

**CITY OF COLUMBUS**  
**PUBLIC HEARING IN ALTERNATIVE MEETING FORMAT**  
**STATUTES SECTION 13D.021**  
**PIN# 24-32-22-43-0002, OUTFRONT MEDIA LLC,**  
**INTERIM USE PERMIT (PC20-103)**  
**07.15.2020**

The 07.15.2020 Public Hearing to consider a request by the applicant, Outfront Media, for a large off-premises sign in compliance with the amended Chapter 7B of the City Code in the I-35 Corridor located at 24-32-22-43-0002, was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Chair Ron Hanegraaf at the City Hall. Present via telephone were Commission members: Steve Wagamon, and Barb Bobick; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko; City Associate Planner Ben Gutknecht; City Planner Dean Johnson; and Administrative Technician Rochelle Busch. The meeting was held in a telephonic meeting format.

Also, in attendance via telephone were: Mayor Jesse Preiner; City Council members: Janet Hegland, and Shelly Logren; John Bodger, Kendall Friese, Annette Rivard, Tim Vaughn, Craig Lundberg, Liz Otremba, and Josh Pribyl.

The meeting was held in a telephonic meeting format.

**Hanegraaf:** We're going to go on to the agenda number 7, which is a public hearing and discussion. Pin # 24-32-22-43-0002, Vacant Property, Outfront Media LLC, Interim Use Permit application to allow and improve the billboard in the I-35 corridor in compliance with the recently amended 7B of the city code. Pages 30-62, enclosure E1-5. Rochelle, would you like to read the notice as it was published.

Notice was read at this time by the recording secretary.

**Hanegraaf:** Thank you Rochelle. At this time, I would like John Bodger, the applicant of the IUP renewal or their representatives of Outfront Media to acknowledge their presence and state their name and address.

**Bodger:** John Bodger, with Outfront Media, 901 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis 55401.

**Hanegraaf:** Thank you, can we call you John?

**Bodger:** Yes, you can.

**Hanegraaf:** Thank you. Can you hear us pretty clear out there?

**Bodger:** I can hear you just fine.

**Hanegraaf:** Thank you. John, you bring before us a renewal of an IUP for a large off-premise sign, more commonly called a billboard, located on the east side of I35 south of 152<sup>nd</sup> Ave. The City Code has been amended since the initial IUP in February of 2000. For the record, could you

explain the changes your company is presenting to the City to bring your billboard in question up to compliance with City code?

**Bodger:** Well first it's hard to believe that 20 year permit expired, but actually when we got that I thought 'oh I'll never see the end of that one' but here we are, and the only difference of the existing sign is to add a pole cover to it. And then the City of Columbus logo on the actual pole cover. You got drawings of that on E1, E2, and E3 I believe.

**Hanegraaf:** That's correct.

**Bodger:** The pole covers are imitation stone. We got the idea from the MSP airport. Their entry sign into the airport, that says 'Welcome to Minneapolis St. Paul Airport' is that imitation stone mural. And you can't notice it when you are going by at 70 miles an hour that it's not real stone. And it helps with the wind load on the sign structures, weight wise. The older designed signs like this one is the poles flex a little or move in the wind, so it's hard to have actual stone or brick. It won't last forever, with the flexing. We build a frame and set the imitation stone on it, and I think they look good. We just put one on in Vadnais Heights at 694 and Rice Street. And we have one in Blaine at I-35W south of 95<sup>th</sup> ST. So, they're not too far away from Columbus, and they look just fine.

**Hanegraaf:** You know I was looking at the first one here, you have from Anoka County, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, like the fair.

**Bodger:** Yeah.

**Hanegraaf:** Those, that gang plank, is that typical of all yours? It looks like up on top that its off by like 5 feet or something. You know like I go down the road like you say, I may do 75, do you have that on all of them?

**Bodger:** Right. On some of them that's safety for the maintenance crew when they're up on the sign. You know it's on the ends. You usually don't see it. This is almost looking at the back of the sign a little bit. Because that brown area on the right is the other side of the sign facing the other way.

**Hanegraaf:** Okay.

**Bodger:** Yeah, your seeing the back of the 'V' a little bit.

**Hanegraaf:** Okay.

**Bodger:** And that is just to give it a little contrast off the pole cover. We can see a little bit of both sides, if we did this straight on, you wouldn't get the total look we thought.

**Hanegraaf:** Okay, thank you.

**Bodger:** Sure.

**Hanegraaf:** Do you have any questions Kris?

**King:** Um, Kris. John? A question for you is, I noticed that like E-1 shows a 4-foot-wide and E-3 shows 8-foot-wide columns. What are you purposing you're going to use or is it up to us?

**Bodger:** We have various size poles and on this one, it would be a 4 foot.

**King:** And then a 6-foot Columbus sign? This is Kris again.

**Bodger:** Yeah, the Columbus sign on E-2 is the size that we had first proposed, and it's a little wider than the actual pole cover so. I told Ben I would print it up and put it on E-1 just to see if that's okay. The 4-foot-wide sign you know, instead of 4 foot eight of whatever, this one on E-2. We can put that up and down also.

**King:** Okay, that was another question as far as where that would fit in, with putting it up a little higher. We don't want it in the middle. I think as least 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s of the way up or something. Anybody else can kind of voice their opinion on that, but 1/2 way would not work. The other question I have is the metal decking where your men work, women work to put the sign up, is the existing one is the metal all painted and in good condition? Or are you planning on painting that?

**Bodger:** It should all be up to standards. We have it inspected all the time when we have workers up there for OSHA's reviewing our guys. There's safety cables and they have to wear harnesses and fall protection devices.

**King:** And all the railings are in good condition as far as the paint? Nothing is peeling off or...

**Bodger:** Right, and when we go in and put the pole cover on them, they'll have to do a good maintenance and paint everything up as needed.

**King:** Thank you John. I noticed in the packet, we got multiple different finishes. What your planning is the one that was on E-2, that type of stone look?

**Bodger:** Right.

**King:** Okay.

**Bodger:** And I have a sample I can drop by to Ben at City Hall. I mean it's just like paint for a house, you can order any color you want.

**King:** And I think we kind of decided on matching the bridge is kind of what we wanted

**Bodger:** And we can easily do that.

**King:** And then, you are taking down one of your signs?

**Bodger:** Yes, our furthest sign south on 35E

**King:** Okay, I think you have another one that's up next year?

**Bodger:** Is it next year? I don't know the exact date.

**King:** You plan on keeping the rest? I know a few of them aren't up until 2031 but I think that next year you have 1. do you plan on keeping that one up too?

**Bodger:** I hope so, yeah. I send it in to corporate for approval, so. I sure want to keep them.

**King:** well, Thank you John. They do look nice.

**Bodger:** Thank you.

**Hanegraaf:** Pam?

**Wolowski:** Hi John. Pam Wolowski here. Just out of curiosity, the location or the signs in Blaine and Vadnais Heights, do they also have the city label on them?

**Bodger:** yes, it is.

**Wolowski:** And where did they locate them please?

**Bodger:** They are located right under the Outfront name.

**Wolowski:** Okay, so they are the closest to the top.

**Bodger:** Yeah.

**Wolowski:** Okay. And then I had also, we wanted to go natural stone, the closest to the bridge as you could. And then lastly forgive me but I can't quite remember the color of all the walkway up there on the top, is it burgundy at this time? Do you know?

**Bodger:** I don't know. I don't have an actual photo of the sign right now.

**Wolowski:** And is there a rule that it has to stay in the reds? or can it be painted brown or any color you want? Just out of curiosity

**Bodger:** It could be painted any color that you want.

**Wolowski:** We're just really looking for a clean, natural look. So, any kind of, you know, if it does need to be painted, keep that in mind. That would be really appreciated. and then I as well think the Columbus logo should be higher than lower. You know, I believe towards the top. Not right under the Outfront but maybe like 2/3rds like Kris was saying. And that is all I had, sir. I appreciate it.

**Bodger:** Thank you.

**Hanegraaf:** Thank you, Pam. Barb do you have comments or questions?

**Bobick:** Can you hear me? Hello?

**Hanegraaf:** Yes, we can.

**Bobick:** Hi John. this is Barb Bobick. I just had a question on page 48 and 49, you had on those illustrations there's kind of a footing before you put the stone up there. is that something that you could do with this one. I think it's a little more interesting to look at.

**Bodger:** Yeah that could be something we could look into. It depends on what kind of footing is already there that is holding up the sign structure. If it's a wider concrete pad there with the sign we can really add any angle. It depends on how wide the concrete face is on the ground level

**Bobick:** Okay. what do the rest of you guys think of that. did you take a look at 48 and 49? do you have any ideas about that? Well I will let them think about it, but that was the only question I had. Thank you very much.

**Hanegraaf:** Thank you Barb. Steve?

**Wagamon:** Well, you guys pretty well covered it. The only thing that I would say is that I do agree that the sign should go up as high as it can without crowding the sign. 2/3rd of the way up like everybody else said. I think you guys pretty much covered it.

**Hanegraaf:** Okay, thank you Steve. I have a question John. I don't know if it's just the picture that I'm looking at, excuse me. Is Outfront that big, your statement, your name, and Columbus that small?

**Bodger:** No, it isn't. this is just an artist conception of the pole cover. I actually think the Outfront name is over on the left side of the sign I should have put an actual picture of the substructure, but I didn't

**Hanegraaf:** Well once I look at it, I know that you're Outfront is a little smaller, you really got to look. I was just looking at the picture here and it looked like Outfront, not saying you don't want to advertise your name, but it sure makes Columbus, like they wouldn't see it.

**Bodger:** The Columbus sign is bigger, is going to be bigger than the Outfront sign, I know that.

**Hanegraaf:** Okay, well thank you. I'm going to go on here, also for the record John, you received a letter or email of the findings of fact and recommendations written up by our staff member, Ben Gutknecht, dated July 6<sup>th</sup> 2020. This would be pages 60, 61, and 62, of the Planning Commission packet. Do you have any questions or comments regarding these two sections? Do you understand them as a company?

**Bodger:** I reviewed it, but I think Ben did a great job of putting it together and we are okay with it.

**Hanegraaf:** Well thank you, thank you. Alright, I tell you what we are going to do, we're going to open up the floor for the public hearing. But we would like to reserve the right to come back to you if further questions come up. And if you have any comments to make concerning testimony taken from the public John. So, thank you. Okay its time to open up the public hearing for the public. Anyone who has an interest in this matter and wants to present testimony as evidence on this issue please acknowledge themselves by stating their name and address after which you have the floor to speak. Hearing no one, we're going to close the public hearing.

At this time Chair Hanegraaf closed the Public Hearing. Hearing closed at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Rochelle Busch, Recording Secretary