

## Revision of the LG Sign Ordinance Started

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The La Grange General Services Committee, made up of four members of the City Council (Violet Zbranek, Bonnie Busch, Pat Janca and Arnold Romberg) met with Mayor Moerbe, and City Manager Shawn Raborn on Tuesday evening, August 2, to start the process of deciding how the City's ordinance governing the placement and use of signs should be brought up to date. Although the current sign ordinance was adopted as late as 2010, much has changed in sign technology and uses since then. The City Council wants to review the ordinance to make sure that it meets as well as possible the varying needs and desires of all segments of our community.

The main purpose of the recent meeting was to decide on a procedure for carrying out a complete review of signage regulation needs in La Grange, to identify the numerous elements of the community whose opinions need to be taken into account, and to determine at least some of the kinds of information that need to be considered in carrying out this effort.

In addition to the City officials involved, the meeting was attended by about a dozen business owners and citizens who are concerned with this matter.

The meeting was called to order by General Services Committee Chairman Arnold Romberg. Hudson Short (age 5) volunteered to lead the participants in saying the Lord's Prayer, and did it very nicely.

The Committee discussed the schedule of events that will lead to the preparation of a recommended sign ordinance revision to be presented to the City Council. The point was made that this matter is of sufficient importance to all concerned that this process should not be hurried. Two public hearings are planned so that there will be ample opportunity for everyone to consider the alternatives and how the objectives of the entire community can best be met.

The Committee reviewed several lists of relevant questions obtained by the City Manager in researching how other communities handle regulation of signs. These questions have been posted on the City's website (accessed via <http://tinyurl.com/LaGrangeSigns>) so that any interested citizen can read them and be ready to offer comments at a public hearing on the subject.

The latter part of the meeting consisted of general discussion by everyone in attendance, each person expressing his or her concerns. It was emphasized that the views of a wide variety of interested people and organizations need to be understood and taken into proper account.

The meeting ended by Mr. Romberg expressing vigorously his determination that everyone interested should be heard and full weight should be given to their concerns.

The first public hearing has been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 30, at Council Chambers in the La Grange City Hall. People wishing to speak at this hearing will be asked to sign in when they come, and will have the opportunity to speak in the order in which they sign. Each person will be allowed three minutes at the podium. After all who signed in to speak have spoken, there will be a general discussion period. Various aspects of the sign ordinance question will be discussed including: sign size and location; lighting including LEDs, brightness and color; changing sign messages; limitation of sign capabilities; regulation of existing signs; and special regulation of signs in the historic district.