

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**  
**MINUTES OF JUNE 3, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.**

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. A quorum was present. Gil Snyder, Bruce Boreson, Chairman Mark Cwik, Frank Grieshamer, Rafael Nunez, George Snarski, Lisa Manzo (Secretary), Village Attorney Matt Welch, Eric Richard (Village Planner), and Zoe Heidorn (Village Planner). Absent: Kathy Mennella.
3. Member Grieshamer made a motion to accept the minutes of May 6, 2015. The motion was seconded by Member Snyder and approved to place them on file as presented.
4. New Business: ZBA 15-09  
Village of Franklin Park  
9500 W Belmont, Franklin Park IL

Chairman Cwik stated that this hearing is for a Text Amendment to Franklin Park Village Code, Sections 9-5G-4 and 9-9-2 regarding the regulation of signage.

Member Grieshamer made a motion to enter in any and all department reports, memos, new and revised reports and testimony into the record. Member Snyder seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was carried.

Ms. Heidorn came forward at this time and gave an opening presentation to the members and to the audience. She stated that staff recognizes opportunities in existing Village regulations and recommends amending the Village Code to minimize the potential for commercial lighting and signage to negatively impact the community and diminish property values.

Ms. Heidorn stated that this amendment comes in response to an increase in usage of LED rope lighting and electronic message boards by the business community. The emergency of new sign and illumination types in the marketplace has prompted many municipalities to amend their regulations in response to or in anticipation of applications to install such signs.

She continued to state that the proposed text amendment transfers the language used to prohibit rope lighting in the downtown districts to Section 9-9-2 General Limitations, which establishes Village-wide signage restrictions. This amendment will apply the

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Downtown's ban of rope lighting to the entire Village. The existing language will subsequently be removed from Section 9-5G-4 to avoid redundancy in the Village Code.

Ms. Heidorn stated that in regard to message boards, staff recommends supplementing the regulations in Section 9-9-2 General Limitations with the following to ensure that electronic message boards are not an aesthetic nuisance nor have any negative impact on property values: "Electronic message boards shall be freestanding or attached to a monopole structure. They shall not be attached directly to a building façade." "Electronic message boards shall not be located within a required yard. Gas stations shall be exempt from this requirement."

She continued that the proposed text amendment will permit freestanding electronic message boards, many of which are currently found in the Village. Staff views freestanding electronic message boards as a commonplace means by which community institutions and businesses convey information to the public.

Chairman Cwik opened this hearing to the public at this time. Chairman Cwik stated that since no public came forward, he closed public session.

Board Discussion began at 7:07 p.m.

The members discussed this hearing intently. They brought up both the pros and cons of rope lighting in various districts. Some members were in favor of the rope lighting being removed throughout the Village to maintain consistency, while others found no problem with the installation of rope lighting within certain regulations and limitations.

Chairman Cwik discussed this with the members and stated that the vote will decide.

Board Discussion ended at 7:14 p.m.

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Member Grieshamer made a motion to “approve ZBA 15-09 for a Text Amendment to Franklin Park Village Code, Sections 9-5G-4 and 9-9-2 regarding the regulation of signage.” Member Snyder seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote. Member Boreson-Yes; Member Nunez-No; Member Mennella-Absent; Member Snarski-Yes; Member Snyder-No; Chairman Cwik-Yes; Member Grieshamer-Abstain. Three (3) Ayes, Two (2) Nays, One (1) Absent, One (1) Abstain. The motion was denied.

5. Old Business: None

6. Staff Update: None

7. Public Comment: None.

8. A motion was made by Member Grieshamer to adjourn the meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals. It was seconded by Member Snyder. All in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Manzo  
Secretary