

SIGN CODE BOARD OF APPEALS
Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2008 – 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Kimball, Bowman, Blaufuss, Lane, Lowe, von Tersch
Members absent: Carpenter
Staff present: Guntert, Parker, Miller, Walthall

ITEM NO. 1: MINUTES

There were no past meeting minutes that required approval action.

ITEM NO. 2: COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to come before the Board.

ITEM NO. 3: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH; 1330 KASOLD DRIVE

SV-11-01-08: A request for variances from the provisions of Chapter 5, Article 18 (Signs), of the Code of the City of Lawrence, Kansas, 2008. The first request is to allow a replacement sign to be located closer to a property line than allowed by code. Sections 5-1840.2(D and E) of the Sign Code are the governing regulation concerning the minimum setback requirement in residential zoned districts. The second variance is from the provisions of Section 5-1840.2(B) dealing with lighting standards for signs. The applicant is asking for a variance to be able to use internal lighting in the new sign. Submitted by Luminous Neon for First Baptist Church of Lawrence, the property owner of record.

STAFF PRESENTATION

Mr. Walthall presented the item.

Lane asked Staff if the setback was included with the variance that was granted in 1995.

Mr. Walthall said the variance from 1995 did not include the setback. He said the Bank sign to the south was on a commercially zoned property and there was not a setback requirement for it.

APPLICANT PRESENTATION

Brent Lamb stated Mr. Walthall was great to work with on the project. The church had received a gift to construct the sign. There was a four foot high utility box that obstructed the view of the current sign. He said if the sign would be moved closer to the street it would be seen sooner. Mr. Lamb said the church was also a polling location so it was important for others in the area to be able to recognize where they were located.

Mr. Eskilson said the current sign had been installed at the wrong location. He said the sign was eight feet further back than it needed to be. Mr. Eskilson stated the sign would be internally lit as that would be easier to maintain.

von Tersch asked the applicant if the sign had information about the times of worship services or entrance directions.

Mr. Eskilson stated the sign would only have basic information on it so that the information would not have to be changed. He said the goal of the lighted sign was to announce the presence of a church at this property location.

Mr. Lamb stated less clutter for the sign was more desirable and the specifics did not need to be on the sign.

Mr. Eskilson said by bringing the sign further to the south the church would be associated more with 14th street.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No member of the public spoke on this item.

BOARD DISCUSSION

von Tersch said the internal illumination was a good idea.

Blaufuss said the property was unique. She said if the sign was back further the church would not be noticed.

Bowman said the new sign was smaller than the existing sign.

ACTION TAKEN

Motioned by Kimball seconded by von Tersch, to approve the variances for a five foot set back and internal illumination, based upon the findings of fact in the staff report and expressed by the Board and their discussion.

Motion carried unanimously, 6-0

ADJOURN - 6:50 p.m.