

MINUTES OF THE
RAPID CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
June 21, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pam Lang, Mel Prairie Chicken, Vivian Jorgenson, Dawn Mashek, Dave Parker, Robert Scull and Stuart Wevik. Ron Kroeger, Council Liaison was also present.

STAFF PRESENT: Marcia Elkins, Vicki Fisher, Lisa Seaman, Bill Lass, Bill Knight, Kenn Shave, Dave Johnson, Rich Wells and Risë Ficken

Chairperson Lang called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. She welcomed Council Liaison Ron Kroeger to the meeting.

41. No. 01OA006 - Ordinance Amendment

A request by City of Rapid City to consider an application an Ordinance amending Chapter 17.16 of the Rapid City Municipal Code by deleting "off-premise signs" from the Uses Permitted in the Central Business Zoning District; and amending Chapters 17.18, 17.22 and 17.24 of the Rapid City Municipal Code by eliminating "off-premise signs" from the list of Uses Permitted and adding "off-premise signs" to the list of Uses Permitted on Review in the General Commercial, Light Industrial and Heavy Industrial Zoning Districts; and creating a new subsection within Chapter 17.50 of the Rapid City Municipal Code setting forth submittal requirements, construction requirements, and criteria for review for Use on Review applications for off-premise signs.

Lass reviewed the history of the proposed ordinance amendment to date. He indicated that a copy of the draft ordinance was provided to area sign contractors noting that the City Sign Contractors Board unanimously voted to oppose the ordinance amendent. Lass reviewed the draft ordinance and recommended approval.

Hank Sponder, Sponder Outdoor Advertising, advised that last year a committee spent a great deal of time rewriting the billboard ordinance. He noted that only two billboard application permits have been issued this year and no complaints have been received. He distributed a list of billboards that have been removed.

Martin Bush, Citizens for a Scenic Rapid City, stated that the Sign Committee worked hard to revise the sign code. He expressed concern that during the process of review for sign code revisions there were a number of applications for sign permits that were submitted creating new double sided signs that were not in compliance with the code revisions. He stated that he feels the Use On Review procedure is a valuable addition to the sign code process.

Brendan Casey, Epic Outdoor Advertising, indicated that he feels the sign industry was cooperative and overly compliant with the wishes of the Beautification Committee and City Council during the sign code revisions last year. Casey acknowledged that there was a flurry of permits that were submitted during the review of the code; however, he stated that there is a general attrition of off-premise signs now. He added that he believes as long as the signs are constructed and maintained in a responsible manner the market will level itself. He noted that he feels the sign code in place at this time offers good controls.

Jorgenson requested clarification concerning the cap and replace plan as submitted by Mike Derby, and what would be the advantages of this ordinance over the one currently proposed. In response to Jorgenson, Mike Derby, Vice President of Lamar Outdoor Advertising, indicated that he is opposed to

the Use On Review process. He provided sample ordinances for a cap and replace program along with a list of communities that use the program. He explained how the program works.

Discussion followed.

Jorgenson moved and Mashek seconded to recommend that the Ordinance Amendment be approved.

Wevik noted that some commissioners with strong feelings on this issue are absent from the meeting today. He stated that he feels that progress has been made with the sign code revisions implemented last year.

The motion carried to recommend the Ordinance Amendment be approved. (5 to 2 with Scull and Prairie Chicken voting no)