

The Sign Workshop committee for Planning and Zoning meeting of August 13, 2015 was called to order at 5:30pm by Chairman Chris Rawlings. Present for the meeting were: Planning and Zoning members: Chris Rawlings, Dave Gray Planning and Zoning Administrator Lisa Ailport, Councilwoman Connie Wells and Office Clerk Christine McNair. Members of the public present were: John O'Connor, Jenny Graham, Kyle Watts, Gaye Brown, Bruce Whittaker, David Sims, Abra Chouinard and Carolyn Testa.

Lisa explained that the August 13 version of the sign ordinance is just a draft and she is hoping to get more input and thought from the committee.

Chris explained that the final decision will be made by City Council, this is just an information gathering meeting.

Lisa said that she will take the information from the Sign Committee and present it to Planning and Zoning. Planning and Zoning will make any necessary changes, then they will have a public hearing regarding the sign ordinance and Planning and Zoning will make a recommendation to City Council. City Council will have a public hearing or they may decide to adopt the ordinance. Lisa said this is a legislative action, so people can talk to Planning and Zoning member or Council members at any time, they are not bound by the same rules as the quasi-judicial actions.

Abra had some East Coast lawyers make up an ordinance. She said that this is a basic ordinance that states what is allowed and gives specifics of what a business owner can and has to do to have a sign. She gave an overview of the ordinance.

Gaye asked if it is just a downtown ordinance or an ordinance for the whole city. Lisa said yes, the ordinance that staff prepared does provide for a downtown district standards, since the two areas of town have different and distinct needs.

Lisa briefly went through the draft ordinance staff had written.

Kyle thinks the staff draft and Abra's draft should be used to make one good ordinance.

The majority of the group thinks rooftop signs should be allowed downtown and on the South hill as long as the signs are structurally safe. Two people were opposed to rooftop signs. There was discussion about limiting the height of the signs and compliance enforcement.

John will do some research as to why roof mounted signs are prohibited in other areas.

Abra and Jenny will look into appropriate height standards.