

**Brandon Planning Commission
Sign Ordinance Hearing
April 21, 2014**

Planning Commission Members Present: Anne Bransfield, Linda Stewart, Tracy Wyman, Jeff Guevin

Others present: Eric Mallory, Bernie Carr, Liz Gregorik, Betsy Quigley, Janet Mondlak, Edna Sutton

Call to Order:

Anne Bransfield opened the Sign Ordinance hearing at 8:21PM.

Introductions:

The hearing was open to solicit public input on the proposed Sign Ordinance to the Brandon Land Use Ordinance.

Questions/General Discussion:

Bernie Carr questioned if there have been changes made from the first informational meeting. Anne Bransfield stated the Planning Commission has not met to discuss the suggestions from the first hearing. Following the second hearing, the Planning Commission will meet to discuss the proposed amendments and a final draft will be presented to the Select Board for consideration.

Edna Sutton stated the Planning Commission's process works and she thanked the Planning Commission for going out and viewing Park Village. She noted there is an issue for anyone that works beyond downtown in being able to let people know where they are located. They have done everything in their power to help people find them and have worked on the cluster sign, but it provides information on 15 businesses and the signs are very small. It leaves the option of using temporary signage, but there is also an issue with that option, as any temporary sign has to be 15 feet in from the road. They are losing businesses due to the inability of having signage. They have brought new businesses into town and would like the Planning Commission to review what can be done for additional signage, in addition to temporary signs, to allow people to find their businesses. She has had a number of people that have come to them saying that they cannot find them. It was noted there are provisions for directional signs and those should address the concerns. Ms. Sutton stated there is a sign that indicates all of the businesses that are in the area and then there is one sign that is on the property. Bernie Carr asked if there could be a variance. It was recommended that Ms. Sutton discuss this matter with Tina Wiles for a possible solution. Ms. Sutton stated it has been a problem for some time and she needs a solution, as it is losing them business. Janet Mondlak stated except for the cluster sign, there may be a way to loosen the section on "No Off Premise" to allow conditional use, as long as permission is obtained from the property owners. It is thought that directional signs would be the way to resolve this issue and would need to be discussed with Tina Wiles.

Janet Mondlak asked whether any of the members are inclined to make the changes recommended at the last hearing. It was noted that it will be a group decision and discussion will be held at the next Planning Commission meeting.

Anne Bransfield called the hearing to a close at 8:37PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary