
**VILLAGE OF SUGAR GROVE
BOARD REPORT**

TO: VILLAGE PRESIDENT & BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FROM: WALTER MAGDZIARZ, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION: UPDATE COMMERCIAL OUTDOOR ILLUMINATION REQUIREMENTS
AGENDA: JUNE 20, 2017 REGULAR MEETING
DATE: JUNE 16, 2017

ISSUE

Shall the Village Board discuss updating the Village's commercial outdoor illumination regulations.

DISCUSSION

As the Village Board may recall, several commercial developments have sought approval of architectural outdoor illumination on their properties. The two most recent included requests to install up-lighting, meaning the illumination would be directed upward against a wall, column, other architectural feature, or landscaping.

The Village outdoor illumination requirements found in the Zoning Ordinance, generally, apply dark sky or night sky regulations for conventional downward directed light sources but are mum on the issue of illumination directed towards the sky. This would seemingly be at odds with the dark sky objective.

The dark sky approach to nighttime outdoor illumination is intended to accomplish one objective: make the stars visible again—or still—in urban, or not so urban, areas. The regulations achieve this by permitting outdoor illumination that illuminates the task at hand with a minimal amount of illumination to prevent unwanted reflection into the atmosphere. Dark sky regulations also have been shown to benefit flora and fauna.

Additionally, the rapidly changing technology of outdoor illumination is producing new opportunities for illumination and many of our concepts of outdoor illumination may need to be re-thought. For example, the Village Code relies on watts and foot candles as the units of measure for brightness and illumination but the rapid advances in LED technology now require Kelvins as units of measure and there are significant differences between them. That is, a 300-watt lamp may be more undesirable than a 3000 Kelvin LED light array.

We expect more and more commercial landowners in the Village will be converting their incandescent light fixtures to LED technology. Additionally, Com Ed is making available incentives to commercial property owners to convert their light fixtures to LED or other

technologies that are less energy intensive to operate. We think it would be good practice to be ahead of the curve in this instance.

Village staff has conducted a fair amount of research into this matter since several recent commercial developments have included LED illumination in their plans, which were approved as part of the PUD process. If this is a technology the Village wishes to embrace it would be prudent to acknowledge it in our Zoning regulations. The Building Code already addresses the use of LED illumination.

COST

There is no cost to the Village in discussing this topic.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Village Board provide Village staff with input and direction with respect to architectural illumination and LED standards for consideration at a future Board meeting