



# Village of Fox River Grove

## MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Trustee Curtiss called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. in the Municipal Center. Present at roll call were President Nunamaker, Trustees Anderson, Blohm, Curtiss, Knar, Migdal and Wall. Also present were Administrator Soderholm, Chief Lukasik, Operations Manager Reese, Operations Manager Zintl and Deputy Village Clerk Majkrzak.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **PRESIDENT, TRUSTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

President Nunamaker had no report. Trustee Migdal invited everyone to the tree lighting on December 5, 2015. Trustee Curtiss asked how long it takes to flush fire hydrants – 3 to 4 days.

### **1. APPROVAL: NOVEMBER 5, 2015 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES**

**Trustee Curtiss made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting. Trustee Anderson seconded.** Roll Call: Trustees Blohm, Curtiss, Knar, Migdal and Wall – all “yes”. Trustee Anderson abstained. MOTION PASSED.

### **2. DISCUSSION: SIGN CODE**

Trustees Blohm and Curtiss stated that they had gone over the proposed sign code changes, drove around town to look at the signs and feel that they would like to improve the appearance of town but not make it hard on the businesses. The trustees also noted that the Village needs an enforcement plan and that changes should be implemented in stages. Trustee Curtiss then lead the discussion regarding sign code.

1. Signs and awnings in state of disrepair. Discussed at last meeting. Agreed with proposed solution for maintenance requirements. Must be kept in good repair, owners allowed up to six months to repair it. If it is not repaired during that time frame, the Village will assess a monthly fine. Trustee Curtiss polled the committee: all in favor.
2. Interior signs are obscuring windows, business operations; 33% definition problem. Discussed language of window vs. opening, % of frontage. Interior window signs cannot cover more than 33% of all window space. It was decided to allow 2 signs per window, 10 sign limit and owners will have 2 years to comply. This applies to the downtown district and other districts. Administrator Soderholm will check with attorney concerning process for business who wants a change from the code without doing the standard variance procedure. Trustee Curtiss polled the committee: all in favor.
3. There are too many lit signs. Allowing only 2 signs per window, 10 sign limit would take care of this. Trustees agree with proposed solution. President Nunamaker suggested grandfathering

Village President Robert Nunamaker

Trustees Thomas Anderson / Suzanne Blohm / Jennifer Curtiss / Steve Knar / Andrew Migdal / Patrick Wall

the current signs for 2 years. Trustee Curtiss polled the committee: all in favor.

4. The current Code does not allow flashing, blinking or shimmering. Trustees agree – prohibit all signs with sound or animation in all zones. Trustee Curtiss polled the committee: all in favor.
5. There are too many wall signs. Trustees decided: Limit to one sign per exterior wall of business, occupying fifteen (15%) percent or one hundred (100 sq. ft.) square feet, whichever is less and no signs on the wall of another business. Trustee Curtiss polled the committee: all in favor.
6. Some wall signs that are allowed by the current code are too large, disproportionate. Trustees decided: New formula -retain the fifteen (15%) percent area limit or one hundred (100 sq. ft.) square foot limit, limit max height to six (6) feet, width to seventy-five (75%) percent of building width. Regardless of use(s), maximum sign size shall be proportionate to the size of the facade to which it is attached as determined by Village “designee”. Current signs will be grandfathered until the sign is changed, there is a change in ownership of the business or the property. Trustee Curtiss polled the committee: all in favor.
7. Window borders are unsightly. Trustees decided: Prohibit electronic (e.g. LED or neon window borders) in all districts. Trustee Curtiss polled the committee: all in favor.
8. Many hand painted signs are unsightly. Trustees decided: Prohibit hand-painted signs (i.e. signs with a nonprofessional appearance as determined by a Village designee). Trustee Curtiss polled the committee: vote to allow: Anderson, Knar, Migdal. Vote to not allow: Blohm, Curtiss, Wall, Nunamaker.
9. Nonconforming signs. Trustees decided: All legal nonconforming signs shall lose said designation ten (10) years from the date of adoption of the new sign code, or if: the sign or its structure is replaced, the business name changes, the property ownership changes, the business ownership changes, or the sign is not maintained as described in the maintenance requirements above. Trustee Curtiss polled the committee: all in favor.
10. Round/bubble awnings are generally viewed as undesirable. Trustees decided: Prohibit vinyl, bubble/round shape, backlighting. No graphics on new awnings. Only allowed to have name of business and address on awning. Owners would have six (6) months to repair; ten (10) years to remove current awning. Trustee Curtiss polled the committee: all in favor.
11. Box signs. Trustees decided: Box/cabinet signs would not be allowed in the downtown. Outside the downtown area, box/cabinet signs would only be allowed as part of a monument sign only. Current signs would be grandfathered unless there is a property ownership change, business owner change or business name change. Trustee Curtiss polled the committee: all in favor.
12. Lettering height. Trustees decided: Limit letter height to eighteen (18) inches. Outside the downtown, it is recommended that lettering be limited to seventy-five (75%) percent of any sign face. Trustee Curtiss polled the committee: all in favor.
13. Proportionality. Already addressed.
14. Too many temporary signs. Trustees decided: Raise permit fee to \$25, limit display to fourteen (14) days up to four (4) times per year, restrict wall signs to thirty-three (33%) percent of wall width, not area, retain all other existing regulations. Trustee Curtiss polled the committee: all in favor.
15. Prohibited Signs. Trustees decided: Signs displaying information pertaining to a business or product not available onsite; signs above a building’s roof line; signs constructed or placed as to constitute a hazard to vehicles or pedestrians by obstructing a safe view of the street, or streets, which border the premises, or any sidewalks located along the boundary of the premises; signs of the flashing, blinking, scrolling, animated, or audible type, except those giving public service information relating to road construction and weather advisories such as time, date, temperature, weather or similar info placed by the Village or another unit of government; signs

which are established on trees, utility poles and fences; pole or pylon signs, except those with a legal, non-conforming designation; signs which, or any part of which, is in motion by any means, including fluttering or rotating, or other signs set in motion by movement of the atmosphere (includes all banners, posters, pennants, ribbons, streamers, strings of light bulbs, spinners or other similar devices) Exception: flag of any unit of government; electronic (e.g. LED) or neon window borders; hand-painted signs (i.e. a painted sign with a nonprofessional appearance as determined by a Village designee); signs that obscure or interfere with a sign displayed by the Village or another unit of government for the purpose of giving traffic instructions or direction or other public information; signs that use the word "stop" or "danger" or otherwise present or imply the need or requirement of stopping or caution for the existence of danger or which is a copy or imitation of, or which, for any reason, is likely to be confused with any sign displayed by the Village or another unit of government; signs that obstruct any window, door, fire escape, stairway, ladder, or opening intended to provide light, air, ingress or egress for any building as required by law. No sign shall be attached to a standpipe; signs or illuminations that cause direct glare into or upon any building other than the building to which the sign is related; inflatable advertising devices or signs; portable trailer signs, either fixed or movable; signs that violate any provision of any law of the State of Illinois relative to outdoor advertising; signs located within a public right of way, except those expressly authorized by a Village designee (including all political signs); billboard signs. It shall be unlawful to erect a billboard sign in any area within the corporate limits of Fox River Grove; hand-painted wall signs which are painted directly upon walls (i.e. unprofessional business signage painted directly upon the wall of a building as determined by a Village designee); signs on any permanent or temporary structure or building located in any public street right of way, public park, or other public way or place within the Village of Fox River Grove; vehicles or any other type of property with "For Sale" signs when located within any public right of way or within any nonresidential zoning lot when vehicles or property are not being sold by a licensed business located within the zoning lot; statues used for commercial purposes; temporary signs affixed to permanent signs; signs painted or mounted on rocks or other natural features or affixed to trees; temporary signs attached to a motor vehicle or trailer parked on public or private property so as to be seen from the public right of way for more than three (3) consecutive hours for the purpose of advertising a product or directing people to a business activity; searchlights / spotlights; abandoned signs. Trustee Curtiss polled the committee: all in favor.

16. Shared Signs. Trustees decided: No shared signs. Existing shared signs with a variance would be allowed.

The Trustees asked Administrator Soderholm to look into language relating to window tinting/darkening. Dotty's has darkened windows. Staff will draft the Sign Code and forward to PEDC for their review.

### **3. OTHER BUSINESS**

Discussion held on the appearance of the building at 310 Northwest Highway. It was decided to have staff contact the owner and ask that he remove the black plastic coverings and replace with covers that are more aesthetically pleasing.

### **4. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**ADJOURMENT**

**Trustee Curtiss made a motion to adjourn the Committee of the Whole at 8:56 p.m. Trustee Knar seconded. All were in favor.**

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Jennifer Curtiss, Chairperson

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Date

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Barbara Majkrzak, Deputy Village Clerk