

SUMMARY OF PLANNING BOARD ACTION

Subject: Development Ordinance Text Amendment—Utility Pole Signage Regulations

Meeting Date: October 8, 2002

Recommendation: The Planning Board recommends that the Council amend the Development Ordinance to include in the category of "Signs Exempt from Regulations" a new item. To wit:

"Signs that are no larger than 11"x17", are contained on plain paper, and that are affixed to a utility pole in a manner such that the sign adheres to the surface of the pole and does not extend wider than the diameter of the pole."

The Board also recommends that if the Council exempts such signs from the sign ordinance that they clearly communicate via appropriate media that this does not mean that persons have the right to put signs on utility poles as they are private property.

Vote: 6 - 3

Aye: Julie Coleman, Tim Dempsey, Thatcher Freund, Sally Greene, Suzanne Haff, Ruby Sinreich

Nay: Coleman Day, Nancy Gabriel, Scott Radway

Issues Raised & Explanation of Dissenting Votes:

Dissenting members expressed the following concerns:

- That missing kiosks and perhaps additional new kiosks should be the location for such handbill signs, and that these kiosks should be in place and tested before the ordinance is amended to create a new exempt sign category.
• Signs placed on utility poles are unsightly and detract significantly from the visual quality and character of Chapel Hill
• No changes should be made to the current regulations regarding utility pole signage

Prepared by: Scott Radway, Chair, Chapel Hill Planning Board J.B. Culpepper, Staff