

Zoning Committee Report For 5/11/10

1. The Ecology Café – The Café, located in the Academy Of Natural Sciences, obtained a variance from the ZBA to continue to operate the Café, with the help of our Letter of Support, with the proviso of no alcohol and no take out (which they did not want to do anyhow). They are grateful for our support.
2. 19th & Spring Garden – The subcommittee dealing with the eight Section 6 sticker permit parking spaces issue has been expanded since our last board meeting to consider the issue area wide North of Vine Street. The expanded subcommittee will be meeting internally soon to resolve both the 19th & Spring Garden and larger area wide parking issues. Thanks to Rosie Adams, Jovida Hill and the Perrys for their input on the expanded issue.
3. Clementine Montessori – 3rd Floor, Parish Hall, St. Clements Church, 2013 Appletree Street – The developer has agreed to meet with the near neighbors and discuss the project on site and then subsequently present to LSNA's board. The near neighbor area will probably include at least Appletree, Cherry, Woodstock, Lambert, 20th and 21st Streets. We are in the process of dividing up the flyering responsibilities for this and then scheduling the presentation to the near neighbors.
4. New Family Court Building on 15th between Arch and Cherry – We have met with Councilman Clarke and the head of City Planning, Al Greenberger, about our concerns. We have also begun drafting a Neighborhood Development Agreement for this project. Tonight (5/6/10) at 5:30, Councilman Clarke at our request will meet with the residents of Mole Street on Mole Street to listen to and address their concerns.
5. Old Family Court Building on the Parkway – We have heard rumors that the City may be putting out an RFP for this site in the not too distant future. We intend to have input into the development process for this important location.
6. Mormon Temple at 18th and Vine – Partly in response to concerns expressed at the presentation the Mormons made to us at our board meeting in March, their counsel has drafted an ordinance (attached) which Councilman Clarke will introduce in council on May 12th. Essentially the ordinance would permit a variance from the 125' height limitation but only for that location and only for unoccupied spires. While this is probably a good way to differentiate the variance for this site from other sites still subject to the 125' limitation, it does not contain a height limit. I intend to testify essentially in support of this ordinance, except that I will request an amendment so that any spires will be limited to 209' or no taller than the high point of the Cathedral Basilica SS Peter and Paul, which is 209'.
7. Billboards, Wall Wraps & Digital Signs – Councilman DiCicco has introduced a bill which, although aimed at Market Street between 7th and 13th Streets, could well affect what is

permissible in our neighborhood and throughout the City, in a strikingly adverse way (flyer attached). This legislation also comes up for hearing on May 12th at 11:00 AM. We should discuss what position we wish to take on this bill and if we decide to oppose it, make plans to testify on this matter.

8. 2200 Arch Street – The Arch Street Gourmet would like to have 4 outside tables along Arch Street for the summer months. The developer and the condo association are very much in support of this and will make a brief presentation Tuesday evening to the board. We have met with them and the other near neighbors and agreed upon the essential details, including the policing of trash, etc. They will probably require a permit from L&I and it will also be necessary to amend or have an addendum to our Neighborhood Development Agreement to do this. The latter should not be a problem.
9. Murano Fine Wine Store – Gene Schwartz, the President of the condo association of the Murano has approached Babette Josephs to see if the Murano could get permission to open a fine wine store in the Murano. Josephs wants to make sure there is no serious objection from us before proceeding. Schwartz will make a brief presentation to us about this on Tuesday.

Ed Panek, Zoning Chair, 5/6/10



City of Philadelphia

City Council
Chief Clerk's Office
402 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

BILL NO. 100253

Introduced April 15, 2010

Councilmember Clarke

**Referred to the
Committee on Rules**

AN ORDINANCE

Amending Title 14 of The Philadelphia Code, relating to "Zoning and Planning," by amending Chapter 14-1600, entitled "Miscellaneous," by amending Section 14-1611, entitled "Benjamin Franklin Parkway Controls," by exempting certain building features from being considered as part of the height of a building within a specified area subject to the Benjamin Franklin Parkway Controls, under certain terms and conditions.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 14-1600 of The Philadelphia Code, relating to "Miscellaneous," is hereby amended to read as follows:

TITLE 14. ZONING AND PLANNING.

* * *

CHAPTER 14-1600. MISCELLANEOUS.

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§14-1611. Benjamin Franklin Parkway Controls.

* * *

City of Philadelphia

BILL NO. 100253 continued

(3) Special Height Control District.

(a) No building within the following boundaries shall exceed one hundred twenty-five (125) feet in height:

(1) The area bounded by the Schuylkill River, John F. Kennedy Boulevard, North 23rd Street, Arch Street, North 22nd Street, Walden Street, North 21st Street, Cuthbert Street, North 18th Street, Vine Street, Franklin Town Boulevard, North 17th Street, Brandywine Street, North 21st Street, Fairmount Avenue, North 22nd Street, and Aspen Street, following a line extending from the center line of Aspen Street west to the Schuylkill River;

* * *

(b) The area bounded by Vine Street, 18th Street, the former Wood Street, and Franklin Town Boulevard shall not be subject to the provisions of Section 14-1611(3)(a)(1) above, solely with respect to any monuments, belfries, cupolas, minarets, pinnacles, gables, spires, or ornamental towers not intended for human occupancy which exceed the 125 feet height restriction;

* * *

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately.

Explanation:

Italics indicate new matter added.



Philadelphians Asked to Testify on Billboard Bill 100013

May 12, 2010 - 11:00AM - Room 400

Legislation Allowing Wall Wraps and Digital Signs on Market Street also Strips City's Power to Enforce 1991 Billboard Laws

Billboard prohibition and removal has enhanced revitalization efforts in every corner of the city for 20 years, Bill 100013, deletes language that validates the city's authority to regulate signs. The Bill also intends to allow digital, vinyl and rooftop billboards in Center City, a use strictly prohibited for many decades.

WHAT: Commercial advertising rooftop billboards, digital signs and vinyl wall wraps covering entire walls of structures located on Market Street between 7th and 13th Streets. In order to do this, Councilman DiCicco has deleted critical language from existing outdoor advertising sign laws used by community groups to prevent new billboards from being erected. **Passage of Bill 100013 means you will have no legal protection from billboard companies who want to erect signs in your neighborhood.**

WHERE: Rooftop billboards, towering wall wraps and glaring digital signs all hawking advertising messages for products neither sold nor produced on the building where the sign is placed will be erected along the Market Street corridor leading to Independence Hall.

WHEN: Public Hearing will be held on May 12th at 11:00. City Hall, Room 400.

HOW: Section 14-1602 has protected Philadelphia from billboard saturation since 1991. **The use of brackets []** in Councilman DiCicco's bill means that sections are intended to be deleted. Therefore, the Councilman intends to remove all of the language in both Section 9-602 [(1) a thru (m)], and Section 14-1604 [1(a) thru (m)], eliminating public policy statements that validate the laws.

WHY: Neighborhoods and communities throughout the city will be stripped of their rights to enforce billboard laws in order to benefit select landlords and the billboard industry.

TAKE ACTION:

1. **Attend the Hearing for Bill 100013 on May 12, 2010 at 11:00 AM.**
2. **Plan to Testify.** Contact the Councilman's office (215-686-3458) and get on the list.
3. **Write, Meet and Phone Members** of the Committee on Rules: Councilmembers Greenlee, Reynolds-Brown, Kenney, Verna, Clarke, Miller and DiCicco.
4. **Share your concerns** about billboards and your own great ideas for revitalizing Market Street.
5. **Recruit your friends,** families and co-workers to help spread the word. In 1991 this is what got billboard regulations enacted. It is what we will need now to save these laws.
6. **Call SCRUB** 215 731 1796 or visit webpage www.publicvoiceforpublicspace.org for more details.

SCRUB, the public voice for public space, advances healthy, vibrant and beautiful public spaces throughout all of Philadelphia through the use of advocacy, education, and legal actions.

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FROM SIDEWALK TO SKYLINE.**