

**FLUVANNA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Circuit Court Room--Fluvanna County Courts Building**  
**November 14, 2016**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Barry Bibb, Chairman  
Ed Zimmer, Vice Chairman  
Donald Gaines  
Lewis Johnson

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jason Stewart, Director Planning and Zoning  
Brad Robinson, Senior Planner  
James Newman, Planner  
Fred Payne, County Attorney  
Stephanie Keuther, Senior Support Assistant

**Absent:** Howard Lagomarsino  
Tony O'Brien, Board of Supervisors Representative

**Open the Work Session:** (Mr. Barry Bibb, Chairman)  
Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Silence.

**Director Comments:** None

**Mr. Stewart:** Mr. Newman will be presenting sign ordinances from other neighboring localities and comparing them.

**Mr. Newman:** We have been provided the 2016 business quorum, the business community has said the business sign and temporary sign ordinance is not helpful to them.

It was recommended that we increase tier development and to have different sign regulation for different locations. It was also mentioned to have seasonal brief activity.

**Mr. Stewart:** Does anyone recall why the six feet high restriction was put in place?

**Mr. Bibb:** Are you recommending a 8ft restriction?

**Mr. Newman:** Talks in depth about the sign heights and requirements of other localities.

**Mr. Bibb:** Are there any suggestions about the sign regulation heights?

**Mr. Payne:** Signs seem to be uniquely subjective to competition. Signs serve two purposes they show what's being advertised, and whoever owns the sign or wants to get to it. However you have to protect against traffic hazards. Trying to see a small sign while driving for example on Route 15 would be a traffic hazard. Signs need to be big enough to serve the purpose but not to over power. Other places have bigger commercial spaces, we don't have that. You need to determine what's useful. We distinguish on the bases of the content. Whatever you decide they will have to conform to it.

**Mr. Bibb:** Like the monument signs, you have a park with 7 to 8 businesses where there larger yet they continue to get smaller and smaller.

**Mr. Payne:** Signs do need to be legible.

**Mr. Bibb:** Do we have any violations currently? I know I have seen some. They may have been grandfathered in.

**Mr. Stewart:** We could do some type of overlay. We really don't know until we know what type of business is going in there.

**Mr. Bibb:** When you have a monument sign it tends to be much neater.

**Mr. Payne:** Rather than any particular number look at what solves the problem.

**Mr. Zimmer:** These businesses feel it's too much. We need to take in to account this perception

**Mr. Bibb:** Looking at the sheet Louisa appears to be double our requirements. We're trying to balance between businesses and the community.

**Mr. Payne:** A good way to approach may be through the speed limits.

**Mr. Bibb:** Looking for the sign and trying to turn into the turning lanes is what makes it hard. I would suggest the planning department look into whether we need to change minutely, in the middle or a lot and then run these by Mr. Payne due to the ordinances.

**Mr. Zimmer:** I agree. Different areas need different restrictions.

**Mr. Gains:** We at least need to be up to the Louisa guidelines.

**Mr. Johnson:** We still need consistency within the county so businesses don't feel were being unfair.

**Mr. Stewart:** We can get a more in depth look into Louisa.

**Mr. Gains:** If we did an overlay how would that work?

**Mr. Payne:** If you did do that you should have specific basis.

**Mr. Bibb:** I would like yall to examine the other localities more closely.

**Mr. Stewart:** We will come back with some other options.

**Adjourn**

Chairman Bibb adjourned the Planning Commission Work Session meeting of November, 2016 at 6:50p.m.

Minutes recorded by Stephanie Keuther, Senior Program Support Assistant.

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Barry A. Bibb, Chairman  
Fluvanna County Planning Commission