

**CITY OF RICHARDSON  
SIGN CONTROL BOARD MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 14, 2016**

Mr. Petty called a regular meeting of the Sign Control Board to order at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 14, 2016, at the Civic Center Council Chamber, 411 W. Arapaho Road, Richardson, Texas.

MEMBERS PRESENT: CHARLES WARNER, MEMBER  
MUHAMMAD Z. IKRAM, MEMBER  
ALICIA MARSHALL, MEMBER  
SCOTT PETTY, ALTERNATE

MEMBERS ABSENT: DORTHY MCKEARIN, CHAIR  
CHIP IZARD, VICE CHAIR  
SEBRENA BOHNSACK, ALTERNATE

CITY STAFF PRESENT: STEPHANIE JACKSON, BUILDING INSPECTION MGR.  
STEPHEN PAPANIA, BUILDING INSPECTOR

Mr. Petty stated there is a quorum present.

Mr. Warner made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Marshall and it carried unanimously.

SCB CASE #16-07 TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RICHARDSON FOR A VARIANCE TO THE CITY OF RICHARDSON CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE III, SECTION 18-96(18)(B)(1) TO ALLOW FOR A 80 SQ.FT. MONUMENT SIGN WITH A DIGITAL DISPLAY IN AN OFFICE ZONED DISTRICT ON THE PROPERTY AT 1001 N CENTRAL EXPY.; AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

Mr. Petty opened the Public Hearing and Ms. Jackson introduced the request of First Baptist Church of Richardson for a variance to the City of Richardson Code of Ordinances, Chapter 18, Article III, Section 18-96(18)(B)(1) to allow for a 80 sq.ft. monument sign with a digital display in an office zoned district on the property at 1001 N Central Expy.; A power point presentation was shown for review.

Mr. Petty asked if a representative of First Baptist Church of Richardson was present.

Mr. Ray Guy, 3613 Euclid Ave, Dallas, TX 75205, the representative of First Baptist Church of Richardson stated that he serves on the church's Master Site Plan Task Force which outlines a long term construction plan for the campus and he is also the Chair of the church's Building Committee.

Mr. Guy stated that church has spent over ten million dollars on their first phase of reconstruction to church facilities. Mr. Guy stated the original buildings were designed over 40 years ago and were in need of an upgrade to provide a more expansive gathering space for members and to appear more welcoming to the community. Mr. Guy stated that improvements have included an expansive new lobby with a thirty foot tall glass exterior wall, new lighting around the campus, and a newly renovated worship center with an added fire suppression system, individual seating, efficient LED lighting, and an improved sound system. Mr. Guy stated that he thought the church's recent improvements are significant given that most of the exciting new construction is on the east side of Richardson.

Mr. Guy stated that the location of the church at Central Expy and Arapaho is great for access for members coming from several cities, but it is not great for visibility. Mr. Guy stated that Central Expy was not elevated when First Baptist moved to this location in 1986, and the church lost a lot of visibility after it was raised a few years later. Mr. Guy stated that you can only see the top of the church's steeple from Central Expy, and from Arapaho it is not visible until you clear the underpass and look to the right.

Mr. Guy stated the church is requesting the addition of a digital display on both sides of the existing sign that would be approximately 6 foot wide by 4 foot tall. Mr. Guy stated that the digital display would comply with City regulations regarding the timing of the change of message and have an automated timer to limit hours of illumination.

Mr. Ikram asked when the sign was refaced in 2016. Mr. Guy stated that he was not aware of when it took place, but the purpose was to give it a more modern look. Mr. Ikram asked why there was a need to update the sign again. Mr. Guy stated that the current sign is static and the digital display would provide greater visibility and make their facilities more useful by informing the public that there are more events taking place than Sunday services. Mr. Guy stated that the church hosts a number of events throughout the week and a digital display would allow them to inform the community of those events.

Mr. Warner asked if the requested variance has support from the church's management. Mr. Guy stated that there was enthusiastic support for the request.

Mr. Petty stated that the church has an existing variance, and the new request is for an 80 square foot monument sign. Mr. Petty asked if there was a reason why the proposed sign had to be larger. Mr. Guy stated that the static portion of the sign will have to be shrunk down in order to add the digital display and he is not sure if the static portion would be legible. Mr. Guy stated that he would be willing to ask his sign contractor if that would be enough space.

Mr. Ikram asked if the church had considered just utilizing a 40 square foot electronic sign instead of requesting a variance. Mr. Guy stated that they would have to tear down some of the existing sign and it would look odd. Mr. Ikram asked if the digital sign had already been constructed. Mr. Guy stated that they have received bids, but no sign has been made at this time. Mr. Ikram asked what kinds of messages the church would display on the sign. Mr. Guy gave the examples of Christmas worship services, special presentations, programs, and other events where there are special times or other information that would not fit onto a static sign.

Mr. Petty closed the public hearing and asked for questions or comments from the Board.

Mr. Petty stated he understood the reason for the request but his only concern was for setting a precedent by allowing a larger sign. Ms. Marshall stated that she shared Mr. Petty's concern.

Mr. Warner moved to approve SCB Case #16-07. Mr. Ikram seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Ikram moved to adjourn the Hearing. Mr. Warner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

*Chip Izard*  
~~DORTHY MCKEARIN, CHAIR~~

*Chip Izard*