

La Jolla Shores Permit Review Committee – Minutes

Tuesday May 22, 2012

Committee members in attendance: Helen Boyden (chair), Dolores Donovan, Janie Emerson, Tim Lucas, Myrna Naegle, John Schenck. Absent: Phil Merten, Laura DuCharme Conboy.

1. Non-Agenda Public Comment – None

2. Chair Comments

- Zegarra Walls project and Hillel project are expected to be heard in full at the June 7 LJCPA meeting
- Gaxiola has resubmitted-the PM has advised that he will communicate again when the current cycles have been finalized
- Lai residence EOT for 2037 Torrey Pines Road has been received.

3. Northwest YMCA-Information Only

- Project No. None
- Informational Sign
- Location: 8355 Cliffridge Avenue
- Project Manager: None
- Owner’s rep: Aaron Clippinger; 619.579.2229 x200; aaron@isasign.com

Project Description: One (1) LED-illuminated message center for the entrance to the YMCA for the preschool on the grounds. Located in Northwest YMCA Zone of the La Jolla Shores Planned District. See SDMC §1510.0312 Northwest YMCA. Sign is 39.50 square feet in size.

Seeking: Feedback on proposed sign needing ministerial permit (not yet submitted) for which LJSRPC does not make formal recommendations.

Presented by Aaron Clippinger and Sam Wurtzbacher (YMCA executive director)

A set of plans with elevations of the proposed sign was presented to the committee. The sign is monument style, with the Northwest YMCA title and address on the top portion and a scrolling LED- illuminated portion below it to display information. A bottom section provides the YMCA name and street address. The LED lettering is either 6” or 9” high, depending on whether it is a 2- or 3-line message. The LED portion will show informational messages about the preschool program and the health and fitness classes being offered. The sign is to be sited at the northeast section of their property, along Scenic Place, right before it intersects with Cliffridge Avenue. The sign is to be constructed in painted aluminum with painted acrylic lettering and reflective vinyl copy.

Helen Boyden handed the committee and the presenters a printout of the portion of the La Jolla Shores Planned District Ordinance covering the sign regulations for the Northwest YMCA site. This information had been previously emailed to the YMCA representative.

Committee discussion

The LJS PDO is clear on the types of signs that are permitted for the Northwest YMCA site. In particular, no “animated signs” are permitted:

(2) Animated signs, including but not limited to those signs which rotate, move, flash, reflect, blink, or effect changes in hue or intensity of illumination are prohibited. Pennants, banners, streamers, and signs, any parts of which may be set in motion by the movement of the atmosphere, are also prohibited. Neon signs are prohibited.

The committee had a major concern with the scrolling LED portion of the sign. Not only is it not permitted by the LJS PDO, it would be visible to the houses across the street and would not make for good neighborhood relations with the YMCA.

An explanation was given to the presenters regarding how the LJS PDO fits into the Municipal Code and how specific regulations in the PDO override any general city wide regulations. It was pointed out that the elementary school across the way had an illuminated LED sign, but the city schools have their own regulations and are not regulated by the LJS PDO. Their signage would not be permitted by the PDO if it was private property.

After the discussion the presenters said that they wanted to conform to the LJS PDO and be a good neighbor, so said that the design would be changed to not have any LED displays or animation.

A second area of concern of the committee was of the sign materials themselves. In the LJS PDO regulations pertaining to the YMCA, it specifically states for the sign construction: *“The use of natural materials especially wood, is encouraged.”* The committee did like the monument style for the sign, but felt that natural materials such as stone and wood would be a better fit with the community. Lighting of the sign would be permitted according to LJS PDO standards.

The applicant said that the City had asked for community input on the proposed sign. It was suggested that a written request might be brought from the City.

Public comment

Dan Allen: As a historical background, the recreation fields next to the YMCA were built in late 1950s by the Optimist Club through fund raising efforts. The YMCA was built later in the mid 1960s.

Committee action

This was an informational item only; no vote or action was taken.