
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

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PLANNING COMMISSION

To: City Council
From: Daniel Hubbell, Planning Commission Chair
Date: August 13, 2021
RE: ZTR19-003 Sign Code Amendment

On behalf of the Planning Commission, I am pleased to present our recommendation on ZTR19-003, the sign code amendment.

City staff proposed this code amendment as a part of the annual docket submittal process in the fall of 2020, and the City Council later added it to the final docket. The Planning Commission resumed work on this amendment this spring, after it was first started in 2019 and then paused in early 2020 due to the Pandemic. The proposed code amendment updates MICC 19.06.020, 19.11.140 and 19.12.080 revising the code sections related to temporary signs, signs in Town Center and signs outside Town Center, respectively.

This matter came before the City of Mercer Island Planning Commission on June 16, 2021 and on July 28, 2021 for an open record public hearing. No public comment was received related to this amendment. The Planning Commission considered the staff reports dated May 13, June 9 and July 18 as well as the decision criteria for code amendments found in MICC 19.15.250(D) in making its recommendation.

After considerable deliberation and strategic revisions, the Commission approved the draft code amendment unanimously and recommends that the City Council approve ZTR19-003 as drafted.

Additionally, the Commission wanted to bring the City Council's attention one unresolved issue for further consideration. MICC 19.11.140(B)(12) gives the Design Commission discretion to waive any of the provisions relating to town center signs, with only the most basic criteria to guide their decision. Some members of the Planning Commission felt this provision provided too broad of authority to the Design Commission and suggestions were made to either delete this provision altogether, or to amend it to add specific criteria that must be met if any provisions were to be waived. That said, other commissioners believed the intent of the Planning Commission and the City Council at the time this code was adopted was to allow for this discretion to provide flexibility for design solutions that might be a benefit to the community even though they fell outside the limits of the regulations. These commissioners felt strongly that the discretion should remain. The commission felt that this issue was outside their scope of work for this code amendment and did not

recommend any revisions. However, the Commission wanted to raise the issue for further consideration by the City Council.



Aug 13, 2021

Daniel Hubbell
Planning Commission Chair
City of Mercer Island

Date