

Digital Billboards Update

Digital billboards will be on the City Council agenda for December 11, 2008. We have the opportunity to meet with Rod Sanchez before then. Please let me know of your availability to plan for this meeting. I suggest a noon hour Monday, 12/1/08, Tuesday, 12/2/08, or Wednesday, 12/3/08.

Summary of Infrastructure and Growth Council Committee actions 12/19/08.

1. Dark Skies Ordinance

The ordinance presented to the Zoning Commission was further modified, after discussions between staff, the military, Diane Cibrian and Clear Channel prior to today's meeting. The changes were:

- a. The time period was shortened for temporary light sources.
- b. LEED lighting standards will be encouraged, but not required.
- c. The military is willing for further dialogue to take place regarding digital billboards.

Clear Channel representatives expressed their willingness to continue the dialogue and stated that their signs would be able to come into compliance.

Rod Sanchez explained that the proposed ordinance would be the enabling ordinance and that rezoning of the areas around the military bases would follow after the ordinance is passed. All existing light sources are to be grandfathered.

Regarding the recommendation of the Zoning Commission yesterday - in Rod Sanchez's opinion, this ordinance does not need to be reviewed by the Planning Commission's Technical Advisory Committee. Diane Cibrian said that everything has gone through the Joint Land Use Study process and that it was important to pass this ordinance now so that the military bases would be protected as quickly as possible (because of the development that is occurring).

The Committee directed staff to continue to meet with the stakeholders prior to the City Council meeting of 12/11/08. The public would get their chance to comment at the public meeting and through the rezoning process.

I asked for the definition of stakeholder and was told that it meant the military and Clear Channel and experts such as engineers. I asked that citizen interests also be involved, and Rod Sanchez was directed to meet with us as well.

2. Modification of Chapter 10

The Committee, except for council woman Galvan, voted to:

- a. Modify the role of the Dept. of Planning & Development Services staff. It will administer Chapter 10, the electrical code, without input from the Electrical Supervisory Board in its former role.
- b. Eliminate the current role of the Electrical Supervisory Board, i. e. the Board can no longer overrule staff decisions. Now, if one wants to appeal a staff decision, one must pay an administrative fee of about \$150 to do so, after the fact.

Rod Sanchez recommended that the ordinance not address the makeup of the new Electrical Board. The new draft is a combination of the prior drafts dealing with administration and technology.

I did bring up the idea of the Planning Commission as a review board.

June Kachtik, Chair
Scenic San Antonio