

CITY OF
WEST CHICAGO

Approved 2/28/12

**WEST CHICAGO HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING JUNE 21, 2011**

Members Present:

Janet Hale
Garth Keck
Steven Schneider
Jennifer Timbrook
Richard Vigsnes
Tony Chinn

Staff:

LuAnn Bombard

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. Quorum established.

2. Neon Sign Guidelines for Turner Junction Historic District

Review of current City regulations regarding neon signs was presented by City Museum Director LuAnn Bombard:

- Any neon sign would be part of the signage allowance (20% of window)
- Signage cannot be all neon
- No flashing, outlines, blinking lights, etc (re: city ordinance)
- By recognizing the correlations between the Zoning Code and the Historic District Guidelines the Historic District Commission can be restrictive and request a “case by case” basis based on its appropriateness.
- Beer signs not considered “temporary” anymore (City-wide issue, not HD)
- Temporary Signs must have a permit (30 Days)...discussion will continue at a later date.

Discussion by Commission followed:

- Is the illumination limited by lumens? (ex. Wheaton can illuminate sidewalks?)
- Guidelines based on combination of other communities guidelines including the cities of Seattle, WA, Ypsilanti, MI and Wichita, KS.
- Neon company would need to attend meeting to provide a sample.
- Limit colors to original “time period” colors
- Intensity & Colors will need to be presented at meeting; subject will be tabled until next meeting if sample is not provided. Samples of wall signs are required; seems justified to request a sample of a neon sign.

Commissioner Vigsnes inquires about the original colors that existed when “neon” was first introduced.

- asks whether “neon” signs are actually “*neon*” or are they “fluorescent” with coloring.

- Tastee Freez uses original true neon which is suitable for that particular structure.

What about limiting the amount of neon?

The Commission understands the need to allow progression (i.e. technological advances) but, it must still be of good taste.

Include this statement to the guidelines: “Have a sample of the sign that demonstrates the intensity and color of what is proposed.”

Be sure to include photographs of what we are basing our decisions on in writing the guidelines.

Commissioner Timbrook asks about pre-existing signs. What is the definition of pre-existing? Does it mean *once* the neon sign presence has been regulated through city ordinance?

Eliminate the first sentence of the second paragraph under Suggested guidelines. Eliminate the use of the word “new” in the following sentence.

“Aggregate of neon signage and regular signage is limited. It cannot exceed the maximum allowable.”

There was a consensus among the Commissioners in approving the guidelines. Commissioner Keck motioned to approve neon guidelines as discussed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schneider and carried with a unanimous aye vote.

3. Demolition permit – 128 McConnell – water works building

There was a consensus among the Commissioners in approving a demolition permit for 128 McConnell due to lack of structural integrity. Commissioner Keck motioned to approve the demolition permit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schneider and carried with a unanimous aye vote.

4. Adjournment

Commissioner Keck made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schneider.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm.