

CITY OF IONIA
Sign Board of Appeals
June 15, 2010
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by City Manager Jason Eppler at Noon, Tuesday, June 15, 2010 in the basement conference room of City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Roll call revealed Board Members Jim Denny, Mark Jennings, Mike Kirgis and Jeff Winters present. Board Member Joe Dunn was excused.

Also in attendance was City Manager Jason Eppler, Phillip Miller, ASI Signage Innovations and Laurie Tjalsma and Jill Juntune, Sparrow – Ionia Hospital.

SELECT OFFICERS

The City Manager reported that this meeting being the first meeting of the Sign Board of Appeals for 2010, it was necessary for the Board to select officers. He stated that the City Code prevents the City Council representative (Jeff Winters) from holding an officer position.

It was moved by Member Jennings, seconded by Member Winters to select Mike Kirgis, Chairperson; Jim Denny, Vice-Chairperson; and, Joe Dunn, Secretary. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairperson Kirgis called to the Public Hearing to order. He stated that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive comments on requests from Sparrow-Ionia Hospital for variances from the City's sign ordinance for permission to install an off-premises directional sign (which exceeds the directional sign size standards in the ordinance and the requirement for direction signs to be "on-premise") and permission to install three (3) ground signs on the hospital campus.

The City Manager reported that notice of the Public Hearing was published in the May 30, 2010 edition of the *Sentinel-Standard Weekender*. He further stated that notice of the Public Hearing was mailed to those residing or owning property within 300' of the locations where the signs are proposed to be installed. He stated that he has received no comments on the request.

Mr. Phillip Miller, ASI Signage Innovations, provided the Board with an overview of the request. He explained the sign campaign the hospital has undertaken and the importance of securing the variances so the proposed signs can be installed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

BUSINESS

Sparrow-Ionia Hospital Request – Off-Premises Sign: Chairperson Kirgis reviewed with the Board Sparrow's request for the variance to install the off-premises sign at 202 North Jefferson Street. He stated that the City's Planning Consultant, Tim Johnson, provided a memorandum on the request dated June 4, 2010. In his memorandum, Mr. Johnson stated that the standards for granting the variance have been met so long as the Board can determine that the sign size portion of the variance request is the minimum amount necessary. Member Winters suggested that the sign height could be reduced by 10" or so if the unused "green" space on the sign was eliminated.

After further discussion, it was moved by Member Winters, seconded by Member Jennings to grant Sparrow-Ionia Hospital's request for permission to install an off-premises directional sign at 202 North Jefferson (sign IC10.2 on the hospital sign plan) based on the request complying with the standards for granting a variance contained in Section 1234.18 (c)(3) of the City Code with the condition that the height of the sign be reduced by approximately 10" thereby eliminating the excess "green" space on the sign. MOTION CARRIED.

Sparrow-Ionia Hospital Request – On Premises Signs: Chairperson Kirgis reviewed with the Board Sparrow's request for permission to install three directional signs on the main hospital campus that exceed the maximum permitted directional sign size permitted by the Sign Ordinance. He stated that Mr. Johnson also reviewed these requests and found that the requests comply with the standards for granting a variance so long there is rationale for permitting directional signs that are larger than what is permitted by the ordinance. Chairperson Kirgis stated that due to the number of driveways/entrances to the hospital and the topography of the hospital the size is justified.

It was moved by Member Winters, seconded by Member Jennings to grant Sparrow-Ionia Hospital's request for permission to install on-premises directional sign at approximately Lafayette and Pearl Streets (sign IC5 on the hospital sign plan) based on the request complying with the standards for granting a variance contained in Section 1234.18 (c)(3) of the City Code. MOTION CARRIED.

It was moved by Member Winters, seconded by Member Jennings to grant Sparrow-Ionia Hospital's request for permission to install on-premises directional sign at approximately Lafayette and Morse Streets (sign IC6 on the hospital sign plan) based on the request complying with the standards for granting a variance contained in Section 1234.18 (c)(3) of the City Code. MOTION CARRIED.

It was moved by Member Winters, seconded by Member Jennings to grant Sparrow-Ionia Hospital's request for permission to install on-premises directional sign at approximately Washington and Morse Streets (sign IC7 on the hospital sign plan) based on the request complying with the standards for granting a variance contained in Section 1234.18 (c)(3) of the City Code. MOTION CARRIED.

Chairperson Kirgis stated that if all other requirements of the City have been satisfied, the sign permits for these particular signs may now be issued.


MEMBER COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Kirgis adjourned the meeting of the Sign Board of Appeals at 12:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jason Eppler, Recording Secretary
for Joe Dunn, Secretary