

AGENDA

FORT SMITH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

STUDY SESSION

JULY 26, 2005 - 12:00 NOON

FORT SMITH PUBLIC LIBRARY

COMMUNITY ROOM

1. Presentation by HNTB on proposed sign regulations
2. Review preliminary agenda for the August 2, 2005 regular meeting

MEMORANDUM

To: Bill Harding, City Administrator
From: Wally Bailey
Date: July 19, 2005
Subject: Proposed Sign Regulations

The subject of the July 26, 2005 Board study session is a presentation by Elizabeth Garvin of HNTB regarding the proposed sign regulations. I have previously sent a copy of the proposed regulations to the Board of Directors and the Planning Commission. We are encouraging everyone to bring their copies to the study session. I will have copies at the study session for those that do not bring their copy with them.

I have also attached a summary that highlights the key points of the proposed sign regulations. The summary was prepared by Elizabeth Garvin.

Besides the discussion about the proposed regulations I would like to discuss the concept of a task force to review the proposed sign regulations. We discussed this concept with the Board some time ago when we first consulted with them regarding the idea of revising the sign regulations.

It is time to appoint the task force if it is still considered necessary. The task force review would need to occur before the regulations proceed to the work sessions and public hearings with the Planning Commission and then the Board of Directors.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this matter.

Fort Smith Land Development Regulations Signs

Updates to the Fort Smith sign regulations include the following provisions:

1. Expanded purpose with a focus on content neutrality
2. Eliminates any preference of commercial over non-commercial speech
3. Historic or Downtown regulations take precedence over non-specific sign regulations
4. Change in form of measurement using rectangle approach will allow for easier measurement
5. Residential district setback exemptions for nonconforming signs
6. Inflatable signs prohibited
7. Inclusion of a dimensional table
8. Sign area reduced from 200 to 150 sf in commercial and industrial
9. Height added to sign regulations - not left to zoning district regulations
10. Opinion/political signs
11. Downtown sign regulations mirror current downtown design guidelines
12. New structural categories
 - a. awning
 - b. electric awning
 - c. banner
 - d. bracket
 - e. spanner
 - f. electronic message centers
 - g. projecting/suspended
 - h. window
13. Monument sign incentives
14. Off premise restrictions measured from any 35' sign, not just outdoor advertising

15. Portable signs - 1 only, 2 - 30 day periods

16. Master sign plan requirements