

**CITY OF FIRCREST PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

November 1, 2016  
6:00 PM

Fircrest City Hall  
115 Ramsdell Street

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Karen Patjens called the regular meeting of the Fircrest Planning Commission to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Kathy L. McVay, Karen Patjens, Kenneth Halgren, and Arne Michaelsen were present. Absent: None. Excused: Jerry Foss. Staff present: Planning and Building Administrator Angelie Stahlnecker and Principal Planner Jeff Boers.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes for the meeting of September 6, 2016 were presented for approval.

**Moved by McVay and seconded by Michaelsen to approve the minutes. Ayes: Kathy L. McVay, Karen Patjens, Kenneth Halgren and Arne Michaelsen. Noes: None. Absent: None. Excused: Jerry Foss. Motion carried.**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None.

**CONTINUING BUSINESS**

**Case 16-11 Sign Code**

Principal Planner Jeff Boers introduced draft development regulations for FMC 22.26 Sign Code, incorporating both requirements based on the U.S. Supreme court decision in *Reed V Town of Gilbert (2005)* requiring sign code regulations be content neutral and amendments recommend by staff. Boers opened the discussion with the history and intent of the sign code.

Proposed changes included:

- Require removal or conversion of nonconforming signs when business/activity changes or is vacated
- Classify signs based on configuration or characteristics instead of content
- Regulate signs by use/zoning group of property: non-residential/non-commercial, residential, and commercial/mixed use

- Increase flexibility in size depending on street frontage, façade square footage, and incentives for darker backgrounds
- Allow digital signs, but prohibit electronic message signs
- Lower maximum height and square footage for freestanding signs
- Require higher design standards including framing for monument signs
- Limit number and location of portable signs
- Allow limited number of feather signs
- Regulate temporary signs (real estate, special events, garage sales) by materials, size, and placement, not content

Discussion included:

- Responsibility of staff to enforce removal/replacement of non-conforming signs
- Cost of sign replacement
- Consideration of regulating sizes based on road speed
- Challenge of portable signs
- Conflicting court decisions related to political signs
- Effect on existing signs and businesses
- Appropriate process of bringing signs in compliance
- Consideration of a process to allow alternative design

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**Moved by McVay and seconded by Halgren to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. Ayes: Kathy L. McVay, Karen Patjens, Kenneth Halgren, and Arne Michaelsen. Noes: None. Absent: None. Excused: Jerry Foss. Motion carried.**

  
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Karen Patjens, Planning Commission Chair

  
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Angelie Stahlnecker, Planning/Building