

# PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

APRIL 13, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Village of Lake In the Hills



Chairman DeMay called to order at 7:30 p.m. the meeting of the Lake in the Hills Planning and Zoning Commission. This was a virtual meeting. The agenda for this virtual meeting informed the public that they could attend and gave directions on how they could access it online or via telephone.

## ROLL CALL

Chairman Joe DeMay and Commissioners Brent Borkgren, Greg Walker, Michael Esposito, Anna Siakel, and John Murphy were present. Also in attendance were Community Services Director Fred Mullard, Village Trustee Bill Dustin, and Administrative Specialist Laura Pekovic.

## APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Siakel made a motion to approve the Commission meeting minutes of March 16, 2020, and Commissioner Esposito seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**--None

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**ITEM FOR DISCUSSION**--Sign Ordinance Changes

Director Mullard indicated he would like to work towards this discussion being finalized and a recommendation made to the Village Board by June 2020.

Mr. Darrel Garrison from Planning Resources was in attendance to address the group regarding various types of permanent signs. The format that Mr. Garrison followed addressed the different types of signs, what the Village currently allows, sometimes what neighboring municipalities allow, and then after a discussion, a determination was made as to what the Commission recommended.

**Halo-Lit Signs (Reverse Channel Letters)** – This sign type is currently prohibited in Lake in the Hills. There was an explanation and discussion about this newer, trending sign type and what other municipalities allow. After a brief discussion and a recap of last month's discussion, Chairman DeMay suggested that the halo sign be taken off the prohibited list. The Commission agreed.

**Digital Signs/Electronic Message Boards (EMB)**-- These sign types contain alphabetic, pictographic, or symbolic informational content that can be changed or altered on a fixed-display screen composed of electrically illuminated segments. Digital signs/electronic message boards within ground or wall signs can be regulated as one of two of the following types that are listed below. Mr. Garrison described each sign type.

# PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

APRIL 13, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Village of Lake In the Hills

1. Electronic Display Screens--This sign type has electronic images, holographic displays, and videos which may include text. Las Vegas and downtown Chicago are examples of where these types of screens are used. There are currently none in Lake in the Hills. After discussion, the Commission agreed to keep them on the prohibited list.
2. Electronic Message Signs – These sign types use changing lights to form a message or messages in text form wherein the sequence of messages and the rate of change is electronically programmed and can be modified by electronic processes. There was discussion about brightness, fade time, and motion.

Mr. Garrison gave an update about best practices regarding sign brightness, phrase transition time, and standard cycle time of multiple-phrase messages.

- Commissioner Siakle suggested a slow waving flag and fireworks would be appealing. The flag waving duration was discussed, as well as making the flag static or its movements limited. Commissioner Esposito suggested that the ordinance limit the frame rate (which he has a spreadsheet he could later share with the Commission), which would limit how fast a flag could wave. The Commission did not have a specific number of seconds for changes but Mr. Garrison suggested a standard of one second per word or two seconds per phrase.

It was recommended that motion be allowed but no flashes or jolts. It was recommended by the Commission that electronic message board signs allow three seconds for the words, five seconds for the flag waving, and not to have a fade in between.

Vehicle Fueling Station Signs— This sign type is currently prohibited in Lake in the Hills, but is allowed in Algonquin, Crystal Lake, and Cary. These are ground signs that consist of LED panels that utilize multi-segment LED technology digit configuration displays. Mr. Garrison gave an update on best practices and recommendations for these signs to be allowed in Lake in the Hills.

Mr. Garrison suggested that Lake in the Hills could allow these signs, but limit the sign to two gasoline products, as well as limit the digit size, brightness, colors and time limit of the sign to be turned on and off. Director Mullard suggested to the Commission that they may want to consider that three types of gasoline products be allowed on the sign due the popularity of E-15 and E-85. Director Mullard suggested that these sign types be taken off the prohibited sign list. At Commissioner Siakle's recommendation, these sign types should only allow three numerical displays. This would prohibit businesses from advertising non-gasoline products on those signs.

Permitted Signs in Special Districts— Mr. Garrison recapped what is currently allowed according to the sign ordinance at the Airport and the overlap in surrounding districts. Mr. Garrison mentioned that the Village of Cary allows canopy and awning signs, as well as message boards.

Permitted Signs in Business Districts— Mr. Garrison recapped what is currently allowed according to the sign ordinance. Mr. Garrison pointed out that some neighboring communities allow signs in this

# PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

APRIL 13, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Village of Lake In the Hills

---

district to be up to two feet higher. The Commission recommended that the sign ordinance remain as is for signs in these business districts.

Permitted Signs in Residential Districts— Mr. Garrison recapped what is currently allowed according to the sign ordinance. The Commission recommended that the sign ordinance remain as is for signs in these residential districts.

All Commission members had objections as to how the sign ordinance currently reads. There was no public comment at the meeting and no comments were received to be read at the meeting.

Director Mullard indicated that staff would work with Mr. Garrison to redo the sign ordinance wording during the next two months.

**STAFF REPORT**— Director Mullard informed the Commission that the Village Board of Trustees approved the updated Lake in the Hills zoning map.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**— None

**TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT**— None

Commissioner Borkgren made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Siakle. All in favor voted Aye. Chairman DeMay adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

The next Lake in the Hills Planning and Zoning Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

*Laura Pečović*

Administrative Specialist I

ICC Certified Permit Technician