

Meeting minutes
Charter & Ordinance Committee
Monday, August 26

Committee members present: Aldermen Chris Etori, Bill Gillam, Melinda Humphrey, and Rebecca Mattis (chair)

Others present: Aldermen Matt Whitcomb and Tom DePoy, Mayor Allaire, Tara Kelly, Bob Pelletier, Dave Coppock, Dave Cooper, Brennan Duffy, and Gordon Dritschilo

Meeting convened at 5:30 pm.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how internally illuminated signs would be regulated under the proposed new sign ordinance.

In general, the committee agreed that the city should not prohibit internally illuminated signs in any business district. There was also general agreement that residential districts should have some kind of regulation – either a flat prohibition on such signs or rules about timing, for example, that the lighting should be shut off after a certain time or after business hours. The reason for this would be to preserve the character of residential districts, protect residential property values, and protect residents from undue glare from nearby signs. This concern also extended to businesses properties that border on residential districts.

For all districts, the committee was interested in ways the city might regulate the brightness and visual impact of internally illuminated signs, including electronic message boards. Also, the state has restrictions on flashing signs that we need to be aware of. It was agreed that we would ask local sign professionals for specific kinds of information about best practices for lighting (lumens, graphics vs. text, number of colors, etc.). If they agree to meet, one or two committee members will join that meeting along with Tara Kelly and bring the information back to the full committee for discussion.

The issue remains in committee and this report is for information only.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Mattis (chair)