

CITY OF COLUMBUS
PUBLIC HEARING IN INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY MEETING FORMAT
STATUTES SECTION 13D.021
INTERIM USE PERMIT – CLEAR CHANNEL DYNAMIC BILLBOARD – 9500 145TH AVE NE
04-05-2023

The 04-05-2023 Public Hearing to consider a request for an Interim Use Permit (IUP), to allow the conversion of an static off-premises sign (billboard) to a dynamic off-premises sign (billboard) with a 20-year IUP in the Light Industrial (LI) zoning district was called to order by Chair Lynn Carver-Quinn at the City Hall at 6:06 PM. Present were Planning Commission members Barb Bobick, and Bethany Barrette, Citizen Helper Ron Hanegraaf, City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, Council Planning Commission Liaison Janet Hegland, City Planner Dean Johnson, and Associate Planner Frank Koenen.

In attendance via interactive technology were Christine Lind

Also, in attendance in person were Matthew Weiland, Jesse Preiner, Myron Angel, Cindy Angel, Jason Degerstrom, Jay Olson, Kysa Thilgen-Anglin, Bryan Anglin, Sue Wagamon, Rob Busch, Ruth Miles, Glen Miles, Greg Newille, Kelly Jordan and Steve Hursch.

The meeting was held in an interactive technology meeting format.

Carver-Quinn: Okay, number five is the interim use permit for Clear Channel dynamic billboards at 9500 145th Ave Northeast and Frank, do you want to give that report?

Notice was read at this time by the Associate Planner.

Carver-Quinn: All right, okay. So would the applicants Matthew Weiland and Dan Hair please come forward and have a seat at the front table? Will the parties give their name and current addresses for the record, make sure you speak into the microphone so everybody in the room and the people on zoom can hear you.

Weiland: Certainly, good evening Chair and Planning Commission. My name is Matthew Weiland. I'm with Clear Channel Outdoor. We office at 3225 Spring St. Minneapolis, MN 55413.

Carver-Quinn: Okay, and for the record, did you receive a copy of the staff report developed by Associate Planner Frank Koenen dated March 31st, 2023, regarding this application? This report notes certain findings numbering 1 to 22 on page two and three, and it also notes recommendations numbering 1 through 19.

Weiland: Yes, I did receive this.

Carver-Quinn: And do you understand these recommendations and conditions, and do you have any questions or comments at this time?

Weiland: Certainly, I'd just like to take a moment to thank you for the opportunity to speak. Certainly, want to take time to thank your city staff, especially Frank. He's been really good to work with. He was very communicative, certainly up to speed on his recommendations. I think he did a very thorough job and certainly agree with his recommendations.

Carver-Quinn: Okay, speak more into the microphone.

Weiland: Sorry, I wanted to thank your city staff, especially Frank. I think he did a very thorough job. He's been really good to work with and certainly I agree with his recommendations on recommending approval of an interim use permit. We're excited for the opportunity to upgrade one of our billboard structures. Obviously, we have many in your city. We've been here over 20 years. We still have 15 structures. We're just looking at upgrading one. It is where our industry is going. It is our goal to upgrade to this better technology. We do see it as an upgrade, it looks more modern, it does give more flexibility to our advertisers and also allows us to focus on our commitment to community service by providing community messaging to the cities we are in that you'll see in other cities, and it is a condition tonight, but we're happy to provide that kind of public service and community messaging. In addition to what we do in cities we do a lot for Emergency Management and safety. One of the biggest things we do is Amber Alerts. We're one of the fastest ways to get that alert up when someone's been unfortunately abducted, they're in a car, we can get those messages up right away. We also work with local sheriff's departments. We do stuff under emergency weather warnings and stuff with the FBI and a number of nonprofits. So we really are excited about the opportunity. I just put one in last week in Dayton, which was our 75th. So we currently have 75 of these in the Twin City area. The first one went up in 2006. You know, we've proven we can operate them safely. That's our biggest priority and we're excited about the opportunity to do this in Columbus through the interim use permit process. And with that, I'm available for any questions.

Carver-Quinn: Okay, do any of the Committee Planning Commission members have any questions at this time?

Bobick: This is Barb. I just had a question for Frank. We had a question about the ladders on several of the billboards, were you able to get any information regarding that?

Koenen: I know I spoke with Mr. Weiland regarding some potential solutions. I know I presented a few of them that Mr. Weiland expressed to me and I talked to him before the last meeting and there were a few different scenarios. I believe moving the plate up or down on the sign was one option. I know we discussed potentially; I can't remember with the ladder which side it could potentially be on? I know I discussed that, but Mr. Weiland, if you have a little bit more maybe that you can elaborate on, I know we kind of discussed a little bit.

Weiland: Certainly, I appreciate the question. I mean I think the concern is with where the ladders are in front of the city logos?

Bobick: Yes.

Weiland: You know, I can certainly understand that. You know going back in the history of these signs, I mean the signs were designed and built the way they are, most of them are center mount and the ladders are in a place for very specific safety reasons. The way they have to get up the ladder and then transition up to the sign, so the signs were designed that way, that's why the ladders are there. Some of the things we've discussed, we've done in other communities, we've painted the ladders to match the background, so they kind of blend in with the background, that is an option. You know we can talk about moving that plate if we wanted to move them, in some cities we've put them more on the base, we put the city logo kind of on the base at the bottom instead of at the top, is something where we can look. We could potentially look at hanging it in front of the ladder off the catwalk, I think one of your signs when you first come into Columbus is kind of like that. They kind of have the logos hanging down from

the front of the sign, so it's out of the way. So yeah, those, those are things we can look at. Potentially with this specific sign, the one we're looking to upgrade to a dynamic sign I could look at potentially moving the ladder we already have to make structural upgrades in order to add the you know there's a little different weight with the new faces. So we're already having to make some structural engineering analysis. So that's certainly something I can look at with this specific sign we're looking at because we're already going to have to do work to it.

Bobick: Great. Thank you.

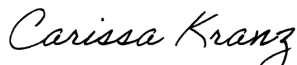
Weiland: Certainly.

Carver-Quinn: Anybody else have any questions? Okay, anyone who has an interest in this application discussion and wants to present testimony as evidence on this issue, please acknowledge themselves by stating their full name and address and step to the table. Nobody? This is the opening of the public hearing, so if you have anything to say on this issue, now is the time. Can anybody on zoom question in? So if there's anybody on the zoom that would like a question. Okay, so we will now close the public hearing and open up the floor for the Planning Commission to discuss or make a motion.

Bobick: Anyone have any questions?

Barrette: I don't.

At this time Chair Carver-Quinn closed the public hearing. Hearing closed at 6:14 PM.



Respectfully submitted: Carissa Kranz, Permit Coordinator