards should the Council desire to keep these types of signs in the code. An explanation of the hearing process and when the recommendation would be written was given.

### III. Planning Issues from Commission Members.

There were no issues presented by the Commission.

### IV. Adjournment

Moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned.



Gerald Fiedler, Chairman (Vice)

Michele Kropp

ATTEST:



Melody Osborne, Planning Secretary