

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

September 14, 2015

Tracy Corr opened the meeting on Monday, September 14, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City/County/Building, in Lincoln, NE.

Attendance

Sixteen citizens and eight staff attended:

Tracy Corr – 40 th & A NA	Jeff Schwebke – Arnold Heights NA
Carl Tesch – Autumn Wood NA	Rifka Keilson – Country Club NA
Paul Johnson – East Campus CO	Karen Dienstbier – Eastridge NA
Pat Anderson-Sifuentez – Everett NA & NW-L	Jess Roe – Far South NA
Myrna Coleman -- Highlands NA	Dennis Hecht – Meadowlane Area RA
Nate Blum – Prescott Area NA	Mike DeKalb – University Place CO
Bill Vocasek – West A NA	Fred Freytag – Witherbee NA
Lin Quenzer – Mayor's Office	Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office
Wynn Hjermstad – Urban Development Dept	Russell Miller – Lincoln Neighborhood Alliance
Barb Fraser – Lincoln Public Schools/CLC's	Adam Rhoads – Health Dept – KLLCB
Steve Henrichsen -- Planning Dept	Christy Eichorn – Building & Safety Dept
Rick Peo – City Attorney's Office	Mayor Beutler

Welcome & Introductions, Volunteer to Take Notes

Everyone introduced themselves. Karen Dienstbier volunteered to take notes.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Beutler attended the second half of the meeting and did not have comments.

Update on City Sign Codes

Staff from Building & Safety, Planning and the City Attorney's Office was on hand to discuss what the City Sign Code allows and doesn't allow.

Jon Carlson, from the Mayor's Office, talked about sponsorship of signs and the Haymarket Cube signs. He said that after a discussion with those interested in advertising on the Cube, some changes were made to the Special Sign District agreement as to what could be advertised and who could advertise on the Cube.

Christy Eichorn, Zoning Coordinator from Building & Safety, shared a PowerPoint presentation that covered off-premise signs (billboards), electronic changeable copy signs, on-premises signs, and special sign districts. **See Attachment 1.**

Lincoln has been proactive in controlling the use of billboards and other signage for advertising purposes. City ordinances limit the kind of signs businesses can use on their property and the overall number of billboards in the City.

Some of the history:

- July, 1999 – February, 2000: Moratorium declared on building new billboards (large off-premises signs).
- January, 2000: New sign regulations adopted allowing conditional use of billboards.
- December, 2004: New ordinance passed to prohibit billboards within 660 feet of Interstates 80 and 180. Also, within the city, for every new billboard installed, another one of a similar size had to come down.
- 2006: Sign ordinance was revised to allow electronic, changeable copy (ECC) on billboards. Regulations address the brightness, flickering, and animation to make them less distracting to motorists. In addition, for every ECC billboard installed, three non-ECC billboards have to be removed. As a result, the use of ECC billboards has eliminated 300 billboards across the city.
- 2009: City officials updated the on-premises sign regulations to make them more consistent and more easily understood with clearly defined terms, tables and diagrams. Some height requirements were also revised.

The first Special Sign District was set up in the Haymarket Historic Landmark District in 1990. Since then, several more have been set up for historic, ethnic, cultural and/or entertainment purposes. There are many things to consider when setting up a Special Sign District and City Council approval is required.

Discussion arose around the following topics:

Signs on Vehicles: Vehicles with signage printed on them must be moved around the city regularly. One cannot advertise on a vehicle that is permanently placed somewhere and is not moveable or doesn't move. A vehicle with a sign cannot be placed on a flatbed trailer to move it around the city. The City will remove any such vehicle.

Flag Signs: While flag signs aren't allowed in the Sign Codes, it is a City policy to not go after illegal signs unless there is a complaint about a specific sign. The Mayor noted that it would cost the City many dollars to hire people to implement every sign policy or regulation put into place. It seems to work quite well for citizens to phone in a complaint and the City to then act on that complaint. This may account for the number of flag signs staying up throughout the city.

Signs in the Public Right-of-Way: It is illegal for political signs or other signage to be placed in the public right-of-way anywhere in the city, including on telephone poles. All political or other signs should be placed on privately-owned property, at least 3 feet inside the property line, which is typically the edge of the public sidewalk farthest from the street.

Announcements

- ***Iowa/Nebraska IN the Neighborhood Conference***, Saturday, October 3rd 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Metro Community College – South Omaha Campus, 2902 Babe Gomez Avenue, \$35.00 admission. For more information: www.intheneighborhood.org
- The ***City Library Book Sale*** will be at the Lancaster County Event Center on Sunday, Oct 3rd, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- ***Art in the Park*** was held on Sept. 19th in the Sunken Gardens

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable will be October 12th at 5:30 p.m. The topic will be determined.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Karen Dienstbier

CITY OF LINCOLN SIGN ORDINANCE

What it is.

What it does.

Where it came from.



Presented By: Christy Eichorn – Zoning Coordinator
Building and Safety Department

What we will discuss?

- Off Premise signs (Billboards),
- Electronic Changeable Copy
- On-Premises Signs
- Special Sign Districts



1st Update

- Off Premise Signs (AKA Billboards)



Off Premise Signs

- **OFF-PREMISES SIGN** is any sign which serves to advertise a product, service, or activity not conducted on the premises on which the sign is located or within 300 lineal feet thereof.



History

- July 13, 1999 through February 10, 2000 – Moratorium on all off premises signs 150 square feet or greater.
- September 9, 1999 The Mayor's Billboard Task Force issued their report and recommendation.
- January of 2000 the new Off-Premises regulations were adopted allowing off-premises signs as a conditional use.
- December 2004 an ordinance was passed prohibiting off-premises signs within 660 feet of Interstate 80 and I80.

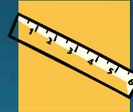
Conditions

- Allowed in most commercial and industrial districts NOT residential or transitional districts
- 300-700 square feet in area
- 35-45' in height, depending on district
- None within ¼ mile of city limits 800' from entranceway corridors
- None in capitol view corridors
- None in downtown core area



Conditions Continued

- 600' spacing between billboards
- 5,000' between electronic changeable copy
- 600' to church, park, school,
- 150' from residential zoning
- 600' from sensitivity zone (ie, historic site)
- 660' from Interstate



Cap and Trade

- Must remove one sign structure and equivalent area for any new sign.



2nd Update

Electronic Changeable Copy

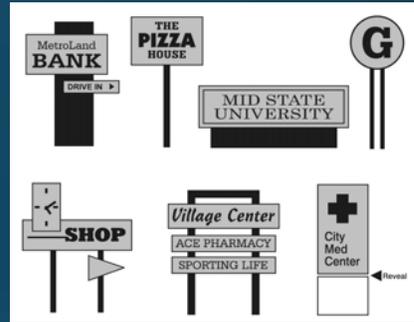


History

- In 2006 the City passed a Ordinance allowing electronic changeable copy for off-premises signs.
- Based on complaints from motorists and residents that these types of signs were distracting and annoying due to excessive brightness and animation.
- City staff worked with the sign industry to establish and refine the new standard.
- 3 to one swap – take down 3 non ECC billboards to get 1

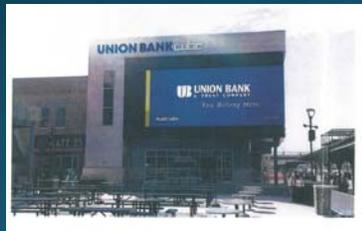
2009

- Reorganized
- Redefine terms
- Provide tables and diagrams
- Made some sign requirements shorter and some taller



Special Sign Districts

- Haymarket Sign district – 1990
- S. 48th and O Street – 2006 & 2009
- UN Technology Park -2008
- Assurity – 2011
- Haymarket Park – 2012
- Railyard - 2013



Special Sign Districts

- Areas with a Redevelopment Plan
- Areas in a Landmark District
- Occupants of 60% or more of street frontage of a block can petition for a Special Sign District for the purposes of defining
 - Historical
 - Ethnic
 - Cultural
 - Entertainment



Commercial Sign and Non Commercial Message



Purpose

- To meet the needs of today's businesses, sign contractors, civic and religious institutions.
- Maintain the public health, safety and general welfare of the community.
- Preserve and enhance the aesthetics of our existing and future streetscapes.

Questions or Comments?

