



OUTDOOR LIGHTING STANDARDS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

MEETING HELD AT CITY HALL
January 26, 2011
7:00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ralph Mossman (conduction), Tim Black, Tony Goe, August Grigsby, Greer Jones and Carl Jordan.

OTHERS PRESENT: Doug Self, Driggs Planning and Zoning Administrator; Angie Rutherford, Teton County Idaho Planner.

1) Introductions

Members introduced themselves and described relevant background. Carl Jordan discussed the history of the draft ordinance that was provided to the committee members. Carl discussed additions that are specific to Teton Valley, such as snow reflection.

2) Election of Chairperson

Carl Jordan nominated Ralph Mossman as Chairperson. Tim Black seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

3) Committee Objectives / Work Plan

Angie Rutherford discussed the county's recently adopted lighting ordinance and the process for that adoption. Angie stated that the basic elements were to not allow light trespass or uplighting, but the regulations to accomplish this are not so straightforward and the resulting ordinance was not very intelligible. Angie stated that there is a booklet being developed that will be at a more basic level to tell residents what fixtures are allowed. Angie recommended that if possible, county and city regulations should be the same or close to it.

Ralph Mossman stated that someone from the Sheriff's office was supposed to be available to sit on the committee, and that he will follow up with the Sheriff.

Tony Goe stated that some of his concerns were the impacts on security, safety and the economy.

August stated that she wanted to hear about recommendations on such issues from the IESNA. August requested that the county ordinance be supplied to the committee. Ralph stated that he would send a link to the county's code.

Angie Rutherford stressed the importance of using language that is clear and understandable to the average resident.

Carl Jordan reviewed the purposes behind lighting regulations and what they address:

A – Glare – interferes with your ability to see. The cornea is always adjusting to the brightest source of light and can only resolve lighting levels on a ratio of 1:10 (the contrasting light cannot be more than 10 times or the eye will not be able to see objects in and adjacent darker area).

B – Waste of Electricity

C – Light trespass – is private property issue and people should have the choice of light and dark environments, but difficult to contain, like air pollution.

D – Health - natural cycles of light and dark are being discovered as an important factor in disease (cancer) and well being.

E – Sky Glow – protection of dark skies is a possible resource as an attractor of recreation-oriented community growth.

Carl stated that good lighting needs to be focused downward where it is needed, but not into somebody's eyes or other trespass, and not reflected upward.

Carl stated that the ITD streetlights at Little are horizontally cut-off, and the ones to the North have a drop lens, which are harder to see under because of the glare.

Carl discussed the function of two cell types in the eyes: rods, which are important for seeing detail in the dark and for peripheral vision, and cones, which see color and detail. Carl stated that there is a 'time of adjustment' – as long as 45 minutes - for the rods. Carl stated that the cones are more sensitive in the green light and the rods are more sensitive in the blue light, and that part of the argument about using a whiter (bluer) light is that the rods can be used, but the rods are only activated in lower light, and so overly lit white spaces can be harder to see – particularly in the periphery.

Carl stated that there have been many studies into lighting as a deterrent to crime in the US, and none have found an association between lighting and vandalism. Carl suggested that essentially, the presence of lights does not make it safer.

Carl stated that several school campuses in the Georgia area have started prohibiting light at night in order to deter crime – vandals and loiterers need light.

Tony Goe stated that he would like to see that study. August agreed that such studies would be useful to see. Carl added that light creates shadows and that the brighter the light, the darker the shadows.

Ralph suggested the committee go on the tour. The committee left city hall for a walking tour of downtown lighting examples.

4) Lighting Tour

The Committee made the following observations on lighting applications in downtown Driggs:

- KeyBank:
 - Wall sconces = 4-9 foot candles(fc); reflection = 0.7fc

- Under ATM = 40fc
- Parking Lot Pole Light = 9.5fc; reflection = 5.5fc
- Habitat – good sign lighting
- Little Ave Streetlights:
 - 85 watt induction: 0.15-0.2fc
 - 150 watt HPS: 0.4-0.7fc; reflection = 0.4fc
- O'Rourke's – strings of lights – should these be regulated and allowed only during holiday season?
- Jackson Hole Real Estate – nonconforming lights – shining out into roadway
- Milk Creek – excellent downcast fixture = 5.25fc
- Broulim's parking lot light (double head) = 10fc; reflection 5fc
- Family Dollar sign – too much white on sign face; should be restricted unless critical to logo (as in this case)
- USBank – silo uplight does not conform with downcast lighting requirement
- Wells Fargo –
 - light strings – same comment as O'Rourke's
 - sign has uplighting and lights are shining mostly into the snow, with 18fc reflection
 - pole lights = 2.3fc
 - bollards = 12fc reflecting off snow
 - ATM = 33fc
 - Drive-thru canopy = 10fc-13fc; 1.2fc reflection
 - Covered walkway = 5.5fc-10.5fc
- Post Office – observed how dark shadows with no detail were present when not obstructing the glare of the wall pack light, and then how details in shadow were observable when the wall pack light was shielded with a hand.

After returning to the Conference Room, Tim Black moved to adjourn the meeting. Carl Jordan seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.