



**Agenda**  
**Community Development Committee Regular Meeting**  
**May 7, 2026 | 5:00 PM**

City Hall, 10220 270th Street NW  
Stanwood, WA 98292

Members of the public may attend Stanwood Community Development Committee meetings in-person or via Zoom. The Zoom link is posted on the City's website calendar <https://www.stanwoodwa.org>.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Unfinished Business**
  - a. Percent for Arts Ordinance
- 4. New Business**
  - a. Sign Code Update
  - b. Storefront Improvement Project - 8701 271st NW
- 5. Adjourn**



**CITY OF STANWOOD  
CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

**ITEM NUMBER:** 3a  
**DATE:** May 7, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** Percent for Arts Code Amendment  
**CONTACT PERSON:** Patricia Love, Community Development Director  
**ATTACHMENTS:** 1. Draft Ordinance

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**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this agenda item is for Committee review and comment of the initial draft of the percent for arts ordinance.

**BACKGROUND**

The adopted 2024–2044 Comprehensive Plan includes goals and policies that support the development of arts and culture within the City. One implementation action is to consider the adoption of a “Percent for Art” ordinance.

A Percent for Art program is a widely used program in Washington State and across the Country that applies a small fee on public capital project budgets to fund public art. The funds generated are then used to support a variety of artistic initiatives, including the acquisition and installation of public art and performing arts. These investments help enhance public spaces, foster community identity, and increase access to arts and cultural experiences for residents and visitors.

The Community Development Committee reviewed the project narrative at its April meeting and expressed support for moving forward. The Committee recommended proceeding with the development of a formal ordinance for consideration and potential adoption by the full City Council.

**ANALYSIS**

Adopting a percent for arts ordinance will include three parts: amending the Stanwood Municipal Code (SMC) to establish a commission and fund and adopting resolution that provides the administration of the program as follows:

1. SMC 2.19: Establishing the Stanwood Arts Commission
2. SMC 3.26: Establishing an Arts Fund
3. Resolution 2026-XX: Providing procedures and general administration of the Commission

**Stanwood Arts Commission:**

The proposed ordinance establishes a five- to seven-member Arts Commission to advise and assist the City Council on matters related to arts, culture, and creative placemaking. Consistent with other City commissions and advisory bodies, members would be appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the City Council.

The Commission’s responsibilities are proposed to include the following:

1. Serving as a liaison between the City and the local arts community;
2. Advising the City Council on implementation of the City’s Beautification Program;
3. Providing guidance on arts and cultural activities that support economic vitality, strengthen community identity, and enhance quality of life;
4. Supporting the goals of the City’s Beautification Plan by promoting public art, cultural programming, and aesthetic improvements to public spaces; and
5. Advising the City Council on additional matters as requested.

The Community Development Department would provide staff support to the Commission. Meetings are proposed to occur on a quarterly basis, allowing adequate time for staff to work on Commission initiatives while balancing other departmental responsibilities.

**Items for CDC Consideration**

- What is the appropriate number of members for the Commission (5–7)?
- What term length is most appropriate: two years (similar to the Economic Development Board) or up to six years (similar to the Planning Commission)?

**Percent for Arts Fund:**

The proposed ordinance establishes a Municipal Arts Fund to receive revenues generated through the One Percent for the Arts program, including project fees and donations. Funds may be accumulated over time to support larger-scale art projects or expended as they are received, at the discretion of the City Council.

Monies in the fund may be used for a range of public art-related purposes, including the acquisition and commissioning of artwork, artist selection processes, fabrication and installation, ongoing maintenance and conservation, and program administration. Eligible projects may include permanent installations, temporary or rotating exhibits, and performing arts.

As written, the proposal includes an amount equal to one percent (1%) of the total eligible project cost and a maximum cap of \$75,000 per project.

**Items for CDC Consideration**

- What is the appropriate percentage amount: 1%, 0.50%, and / dollar cap?
- What is the appropriate threshold to exempt projects? \$100,000?

- Should funds be used solely within city limits or include the urban growth area?
- Should the funds be collected on all city capital projects including underground utilities?

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

None at this time. As noted in the April packet; capital projects will be impacted and planned for in advance during the project budgeting process.

### **PROPOSED MOTIONS**

None; Committee Discussion Item

**CITY OF STANWOOD  
WASHINGTON  
ORDINANCE NO. 15XX**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STANWOOD, WASHINGTON, ADOPTING A PERCENT FOR ARTS PROGRAM REQUIRING ADOPTION OF NEW CHAPTER 2.19, ARTS COMMISSION AND NEW CHAPTER 3.26, PERCENT FOR ARTS PROGRAM, AND ESTABLISHING SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the City recognizes that public art enhances the visual character and identity of the Stanwood community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that integrating art into public spaces and development projects promotes civic pride, community engagement, and cultural enrichment for residents and visitors alike; and

**WHEREAS**, public art can support economic vitality by attracting visitors, supporting local artists, and enhancing the overall appeal of commercial and mixed-use areas within the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City desires to incorporate art into public improvements, parks, and streetscapes, in a manner that promotes community values; and

**WHEREAS**, establishing a “Percent for Art” program is a widely used and effective method to provide a stable and predictable funding source for the acquisition, commissioning, installation, and maintenance of public art; and

**WHEREAS**, adoption of a new Chapter 2.26, “Percent for Art Program,” will promote the general welfare, enhance the quality of life, and support cultural development within the City of Stanwood;

**WHEREAS**, all persons desiring to either provide written testimony or speak for or against the ordinance were given the opportunity to do so before the City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council held a public hearing and first reading of the draft code amendment on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026, a second reading on \_\_\_\_\_, and accepted public comment; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Stanwood has authority under RCW 36.70A to adopt plans and regulations related to development and operations within the City of Stanwood; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STANWOOD, WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Arts Commission.** Stanwood Municipal Code Chapter 2.19, Arts Commission is adopted as provided in Exhibit A attached to this ordinance and incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full.

**Section 2. Percent for Arts Fund.** Stanwood Municipal Code Chapter 3.26, Percent for Arts Fund is adopted as provided in Exhibit B attached to this ordinance and incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full.

**Section X.** Citation Corrections. The Codifiers of this ordinance are here by instructed to make any and all appropriate code citation references, cross-references, and formatting adjustments necessary to ensure consistency with the amendments and revisions adopted by this ordinance.

**Section X.** Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

**Section X.** Authority to Make Necessary Corrections. The City Clerk and the codifiers of this Ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this Ordinance including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener’s clerical errors, references, ordinance numbers, section/subsection numbers and any references thereto.

**Section X.** Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect five days after its passage and publication as required by law.

PASSED and APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

CITY OF STANWOOD:

( ) Approve

( ) Veto

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sid Roberts, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Sokolik, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nikki Thompson, City Attorney

Date of Publication:

Effective Date:

## Exhibit A

### Chapter 2.19 ARTS COMMISSION

#### Sections:

- 2.19.010 Creation
- 2.19.020 Membership
- 2.19.030 Appointment
- 2.19.040 Duties and Authority
- 2.19.050 Meetings
- 2.19.060 Rules of Procedure
- 2.19.070 Staffing

#### 2.19.010 Creation

- (1) The City of Stanwood Arts Commission (“Commission”) is created to advise and assist the City Council in the implementation of the Economic Development Element of the City’s Comprehensive Plan as it relates to arts, culture, and creative placemaking.
- (2) The Arts Commission shall serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council with regard to implementing the arts component of the City Beautification Plan.

#### 2.19.020 Membership

The Board consists of five [or seven] voting members who must reside within the boundaries of the Stanwood-Camano School District [or City of Stanwood].

#### 2.19.030 Appointment

- (1) The mayor must appoint members of the commission to two-year terms.
- (2) To ensure term expirations are staggered, the initial terms of members of the commission are as follows:
  - (a) Three [Four] members must be appointed to initial Two-year terms;
  - (b) Two [Three] members must be appointed to initial One-year terms.

#### 2.19.040 Duties and Authority

The Commission has the responsibility to:

- (1) Provide a communication link between the city and the arts community;
- (2) Advise the city council on implementation of the City Beautification work program;
- (3) Advise the city council on arts and cultural activities within the City as a means of enhancing economic vitality, community identity, and quality of life;
- (4) Contribute to the goals of the City's Beautification Plan by encouraging public art, cultural programming, and aesthetic improvements to public spaces;
- (5) Advise the city council on other matters as requested by the city council.

**2.19.050 Meetings**

- (1) The commission must meet at least quarterly.
- (2) The commission may set its own times for meetings.

**2.19.060 Rules of Procedures**

- (1) Commissioners are encouraged to invite community stakeholders to meetings for the purpose of expanding the conversation and understanding of issues before the commission.
- (2) Stakeholders may participate in the meetings but are not eligible to vote on matters before the commission.
- (3) Stakeholders may include, but are not limited to, representatives of the following groups: chambers of commerce, downtown business associations, the Stanwood School District, organizations representing arts and culture, and other community groups

**2.19.070 Staffing**

The city must provide for staffing of the commission in amounts determined reasonable by the mayor.

## Exhibit B

### Chapter 3.26 PERCENT FOR ARTS FUND

#### Sections:

- 3.26.010 Purpose**
- 3.26.020 Definitions**
- 3.26.030 Applicability**
- 3.26.040 Fee**
- 3.26.050 Municipal Art Fund Created**
- 3.26.060 Authorized Expenditures**
- 2.26.070 Approved Art Locations**
- 3.26.080 Arts Commission Responsibilities**
- 3.26.090 Ownership, Maintenance, and Relocation of Public Ar**
- 3.26.100 Acceptance of Donations**

#### **3.26.010 Purpose**

- (1) The purpose of this chapter is to establish a Percent for Art Program to:
- (a) Enhance the aesthetic quality and cultural vitality of the City of Stanwood;
  - (b) Integrate public art into public spaces and development;
  - (c) Support local and regional artists;
  - (d) Provide a stable funding mechanism for the acquisition, installation, and maintenance of public art; and
  - (e) Promote economic development, tourism, and community identity.

#### **3.26.020 Definitions**

“Public Art” means original works of art accessible to the public, including but not limited to sculptures, murals, integrated architectural features, artistic lighting, and performing arts.

“Eligible Project” means any public capital improvement project subject to this chapter.

“Percent for Art Fee” means a fee assessed as a percentage of the projects engineering construction cost estimate [or actual construction cost] for the purpose of funding public art.

“Art Fund” means a dedicated account established by the City for the receipt and expenditure of Percent for Art revenues.

“Administrator” means the Community Development Director or designee responsible for program administration.

### **3.26.030 Applicability**

#### **(1) Public Projects.**

This chapter applies to all City-funded capital improvement projects with a total project cost exceeding one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

#### **(2) Exemptions.**

The following project types, costs, and activities are exempt from the requirements of this chapter:

- (a) Street maintenance; site remediation; property acquisition; building demolition; sales tax; permitting; design, engineering, or consulting fees; and emergency repairs necessary to protect public health, safety, or welfare.
- (b) Routine maintenance or repair activities that do not significantly alter, expand, or improve the function, use, or appearance of a public facility.
- (c) Projects funded entirely by grants, donations, or other funding sources that expressly prohibit the use of funds for public art.
- (d) Projects with a primary purpose of underground infrastructure, including but not limited to water, sewer, stormwater, or similar utility systems, where no above-ground public-facing improvements are included.
- (e) Equipment purchases, including vehicles, furnishings, or non-permanent fixtures.

### **3.26.040 Fee**

- (1) Public Projects. An amount equal to one percent (1%) of the total eligible project cost must be set aside for public art, up to a maximum of \$75,000 per project.
- (2) Alternative Option. Instead of paying the Percent for Art fee, the City may choose to include a public art component within the capital project, with a value equal to the required fee.
- (3) Payment Timing: Fees shall be paid at the time of permit issuance or start of construction if no permit is not required.

### **3.26.050 Municipal Arts Fund Created**

- (1) A special fund, known as the “Municipal Arts Fund,” is hereby established. All funds received by the City through fees or donations associated with the One Percent for the Arts program shall be deposited into this fund.
- (2) Money in the Municipal Arts Fund may be allowed to accumulate for the purpose of supporting larger art projects, or it may be expended as funds are received. The use and timing of expenditures shall be determined by the City Council.

### **3.26.060 Authorized Expenditures**

- (1) The City may use the moneys collected under this program for the following purposes:
  - (a) Acquisition and commissioning of public art;
  - (b) Artist selection processes;
  - (c) Installation and fabrication;
  - (d) Maintenance and conservation; and
  - (e) Program administration.
- (2) Types of art allowed to be funded using this program includes:
  - (a) Permanent. Art that is installed long-term, like sculptures or murals.
  - (b) Performing Arts. Live art such as theater, music, or dance performances.
  - (c) Temporary or Loaned Art. Art that is displayed for a limited time or borrowed from another source as part of an art rotation program.

### **3.26.070 Approved Art Locations**

- (1) Approved art projects shall be installed within the City of Stanwood jurisdictional limits or within its urban growth area along State Route 532, Pioneer Highway, or Old Highway 99 (102nd Avenue).
- (2) Art may be placed outdoors or inside public buildings, as appropriate for the project.

### **3.26.080 Arts Commission Responsibilities**

- (1) The Arts Commission's responsibility is to advise and assist the City Council in the implementation of the Economic Development Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan as it relates to arts, culture, and creative placemaking.
- (2) The Commission shall serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council and may make recommendations regarding policies, programs, partnerships, and funding opportunities that advance arts and cultural development within the City of Stanwood.

### **3.26.090 Ownership, Maintenance, and Relocation of Public Art**

- (1) Maintenance of City-Owned Art. The City shall be responsible for the maintenance, repair, and conservation of all publicly owned artworks installed on City-owned property.
- (2) Maintenance of Loaned or Rotating Art. Maintenance of loaned or rotating artworks shall be the responsibility of the owner or sponsoring party, unless otherwise provided in a written agreement approved by the City. Such agreements must specify maintenance, insurance, and liability responsibilities.
- (3) Ownership of Property. The City retains all ownership rights to the land or city owned buildings on which artwork is installed. Placement of artwork on City property does not convey any ownership interest in the underlying property.

- (4) No Transfer of Artwork Ownership. Installation or display of artwork within the City, including through loan or temporary exhibition, does not constitute a transfer of ownership to the City unless expressly provided by written agreement.
- (5) Removal or Relocation. The City reserves the right to remove, relocate, sell or dispose of any artwork installed on City property in accordance with this chapter and adopted administrative guidelines, and consistent with any applicable agreement.

**3.26.100 Acceptance of Donations**

- (1) The City may accept donations of artwork, funds, or other contributions to support public art, consistent with the provisions of SMC 4.06.
- (2) All proposed donations shall be subject to review and approval by the City in accordance with applicable policies, this chapter, and any adopted administrative guidelines.



**CITY OF STANWOOD  
CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

**ITEM NUMBER:** 4a

**DATE:** May 7, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Sign Code Update

**CONTACT PERSON:** Patricia Love, Community Development Director

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Executive Summary
2. Detailed Sign Code Table
3. Survey Responses
4. Existing Sign Code

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**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this agenda item is for staff to provide an introduction and overview of the sign code update project.

**BACKGROUND**

In continuation of our Municipal Code Update project, work on the Sign Code is starting. On March 31, a virtual and in person open house was held to hear from the public on likes and dislikes regarding the signs in the City. The open house events were not well attended. As an additional effort to obtain public comments, an on-line public survey was issued where nearly 300 responses were received.

Sign codes play an important role in aesthetics of a City. They regulate the size, placement, lighting, and design of signs to ensure that businesses can effectively communicate with the public without creating clutter or hazards. The overall goal of sign codes strike a balance between economic visibility and public interest.

**ANALYSIS**

The City of Stanwood last updated its sign code in 2017 following a U.S. Supreme Court ruling requiring that sign regulations be content-neutral. This means the City may regulate signs based on physical characteristics such as size, height, placement, and design but not on the content.

The purpose of this introductory report is to gather initial feedback from the Council Committees and Planning Commission. Specifically, we are seeking input on what aspects of the current sign code are working well, what is not working, and what may need to be revised while remaining consistent with the legal requirement for content neutrality.

This feedback will help guide the update to the sign code. To support this discussion, the following materials are attached: an executive summary of the current sign code, a detailed summary of sign standards, public survey responses, and a copy of the existing code for reference

To help focus the conversation, consider the following questions:

- What priorities should guide the update process?
- What elements of the current sign code are working well and should be retained?
- What elements of the current sign code are not working well?
- Do the current size, height, and placement standards appropriately balance business visibility with community aesthetics?
- Does the code adequately reflect the character and vision of Stanwood?
- How should the City approach emerging sign technologies (e.g., electronic or digital displays)?

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

None

### **PROPOSED MOTIONS**

None; Committee Discussion Item



# Stanwood Municipal Code

## Existing Sign Code Summary

### SMC 17.110

### ***Overview and Purpose***

Chapter 17.110 of the Stanwood Municipal Code establishes comprehensive regulations governing the design, construction, placement, and maintenance of signs within the city. The code is intended to balance private expression and business identification with broader community interests, including safety, aesthetics, and economic vitality.

The stated purpose includes:

- Allowing businesses and individuals to communicate effectively through signage;
- Preventing visual clutter and over proliferation of signs;
- Protecting public health, safety, and welfare;
- Reducing traffic hazards;
- Supporting community character and property values; and
- Preserving constitutionally protected free speech, including noncommercial messages.

Overall, the chapter functions as both a development standard and a content-neutral regulatory framework consistent with First Amendment considerations.

### ***Content Neutrality***

The code includes explicit provisions to protect First Amendment rights, ensuring that regulations are focused on physical characteristics (size, placement, lighting) rather than message content.

### ***Permitted Signs***

The code establishes standards for a range of sign types, including:

- Freestanding
- Monument signs

- Readerboard
- Wall signs
- Projecting and blade signs
- A-Board and Portable Signs
- Feather Banner
- Marques
- Awning and Canopies
- Street Clocks
- Temporary

## ***Exempt Signs***

Certain sign types are exempt from permitting, though they must still comply with general standards.

- Temporary signs on private property or public property for less than 6 months
- Window signs which do not exceed 50 percent of the total window area
- Historic character of a landmark building or historic district signs
- Public signs regulating vehicular or pedestrian traffic
- Flags not exceeding 40 square feet in area
- Hand-held signs not affixed to the ground and not exceeding 10 square feet
- Memorial or commemorative plaques
- Signs located on baseball field fencing within city parks

## ***Signs allowed in the Right of Way over streets:***

Banners with noncommercial messaging (community events)

## ***Prohibited Signs***

The code identifies sign types that are not allowed, generally due to safety hazards, nuisance potential, or inconsistency with community character.

- *Vehicular Signs and Mobile Trailer Signs*
- *Moving* or rotating parts or visible mechanical movement
- *Flashing Signs*
- *Temporary Banners and Pennants more than 30 days*
- Balloons or inflatables more than 3 days

- *Roof Signs*
- *Billboards and Off-Premises Signs*
- *Permanent Signs on Vacant Lots, Parcels or Easements*

## ***Variances***

When the code restricts the placement of signs or there is no other alternative, a variance may be granted for:

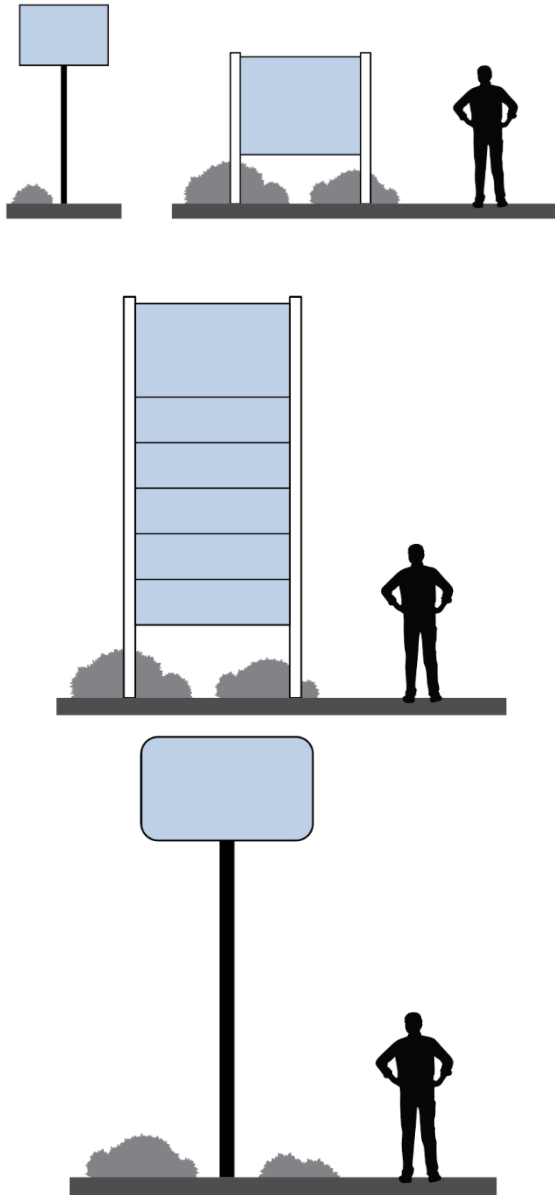
- Setbacks, size (area) and height
- Off-Site Signage
- Roof Signage

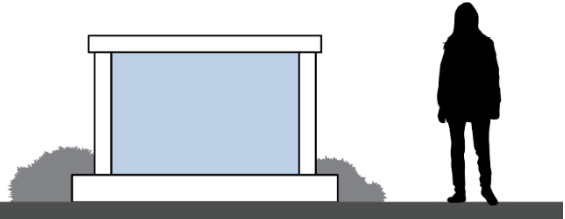
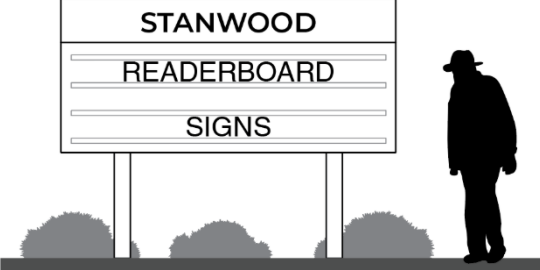

## ***Nonconforming Signs***

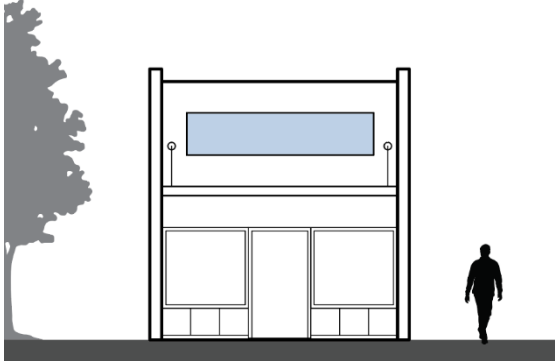
Existing signs that do not meet current standards may continue as legal nonconforming signs as follows:

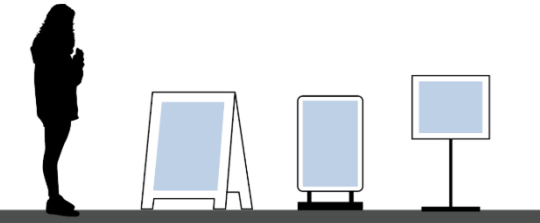
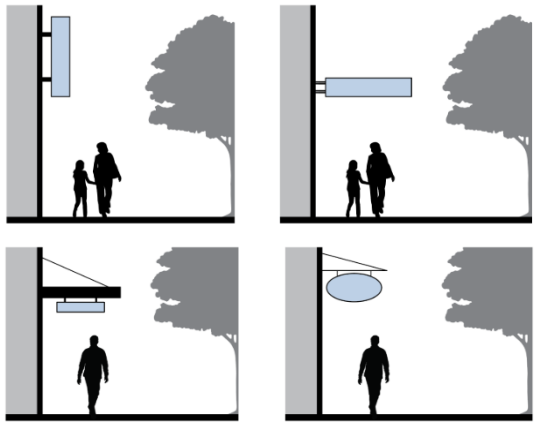
- They may be maintained or repaired;
- Any modification or replacement must bring the sign into compliance with current regulations

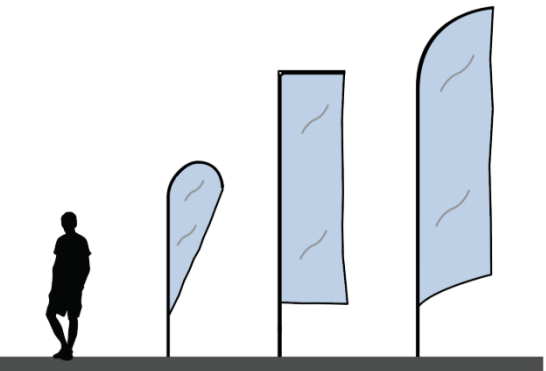
Table XX.XXX. Sign Standards

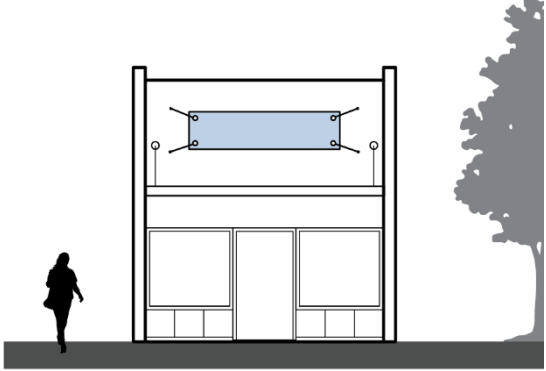
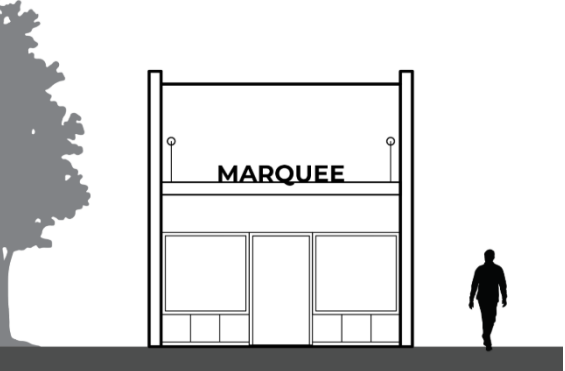
Sign Type	Standards	
<p data-bbox="304 393 624 429"><b>1. Freestanding Signs</b></p> 	<p data-bbox="761 393 916 423"><b>1A. Quantity</b></p> <p data-bbox="761 439 1025 469">One sign per property.</p> <p data-bbox="761 485 1383 516">Two signs on properties with more than one frontage.</p>	<p data-bbox="1718 393 1880 423"><b>1E. Materials</b></p> <p data-bbox="1718 439 2377 469">Durable material, such as concrete blocks, wood, or brick.</p> <p data-bbox="1718 485 2533 516">Other materials as permitted by the community development director.</p>
	<p data-bbox="761 560 854 590"><b>1B. Size</b></p> <p data-bbox="761 606 1445 637">Signs for a single business: 40 square feet (per side) in area.</p> <p data-bbox="761 653 1616 683">Signs advertising more than one business: 85 square feet (per side) in area.</p> <p data-bbox="761 699 1010 729"><b>1C. Maximum Height</b></p> <p data-bbox="761 745 1289 776">Signs along SR 532: 15 feet maximum height*</p> <p data-bbox="761 792 1460 822">Signs on streets other than SR 532: 12 feet maximum height*</p> <p data-bbox="761 838 1662 909">*Above the level of the street upon which the sign faces, or above the adjoining ground level, if such ground level is above the street level.</p>	<p data-bbox="1718 560 1973 590"><b>1F. Ground Clearance</b></p> <p data-bbox="1718 606 2905 677">At least 2 feet of clearance is required between the ground and the bottom of the sign. Up to one half of this open space may be filled with a platform or decorative latticework.</p>
	<p data-bbox="761 957 916 987"><b>1D. Location</b></p> <p data-bbox="761 1003 979 1034">Signs along SR 532:</p> <ul data-bbox="808 1050 1693 1161" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setback 10 feet from the property line</li> <li>• May be raised an additional foot in elevation to a maximum of 20 feet for each additional foot of setback provided</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="761 1177 1165 1207">Signs on streets other than SR 532:</p> <ul data-bbox="808 1223 1693 1334" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setback 10 feet from the property line</li> <li>• May be raised an additional foot in elevation to a maximum of 15 feet for each additional foot of setback provided</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="1718 957 1958 987"><b>1G. Cross Reference</b></p> <p data-bbox="1718 1003 1880 1034">(Placeholder)</p>

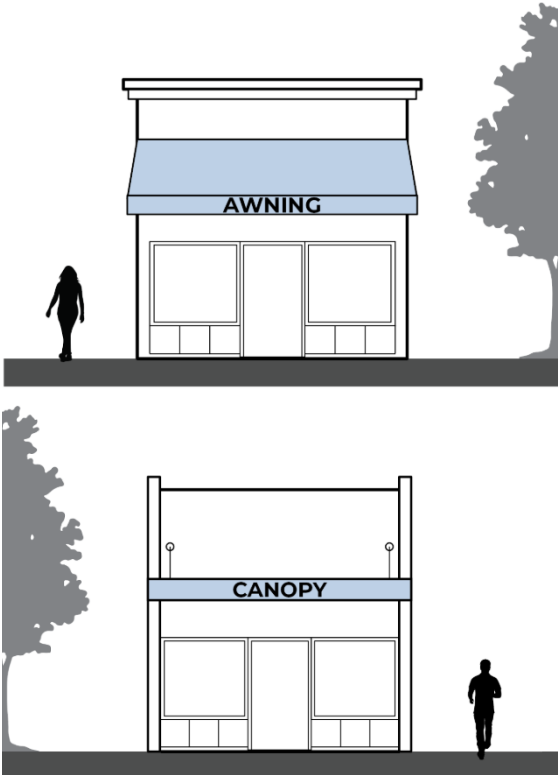
Sign Type	Standards	
<p data-bbox="320 459 612 489"><b>2. Monument Signs</b></p> 	<p data-bbox="764 314 913 338"><b>2A. Quantity</b></p> <p data-bbox="764 364 1376 439">One sign per property. Two signs on properties with more than one frontage.</p>	<p data-bbox="1721 314 1877 338"><b>2E. Materials</b></p> <p data-bbox="1721 364 2526 439">Durable material, such as concrete blocks, wood, or brick. Other materials as permitted by the community development director.</p>
	<p data-bbox="764 485 857 510"><b>2B. Size</b></p> <p data-bbox="764 536 1659 641">40 square feet (per side) in area. 60 square feet (per side) in area with design mitigation (see Design Mitigations column).</p> <p data-bbox="764 667 1006 691"><b>2C. Maximum Height</b></p> <p data-bbox="764 717 1634 792">6 feet, measured from the average ground elevation to the top of the frame. 8 feet, with design mitigation (see Design Mitigations column).</p>	<p data-bbox="1721 485 1982 510"><b>2F. Design Mitigations</b></p> <p data-bbox="1721 536 2495 560">Additional height may be allowed when all of the following are met:</p> <ol data-bbox="1765 586 2893 711" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No internally lit cabinets. Exterior lights okay.</li> <li>2. Architectural frame and base, including design features and/or natural materials such as metal, stone, or trellises.</li> <li>3. A muted color scheme is required.</li> </ol>
	<p data-bbox="764 834 913 858"><b>2D. Location</b></p> <p data-bbox="764 885 1485 959">May not be located closer than three feet from any driveway. Must meet the sight distance requirements of SMC 17.145.130.</p>	<p data-bbox="1721 834 1951 858"><b>2G. Cross Reference</b></p> <p data-bbox="1721 885 2271 909">(Placeholder, will be updated - SMC 17.145.130)</p>
	<p data-bbox="195 1003 736 1034"><b>3. Readerboard and Electronic Signs</b></p>  	<p data-bbox="764 999 913 1024"><b>3A. Quantity</b></p> <p data-bbox="764 1050 1659 1124">One electric sign is allowed per property or group of adjacent properties under common ownership.</p>
<p data-bbox="764 1171 857 1195"><b>3B. Text</b></p> <ul data-bbox="808 1221 1619 1387" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No more than three lines of text</li> <li>• Text must be a minimum of 10 inches in height and in a single color</li> <li>• No images or logos are allowed</li> <li>• Text may only pertain to the business conducted on or within the premises</li> </ul>		<p data-bbox="1721 1171 1902 1195"><b>3D. Sign Design</b></p> <p data-bbox="1721 1221 2822 1326">The electronic portion of a sign cannot comprise more than 75% of the overall sign face. The remaining 25% of the sign face must meet the standards based on its sign type, such as pole-mounted, freestanding, monument, or wall sign, as applicable.</p>
<p data-bbox="764 1413 997 1437">For Electronic Signs:</p> <ul data-bbox="808 1463 1672 1558" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text must fade in and out (not scroll or flash) no more than once per 90 seconds.</li> <li>• Must use a black background</li> </ul>		<p data-bbox="1721 1382 1951 1407"><b>3E. Cross Reference</b></p> <p data-bbox="1721 1433 2728 1457">See Monument, Freestanding, Pole-Mounted, and Wall Sign requirements, as applicable.</p>

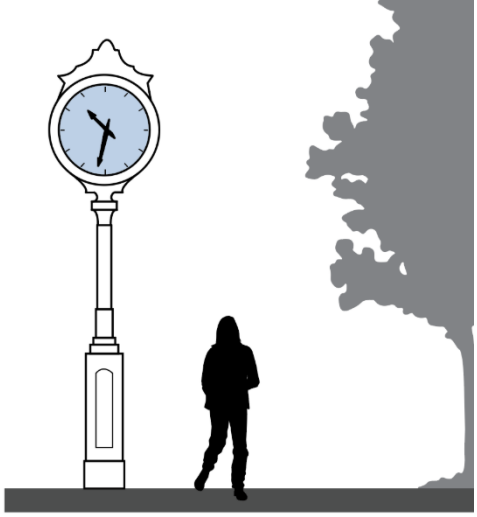
Sign Type	Standards	
<p data-bbox="366 310 562 344"><b>4. Wall Signs</b></p> 	<p data-bbox="761 310 910 336"><b>4A. Location</b></p> <p data-bbox="761 362 1355 389">Must not cover wholly or partially any wall opening.</p> <p data-bbox="761 413 1557 439">Must not project beyond the edges of the wall to which it is attached.</p> <p data-bbox="761 463 1485 489">Must not project more than 16 inches beyond the building line.</p> <p data-bbox="761 514 1681 572">Must be attached to the wall at a height of at least eight and one-half feet above the sidewalk or ground if the sign projects more than six inches from the wall.</p>	<p data-bbox="1718 310 1877 336"><b>4C. Materials</b></p> <p data-bbox="1718 362 2038 389">Must use durable materials.</p> <p data-bbox="1718 413 2853 506">Must be safely and securely attached to the building wall by means of metal anchors, bolts, or expansion screws of not less than three-eighths-inch diameter, embedded into the wall at least five inches.</p>
	<p data-bbox="761 612 851 639"><b>4B. Size</b></p> <p data-bbox="761 663 1034 689">125 square feet in area.</p>	<p data-bbox="1718 612 1954 639"><b>4D. Cross Reference</b></p> <p data-bbox="1718 663 2194 689">SMC 17.112.050(17) Mixed-Use Buildings.</p>

Sign Type	Standards	
<p data-bbox="229 451 702 532"><b>5. "A" Board Signs and Portable Signs</b></p> 	<p data-bbox="764 310 913 338"><b>5A. Quantity</b></p> <p data-bbox="764 360 1619 425">No more than one "A" board or portable sign per 25 linear feet of property frontage is permitted.</p> <p data-bbox="764 447 1690 475">No more than two "A" board or portable signs are permitted for a given business.</p>	<p data-bbox="1721 310 1871 338"><b>5D. Location</b></p> <p data-bbox="1721 360 2784 425">"A" board and portable signs are allowed only as temporary and supplemental advertising for businesses within the city that have permitted permanent signage.</p> <p data-bbox="1721 447 2831 540">The advertisement contained on any "A" board or portable sign shall pertain only to the business conducted on or within the premises on which such sign is erected or maintained. A separate sign permit is required.</p> <p data-bbox="1721 562 2899 626">"A" board and portable signs shall not be located within the paved portion of the vehicular right-of-way or upon traffic islands or crosswalk areas.</p> <p data-bbox="1721 649 2899 713">Any "A" board or portable sign located on a sidewalk must be located to provide a minimum of five feet of clearance on at least one side for wheelchair and walking access.</p> <p data-bbox="1721 735 2349 764">"A" board and portable signs must be removed nightly.</p>
<p data-bbox="229 1151 702 1191"><b>6. Projecting and Blade Signs</b></p> 	<p data-bbox="764 1018 913 1046"><b>6A. Quantity</b></p> <p data-bbox="764 1068 1379 1096">One projecting sign is allowed on each business entry.</p> <p data-bbox="764 1118 1327 1147">One blade sign is allowed on each business entry.</p>	<p data-bbox="1721 1018 1871 1046"><b>6E. Materials</b></p> <p data-bbox="1721 1068 2738 1096">All projecting and blade signs, including frames, braces, and supports, must be two-faced.</p> <p data-bbox="1721 1118 2893 1211">Signs must be designed by a structural engineer when the building official determines that engineering is required to meet wind pressure and dead load standards in SMC 17.110.050(8) and/or building code requirements.</p> <p data-bbox="1721 1233 2871 1298">Illumination must concentrate on the area of the sign and prevent glare upon the street, sidewalk, or adjacent property. No floodlight, spotlight, or gooseneck reflectors are permitted.</p> <p data-bbox="1721 1320 2899 1485">Glass Lettering Requirements. The lettering or advertising designs to be illuminated may be composed of glass. Any glass forming a part of any sign shall be safety glass or plate glass at least one-quarter-inch thick, and in case any single piece or pane of glass has an area exceeding three square feet, it shall be wired glass. One section, not exceeding three square feet in area, constructed of wire glass or safety glass shall be permitted on each side of a sign.</p> <p data-bbox="1721 1507 2899 1572">Movable Parts to Be Secured. Any movable part of a sign such as the cover of a service opening shall be securely fastened by chains or hinges.</p> <p data-bbox="1721 1594 2899 1659">Thickness Limitation. The distance measured between the principal faces of any sign shall not exceed 18 inches.</p> <p data-bbox="1721 1681 2822 1745">Bracing, Anchorage, and Supports. Bracing, anchorage and supports of signs shall conform to the requirements of SMC 17.110.050(8), Wind Pressure and Dead Load Requirements.</p>
<p data-bbox="764 1193 851 1221"><b>6B. Size</b></p> <p data-bbox="764 1243 1581 1272">Horizontal projecting signs shall not exceed 25 square feet on each side.</p> <p data-bbox="764 1294 1550 1322">Vertical projecting signs shall not exceed 50 square feet on each side.</p> <p data-bbox="764 1344 1280 1372">Blade signs shall not exceed four square feet.</p>	<p data-bbox="764 1415 997 1443"><b>6C. Prohibited Signs</b></p> <p data-bbox="764 1465 1672 1530">V-shaped signs consisting of two single-faced signs erected without a roof and a ceiling shall not be permitted.</p>	

Sign Type	Standards	
	<p><b>6D. Location and Ground Clearance</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Projecting signs must be placed at least eight feet above the sidewalk or walkway over which they are extended, and no more than two feet from the face of the wall to which they are attached, measuring from the point of the sign nearest the wall, unless modified by written request as outlined in item 4 below.</li> <li>2. Blade signs must be hung a minimum of eight feet above the sidewalk or walkway with no more than one foot from the soffit or other architectural feature from which they are hung unless modified by written request as outlined in item 4 below.</li> <li>3. Blade and projecting signs must be at least one foot away from the curbline and at least 15 feet above any driveway, alley, or thoroughfare over which it is erected.</li> <li>4. Upon written request, the height clearance requirement for projecting and blade signs over sidewalks or walkways may be reduced by the community development director or designee to 84 inches if all of the following findings are made: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The projecting or blade sign is mounted on a building existing in the historic east and west end areas prior to September 1, 2010, and the building has a rood line, projecting soffit, or eave that is too low to allow clearance of eight feet.</li> <li>b. The reduced clearance is the minimum necessary to allow identification of the business entry.</li> <li>c. The condition of the building, walkway, and landscaping allow reasonable unobstructed clearance that meets minimum Municipal Uniform Traffic Control Device Standards.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>6F. Public Liability Insurance</b></p> <p>Prior to the issuance of a sign permit for a projecting and/or blade sign that extends, hangs and/or projects over city public right-of-way, the applicant shall provide the city with a certificate of public liability insurance. The permittee shall maintain said insurance coverage while the sign is in place and is in use.</p> <p>The public liability insurance shall be written on an occurrence basis, shall name the city as an additional insured, and shall contain a provision prohibiting cancellation of the policy except upon 30 days' prior written notice to the city.</p> <p>The public liability insurance shall have the following minimum insurance limits coverage: \$1,000,000 commercial general liability insurance per occurrence combined with single limits, and \$2,000,000 aggregate.</p> <p><b>6G. Indemnification and Hold Harmless</b></p> <p>Owners of projecting and blade signs that extend, hang and/or project over city public right-of-way shall assume and are responsible for liability for damage resulting from their construction, placement, and/or use. Prior to issuance of a sign permit, the applicant shall execute and deliver to the city, upon a form supplied by the city, a written agreement to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the city and its officers, elected officials, employees and agents from any and all claims, actions, or damages of any persons and/or entities by reason of or related to the construction, placement and/or use of the sign.</p>
<p><b>7. Feather Banner Signs</b></p> 	<p><b>7A. Quantity</b></p> <p>No more than two feather banner signs are permitted for a given business.</p>	<p><b>7C. Location</b></p> <p>Feather banner signs are allowed only as supplemental advertising for businesses within the city that have permitted permanent signage. The advertisement contained on any feather banner sign shall permit only to the business conducted on or within the premises on which such sign is erected or maintained. A separate sign permit is required.</p> <p>Feather banner signs may not be located within the paved portion of the vehicular right-of-way or upon traffic islands or crosswalk areas.</p> <p>Feather banner signs may not be located within 10 feet of a driveway or other access point and not obstruct views from a driveway to ensure safe ingress and egress from the premises.</p> <p>Any feather banner signs may not be located on public sidewalks.</p> <p>Feather banner signs must be removed nightly.</p>
	<p><b>7B. Size</b></p> <p>Feather banner signs shall be securely anchored.</p> <p>Feather banner signs may not be greater than 20 feet in height or exceed 40 square feet.</p>	

Sign Type	Standards	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>8. Banners</b></p> 	<p><b>8A. Size</b></p> <p>Banners shall be three feet high and 20 feet wide and may not exceed 60 square feet.</p>	<p><b>8C. Materials</b></p> <p>Materials should be resistant to ultraviolet rays, mold, and mildew, and have sewn loops or equivalent for attachment.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>9. Marquees</b></p> 	<p><b>8B. Location</b></p> <p>A temporary banner shall hang a minimum of at least 16 feet above the road.</p> <p>Banners shall not be erected more than 14 days in advance of the event, and shall be removed within three days after the termination of the event. Vertical banners on light poles used for city marketing may be exempted from this requirement.</p>	<p><b>8D. Additional Standards</b></p> <p>Banners must meet the minimum standards in SMC 17.110.050, including, but not limited to, wind load standards.</p>
	<p><b>9A. Size</b></p> <p>No marquee shall be wider than the entrance or entrances of the building plus five feet on each side.</p> <p>No marquee shall extend beyond the edge of the façade onto which it is attached. However, where the entrances to a building are not more than 20 feet apart, a marquee may be made a continuous single structure between the entrances.</p>	<p><b>9D. Materials</b></p> <p>Marquees, including the anchors, bolts, supports, rods and braces, shall be designed by a structural engineer and illuminated.</p>
	<p><b>9B. Location</b></p> <p>No portion of a marquee shall be less than eight and one-half feet above the level of the sidewalk or other public thoroughfare over which it is erected.</p> <p>No marquee shall be permitted to extend beyond point three feet inside the curblin.</p> <p><b>9C. Signs Attached to the Marquee</b></p> <p>Signs attached to or hung from a marquee shall be completely within the borderline of the marquee outer edge and shall in no instance be lower than eight and one-half feet above the sidewalk or public thoroughfare. No sign or advertising material shall exceed five feet in height, exclusive of the name of the establishment exhibiting such marquee. No advertising material shall be placed upon the roof of any marquee.</p>	<p><b>9E. Construction</b></p> <p><b>Drainage.</b> Marquee roofs shall be properly guttered and connected by downspouts to a storm sewer so that rainwater will not drip or flow onto public property.</p> <p><b>Roofs – Use and Construction.</b> Marquee roofs shall be used for no other purpose than to form and constitute a roof, and at least 25 percent of the area of the roof of every marquee shall be of glass or other transparent substance.</p> <p><b>Bracing, Anchorage, and Supports.</b> Marquees shall be supported solely by the building to which they are attached, and no columns or posts shall be used as supports.</p> <p><b>Roof Live Load Requirement.</b> Marquee roofs, except the glass area required, shall be designed and constructed to support a live load of not less than 100 pounds per square foot. Marquees shall be designed to meet the wind pressure requirement provided in SMC 17.110.050(8).</p> <p><b>Anchorage to Wood Structure Prohibited.</b> No marquee shall be erected on any building of wood frame construction unless attached to the masonry, concrete, or steel supports of the building.</p>

Sign Type	Standards	
<p data-bbox="273 310 655 344"><b>10. Awnings and Canopies</b></p> 	<p data-bbox="764 310 873 338"><b>10A. Size</b></p> <p data-bbox="764 358 1665 459">No limitation on width of awnings; provided, however, full compliance with the wind pressure and dead load requirements of SMC 17.110.050(8). No canopy shall be permitted to exceed eight feet in width.</p>	<p data-bbox="1721 310 1889 338"><b>10D. Materials</b></p> <p data-bbox="1721 358 2871 419">Awnings and canopies may be constructed of cloth or metal hood; provided, however, that all frames and supports are metal.</p>
	<p data-bbox="764 497 919 526"><b>10B. Location</b></p> <p data-bbox="764 546 1690 606">Awnings. No portion of an awning shall be less than eight and one-half feet above the level of the sidewalk or public thoroughfare over which it is erected.</p> <p data-bbox="764 626 1690 687">Canopies. No portion of a canopy shall be less than eight and one-half feet above the level of the sidewalk or public thoroughfare over which it is erected.</p> <p data-bbox="764 707 1690 768">Setback from Curblines. No awning or canopy shall be permitted to extend beyond a point one foot inside the curblines.</p>	<p data-bbox="1721 497 1920 526"><b>10E. Construction</b></p> <p data-bbox="1721 546 2902 677">Awnings. Must be securely attached to and supported by a building. Posts or columns beyond the building line shall not be permitted for awnings. No awning shall be attached to wood jambs, frames, or other wood members of a building (frame buildings excepted) when such building is less than 10 feet from public property.</p> <p data-bbox="1721 697 2902 798">Canopies. The frameworks of canopies shall be designed by a structural engineer and approved by the building official and in compliance with the building code of the city of Stanwood. All frames and supports shall be of metal and designed to withstand a wind pressure as provided in SMC 17.110.050(8).</p>
<p data-bbox="391 1407 540 1441"><b>11. Clocks</b></p>	<p data-bbox="764 1167 919 1195"><b>11A. Location</b></p> <p data-bbox="764 1215 1690 1376">Clocks Erected on Walls. Clocks supported on the corner of any building or structure at the intersection of any building or structure at the intersection of two streets may not be less than 15 feet or more than 20 feet above the sidewalk and may not project from the face or wall of the building or structure more than five feet.</p> <p data-bbox="764 1397 1690 1558">Clocks Erected on Sidewalk. Clocks erected on the sidewalk must be supported by a post with ornamental design, may not be less than 15 feet tall, may not be more than 20 inches from the outer edge of the curb, and must be at least 20 feet from the point of intersection of the lines of any street, measured parallel with the street.</p>	<p data-bbox="1721 1167 1920 1195"><b>11C. Construction</b></p> <p data-bbox="1721 1215 2840 1276">Regulation of Size of Dial. The dial of such clocks shall be not less than 30 inches, nor more than 40 inches, in diameter.</p> <p data-bbox="1721 1296 2902 1397">Glass Requirements. Any glass forming a part of a clock shall be safety glass or plate glass at least one-quarter-inch thick, and in case any single piece or pane of glass has an area exceeding three square feet, it shall be constructed of wire glass, securely held in place.</p> <p data-bbox="1721 1417 2871 1477">Movable Parts to be Secured. The cover or service openings of street clocks shall be securely fastened by metal hinges.</p> <p data-bbox="1721 1497 2902 1598">Clocks Erected on Walls. Clocks erected on the corner of any building or structure shall comply with the requirements set forth in SMC 17.110.080(3), Wall Signs, or SMC 17.110.080(4), Projecting Signs, whichever is applicable.</p> <p data-bbox="1721 1618 2902 1679">Wind Pressure and Dead Load Requirements. Street clocks, whether erected on exterior walls or on the sidewalk, shall comply with the requirements of SMC 17.110.050(8).</p>

Sign Type	Standards	
	<p><b>11B. Limitation on Permits</b></p> <p>Clocks on Sidewalks. Any person erecting a street clock on any public sidewalk shall obtain the special written permission of the city council in addition to all other permits required by this title.</p> <p>General. No person shall be permitted to erect more than one street clock at any one business location.</p>	<p><b>11D. Must Keep Accurate Time</b></p> <p>Street clocks must keep accurate time and must be properly repaired or removed if this requirement is not complied with.</p>



# Sign Code Survey

*Survey Window: April 2 – April 16, 2026*

**320**

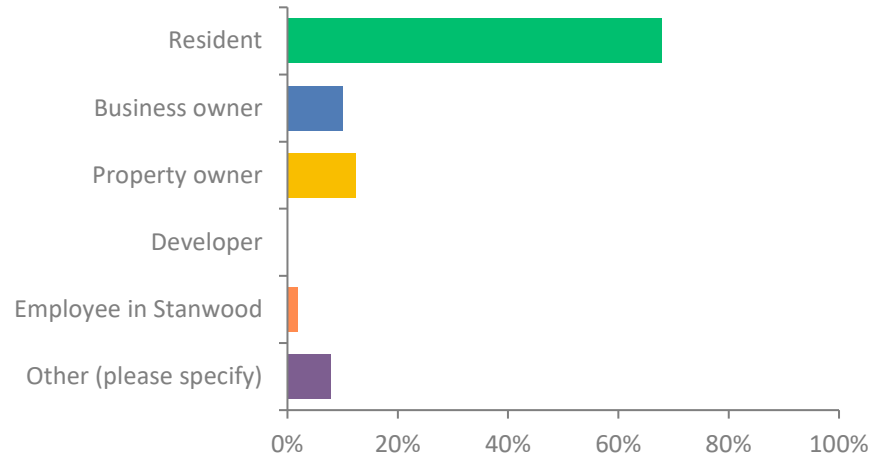
Total Responses



# Q1: What best describes you?

Answered: 320 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Resident	67.81%	217
Business owner	10.00%	32
Property owner	12.50%	40
Developer	0.00%	0
Employee in Stanwood	1.88%	6
Other (please specify)	7.81%	25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>320</b>

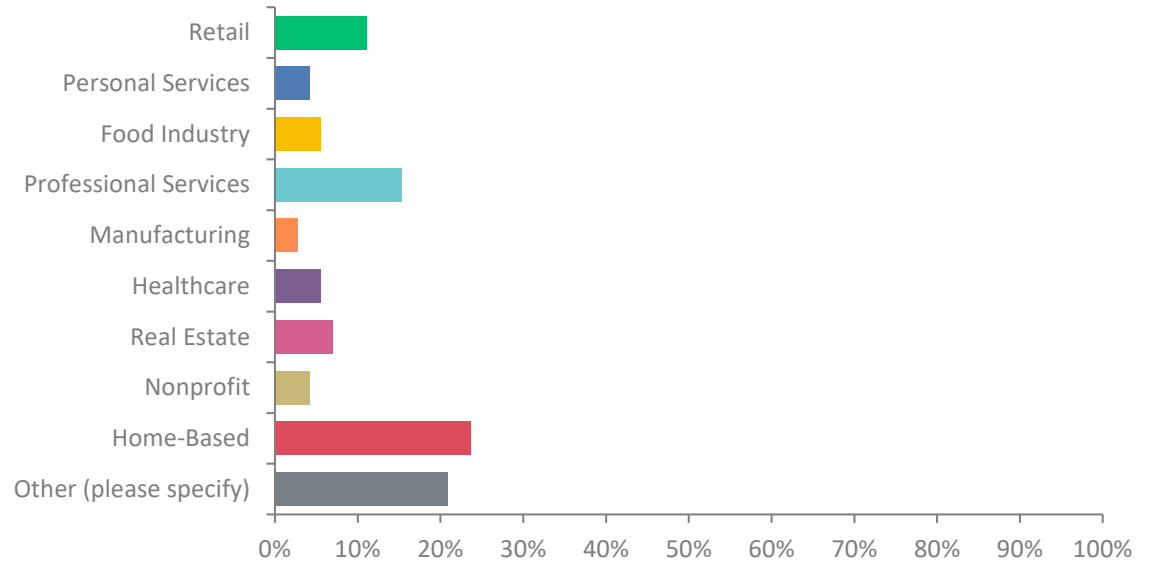




## Q2: If a business owner, what type of business do you operate?

Answered: 72 Skipped: 248

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Retail	11.11% 8
Personal Services	4.17% 3
Food Industry	5.56% 4
Professional Services	15.28% 11
Manufacturing	2.78% 2
Healthcare	5.56% 4
Real Estate	6.94% 5
Nonprofit	4.17% 3
Home-Based	23.61% 17
Other (please specify)	20.83% 15
TOTAL	72

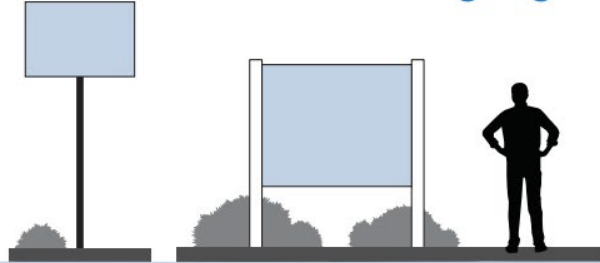


# Q3: Does this type of sign fit Stanwood?

Answered: 310 Skipped: 10

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	72.90%	226
No	27.10%	84
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>310</b>

## Free-Standing Signs

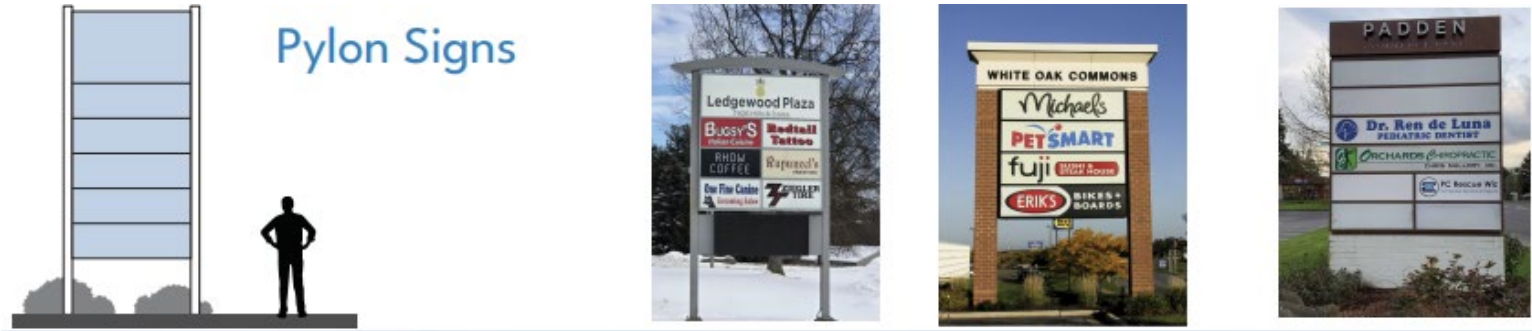




# Q4: Does this type of sign fit Stanwood?

Answered: 316 Skipped: 4

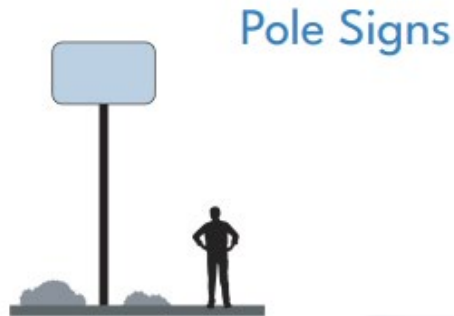
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	45.57%	144
No	54.43%	172
TOTAL		316



# Q5: Does this type of sign fit Stanwood?

Answered: 315 Skipped: 5

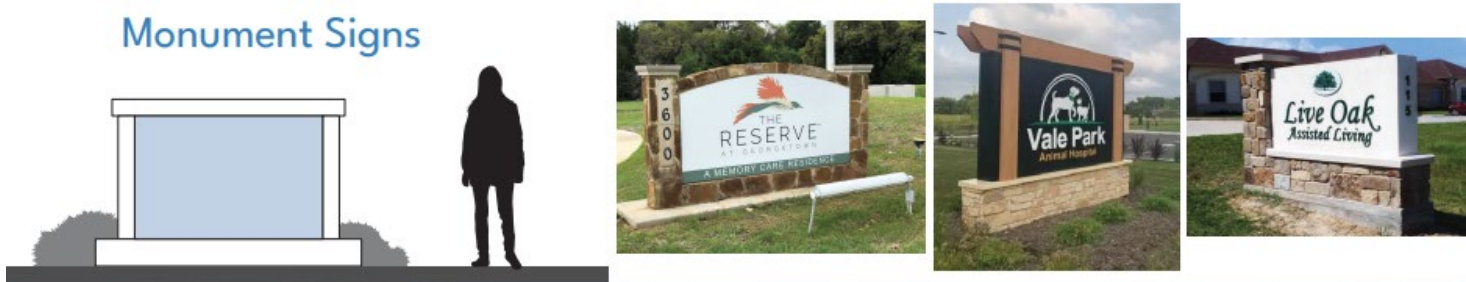
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	20.00%	63
No	80.00%	252
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>315</b>



# Q6: Does this type of sign fit Stanwood?

Answered: 312 Skipped: 8

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	92.63%	289
No	7.37%	23
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>312</b>

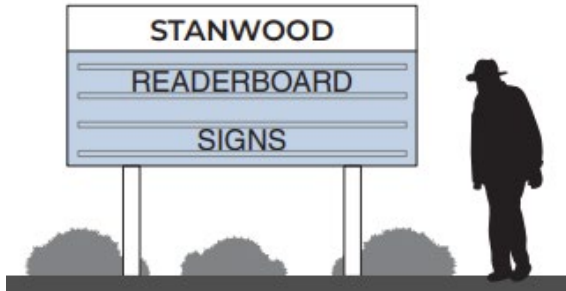




# Q7: Does this type of sign fit Stanwood?

Answered: 317 Skipped: 3

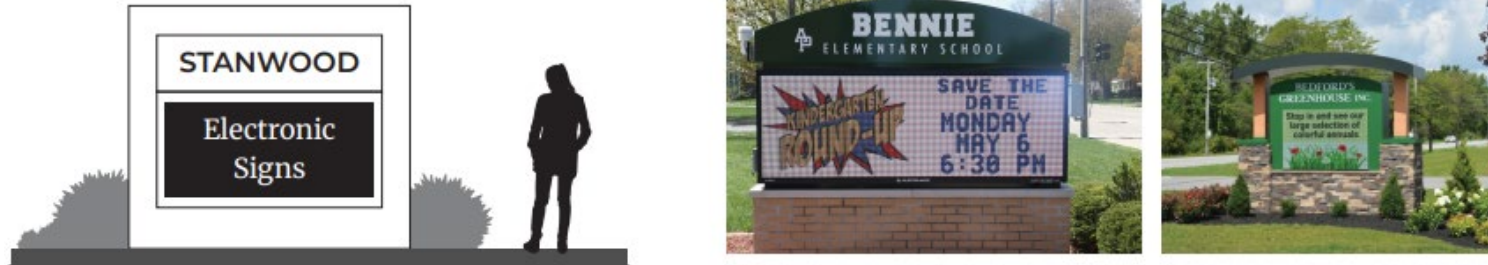
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	60.88%	193
No	39.12%	124
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>317</b>



# Q8: Does this type of sign fit Stanwood?

Answered: 315 Skipped: 5

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	66.03%	208
No	33.97%	107
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>315</b>



# Q9: Does this type of sign fit Stanwood?

Answered: 316 Skipped: 4

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.19%	285
No	9.81%	31
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>316</b>



# Q10: Does this type of sign fit Stanwood?

Answered: 319 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	62.38%	199
No	37.62%	120
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>319</b>

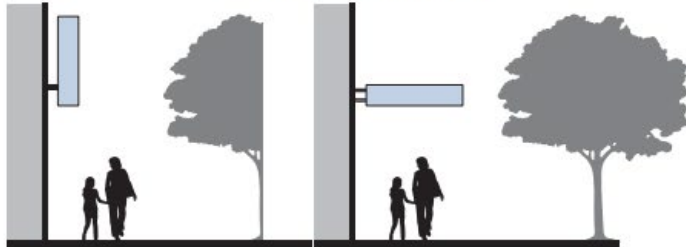


# Q11: Does this type of sign fit Stanwood?

Answered: 314 Skipped: 6

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	65.61%	206
No	34.39%	108
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>314</b>

## Projecting Signs



# Q12: Does this type of sign fit Stanwood?

Answered: 317 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	93.06%	295
No	6.94%	22
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>317</b>



# Q13: Does this type of sign fit Stanwood?

Answered: 312 Skipped: 8

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	88.14%	275
No	11.86%	37
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>312</b>



# Q14: Does this type of sign fit Stanwood?

Answered: 312 Skipped: 8

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	37.82%	118
No	62.18%	194
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>312</b>



# Q15: Does this type of sign fit Stanwood?

Answered: 317 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	27.13%	86
No	72.87%	231
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>317</b>

## Feather Banner Signs



# Q16: Does this type of sign fit Stanwood?

Answered: 314 Skipped: 6

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	52.55%	165
No	47.45%	149
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>314</b>



# Q17: Does this type of sign fit Stanwood?

Answered: 318 Skipped: 2

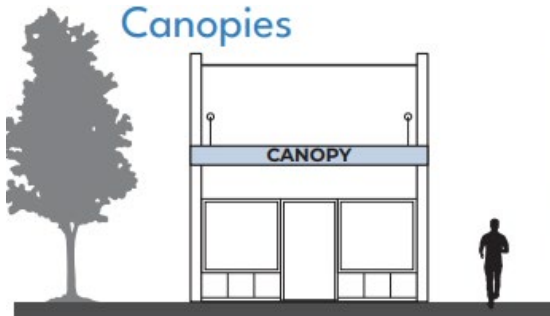
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	87.74%	279
No	12.26%	39
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>318</b>



# Q18: Does this type of sign fit Stanwood?

Answered: 317 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	74.76%	237
No	25.24%	80
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>317</b>



## Q19: What types of signs do you use and how do you use them?

Answered: 56 Responses

### What responses say (ai summary provided by Survey Monkey)

Responses show a wide range of sign types in use, with many mentioning business signs, A-frames, monument signs, and banners for visibility and advertising. Some respondents note restrictions or challenges with local sign regulations, especially regarding lighting and size. A few express concerns about sign clutter or the impact of large or political signs. Overall, feedback is neutral, with most focusing on practical use and visibility, while a minority highlight regulatory frustrations or aesthetic concerns. The variety reflects diverse needs and perspectives on signage in the community.

Information on businesses is important but it's also important local and upcoming events have a way to advertise, and driving through town that information is helpful

Rules are quite restrictive with permit fees and strict scrutiny

Prevent signs from polluting the character of small town

Business owners should not be limited to specific sign guidelines when they are doing the best with what they know and have

Stanwood should enact a code that limits political signage to "not sooner than 1 week before the mailing of ballots" These signs litter Stanwood's scenery

# Q20: Would you want to encourage murals or public art in Stanwood?

Answered: 311 Skipped: 9

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	87.78%	273
No	12.22%	38
TOTAL		311



# Sign Code Survey Summary

*(Summarized Using Chat GPT)*

The City of Stanwood conducted a public survey to gather input on the current sign code. The survey was open for a two-week period, from April 2 through April 16, 2026. A total of **321 responses** were received, providing a strong level of community participation and a meaningful snapshot of public perspectives.

Overall, several key themes emerged from the survey results:

- **Strong preference for lower-profile and integrated signage types**  
Monument signs (92.6% support), wall signs (90.2%), blade signs (93.1%), and awnings (87.7%) received the highest levels of support, indicating a clear community preference for signage that is pedestrian-scaled and integrated into building design.
- **Clear opposition to tall or highly visible freestanding signs**  
Pole signs (80% opposed), feather banner signs (72.9% opposed), banner signs (62.2% opposed), and pylon signs (54.4% opposed) were generally not supported, suggesting concern about visual clutter and maintaining small-town character.
- **Moderate support for flexible, temporary, and portable signage**  
A-board/portable signs (62.4% support) and projecting signs (65.6%) showed general support, indicating interest in allowing businesses some flexibility for visibility and wayfinding.
- **Mixed opinions on electronic and marquee signage**  
Electronic signs (66.0% support) and marquees (52.6% support) received more divided responses, suggesting the need for careful standards related to scale, brightness, and location.
- **Desire to balance business visibility with community character**  
Open-ended responses reflect a range of perspectives, including the importance of signage for business visibility and local events, alongside concerns about sign clutter and maintaining Stanwood's small-town aesthetic.
- **Concerns regarding the restrictiveness of current regulations**  
Some respondents expressed that the existing sign code is overly restrictive, particularly with respect to lighting and permitting requirements. Feedback indicates a need to evaluate whether current standards appropriately balance community character with business visibility and operational needs.

- **Strong support for public art and placemaking**

A significant majority of respondents (87.8%) expressed support for encouraging murals or public art in the community.

Overall, the survey results indicate broad support for updating the sign code to prioritize cohesive, pedestrian-oriented signage while also considering opportunities to increase flexibility where current regulations may be overly limiting.

## Chapter 17.110

### SIGN STANDARDS

#### Sections:

- 17.110.010 Purpose.**
- 17.110.020 Permits required.**
- 17.110.030 Application for sign and sign-related building permits.**
- 17.110.040 Protection of First Amendment rights.**
- 17.110.050 Minimum requirements for all signs, including signs exempted from permit requirements.**
- 17.110.060 Exemptions.**
- 17.110.070 Prohibited signs.**
- 17.110.080 Permitted signs.**
- 17.110.085 Banners on or within the public right-of-way.**
- 17.110.090 Other advertising structures considered signs.**
- 17.110.100 Revocation of permit.**
- 17.110.110 Permit expiration.**
- 17.110.120 Variances.**
- 17.110.130 Unlawful signs on city property or public right-of-way.**
- 17.110.140 Nonconforming signs.**
- 17.110.150 Temporary signs.**

**Prior legislation:** Ords. 1194, 1138, 1094, 1084, 953, 929.

#### **17.110.010 Purpose.**

The purpose of these standards is to establish regulations for the design, construction, installation, and maintenance of signs, as defined in this Title [17](#), in the city of Stanwood in order to:

- (1) Balance the right of individuals to identify their businesses and convey their messages and the right of the public to be protected against the unrestricted proliferation of signs;
- (2) Further the objectives of the comprehensive plan;
- (3) Protect the public health, safety, and welfare;
- (4) Reduce traffic hazards;
- (5) Facilitate the creation of an attractive and harmonious community;

- (6) Protect property values;
- (7) Promote economic development; and
- (8) Preserve the right of free speech exercised through the use of signs containing noncommercial messages. (Ord. 1440 § 5, 2017; Ord. 1262 § 1, 2010).

### **17.110.020 Permits required.**

- (1) *Sign Permit.* It shall be unlawful for any person to erect, relocate, or structurally alter any sign or other advertising structure considered a sign, as defined in this code, without first obtaining a sign permit from the community development director. No permit is required for repair, repainting, or maintenance.
- (2) *Sign Modification Permit.* A permit for modification to an existing sign shall be allowed only to:
  - (a) Replace existing copy; and/or
  - (b) Replace a removable sign face surface with a comparable surface using the same materials and having the same size, thickness, and quality, provided:
    - (i) The sign has a valid permit; and
    - (ii) The proposed modification does not alter the sign cabinet; and
    - (iii) The sign does not advertise a business closed more than 30 days and/or a product no longer available on the premises, consistent with SMC [17.110.050\(2\)](#); and
    - (iv) The modification uses existing connection hardware; and
    - (v) The modification does not require review by the building official for wind load and/or structural components; and
    - (vi) The modification does not require upgrading of any support or electrical features.
- (3) *Electrical Permit.* All illuminated signs and any other sign in which electrical wiring and connections are to be used shall require an electrical permit submitted to the building official or designee along with the sign and building permit applications.
- (4) *Building Permit.* All signs that include a sign structure as required by the building official shall require a building permit. (Ord. 1440 § 5, 2017; Ord. 1291 § 1, 2011; Ord. 1262 § 1, 2010).

### **17.110.030 Application for sign and sign-related building permits.**

The following information must be included in an application for a sign permit:

- (1) Name, address, and telephone number of the applicant;
- (2) Address of property and location of building, structure, or lot to which or upon which the sign or other advertising structure is to be attached or constructed;
- (3) Position of the sign or other advertising structure in relation to nearby buildings or structures;
- (4) Four copies of plans no larger than 11 inches by 17 inches showing color, design, lettering and size of the sign face and treatment of sign edges, casing or cabinets;
- (5) Specifications and method of construction and attachment to the building or in the ground; and
- (6) When a sign structure is required, the following additional information is required:
  - (a) Copy of stress sheets and calculations showing that the structure is designed to meet the wind pressure and dead load requirements of this and all other laws and codes of the city;
  - (b) Name of the person constructing the structure;
  - (c) Written consent of the owner of the building or land on which the structure is to be erected;
  - (d) Any required electrical permit;
  - (e) Such other information as the building official or designee shall require to show full compliance with this chapter and all other laws and codes of the city. (Ord. 1440 § 5, 2017; Ord. 1262 § 1, 2010).

#### **17.110.040 Protection of First Amendment rights.**

Any sign allowed under this chapter may contain any lawful noncommercial message that does not direct attention to a business operated for profit or to a commodity or service for sale and that complies with all other requirements of this chapter. (Ord. 1440 § 5, 2017; Ord. 1262 § 1, 2010).

#### **17.110.050 Minimum requirements for all signs, including signs exempted from permit requirements.**

- (1) *Maintenance.* No temporary or permanent sign or other advertising structure shall be inadequately maintained so as to show evidence of deterioration, including peeling, rust, dirt, fading, discoloration, or holes.
- (2) *Outdated Signs.* No sign or other advertising structure shall advertise a business or product which is no longer in existence. Such signage shall be removed from the premises within 30 days after close of the business or removal of the product.

- (3) *Restriction of Ingress and Egress from Buildings.* No sign or other advertising structure shall be constructed, relocated or maintained so as to prevent free ingress to or egress from any door, window, or fire escape. No sign of any kind shall be attached to a standpipe or fire escape.
- (4) *Traffic Hazards.* No sign or other advertising structure shall:
- (a) Obstruct free and clear vision at any street or driveway intersection;
  - (b) Interfere with, obstruct the view of, or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal, or device because of its position, shape, or color;
  - (c) Make use of the words "stop," "look," "danger" or any other word, phrase, or symbol or character in a manner that interferes with, misleads, or confuses traffic; or
  - (d) Restrict ingress to and egress from any driveway.
- (5) *Unsafe Signs.* No sign or other advertising structure shall constitute a hazard to safety or health by reason of inadequate design, construction, repair, or maintenance.
- (6) *Glare into Surrounding Area.* No sign or other advertising structure shall be illuminated with lights which glare into or upon the surrounding area or any residential premises or distract operators of vehicles or pedestrians on the public right-of-way.
- (7) *Obscene Signs.* No sign or other advertising structure shall display any matter in which the dominant theme of the material taken as a whole appeals to a prurient interest in sex, or is patently offensive because it affronts contemporary community standards relating to the description or representation of sexual matters, and is utterly without redeeming social value.
- (8) *Wind Pressure and Dead Load Requirements.* Signs and other advertising structures shall be designed and constructed to withstand a wind speed of 100 miles per hour and to receive dead loads as required in the latest edition of the International Building Code (IBC) or other documents or other codes of the city of Stanwood. (Ord. 1440 § 5, 2017; Ord. 1262 § 1, 2010).

### **17.110.060 Exemptions.**

The following signs are exempt from the permit requirements of these standards:

- (1) Temporary signs on private property or public property meeting the requirements in SMC [17.110.150](#) (Temporary signs).
- (2) Signs attached to the inside of a window which do not exceed 50 percent of the total window area of the business.
- (3) Signs that are an integral part of the historic character of a landmark building or historic district.

- (4) Public signs regulating vehicular or pedestrian traffic or designating or giving direction to streets, schools, hospitals, historic sites, or public facilities.
- (5) Flags of any government or governmental agency or any patriotic, religious, charitable, civic, educational, or fraternal organization not exceeding 40 square feet in area.
- (6) Hand-held signs not set on or affixed to the ground and not exceeding 10 square feet in area.
- (7) Memorial or commemorative plaques or tablets denoting a building name and/or date of construction or a location of historic significance and not exceeding four square feet in area.
- (8) Signs located on baseball field fencing within city parks. Signs shall be no greater than four feet by eight feet, only up during baseball season, and remain in good condition. The city shall have the right to remove signage that they deem to be in poor condition. (Ord. 1440 § 5, 2017; Ord. 1398 § 24, 2015; Ord. 1311 § 3, 2012; Ord. 1262 § 1, 2010).

### **17.110.070 Prohibited signs.**

The following signs are prohibited:

- (1) *Vehicular Signs and Mobile Trailer Signs.* No sign or other advertising structure shall be painted on or attached to a motor vehicle used primarily for the display of such sign; provided, that this section shall not prohibit the identification of a business or its products or services on its vehicle(s) operated and parked in a manner appropriate to the normal course of business.
- (2) *Moving and Flashing Signs.*
  - (a) *Moving Signs.* No sign or other advertising structure shall have visible moving, revolving, or rotating parts or visible mechanical movement of any kind, except for the movable hands on street clocks, or other apparent visible movement achieved by electrical, electronic or mechanical means, except for time/temperature/date signs and except as permitted in SMC [17.110.080\(2\)](#).
  - (b) *Flashing Signs.* No sign or other advertising structure shall have lights or illuminations that flash, move, rotate, scintillate, blink, flicker, vary in intensity or color, or use intermittent electrical pulsations, except as permitted in SMC [17.110.080\(2\)](#). Time/temperature/date signs are not considered to be flashing signs under this chapter.
- (3) *Flags, Banners, Pennants, and Balloons.* Flags, banners, pennants, balloons, and other related advertising shall be prohibited, except under the following conditions:
  - (a) Banners or pennants used for temporary purposes such as carnivals, fairs, grand openings, or other special events not to exceed 30 days in duration;
  - (b) National and state flags as exempted under SMC [17.110.060](#);

(c) Balloons or inflatables may be used for a maximum of three days for the purposes of carnivals, fairs, grand openings, or other special events. Balloons and inflatables are not permitted to exceed the height of the roofline or to be located on top of roofs.

(4) *Roof Signs.* No signage of any type shall be allowed on the roof of any structure except when authorized by variance pursuant to SMC [17.110.120](#).

(5) *Billboards and Off-Premises Signs.* Billboards and off-premises signs are prohibited. This prohibition includes all surfaces whereon advertising matter is set in view conspicuously and which advertising does not apply to the premises or any use of the premises wherein it is displayed or posted. Existing billboards and off-premises signs must comply with the requirements of SMC [17.110.140](#). This ban does not apply to authorized noncommercial off-premises signs, such as signs that are for public service or community use, direction, or identification of locations within the city.

(6) *Permanent Signs on Vacant Lots, Parcels or Easements.* No permanent sign shall be located on a lot, parcel or easement as the principal use of that lot, parcel or easement. Signs may only be established as an accessory use to a principally permitted use. (Ord. 1440 § 5, 2017; Ord. 1262 § 1, 2010).

## **17.110.080 Permitted signs.**

The following signs and advertising structures may be permitted in compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

(1) *Freestanding and Monument Signs.*

(a) *General Standards.*

(i) *Number of Signs Allowed.* Only one freestanding or monument sign per property shall be allowed, unless the property has more than one frontage. For properties having more than one frontage, no more than two freestanding or monument signs will be allowed.

(ii) *Letter/Figure Attachment.* All letters, figures, characters, or representations in cut-out or irregular form, maintained in conjunction with, attached to, or superimposed upon any sign, shall be safely and securely built or attached to the sign structure, except for readerboard signs, when lettering is designed to be temporary.

(iii) *Landscaping.* All landscaping shall utilize shrubs, flowers, other plantings, and/or other features such as decorative concrete, wood or brick bases, planter boxes, benches, or ornaments expressing the sign theme, but not containing advertising copy. Landscape improvements shall be installed and inspected in six months. All freestanding and monument signs shall include at a minimum one-half square foot of landscaping for each square foot of sign face (as measured from one side).

(iv) *Maintenance.* Freestanding and monument signs and their surrounding premises shall be maintained in a clean, sanitary, and inoffensive condition, and free and clear of all obnoxious substances, rubbish, and weeds.

(v) *Construction Standards.*

(A) *Braces, Anchorage, and Supports.* Signs shall be securely built, constructed, and erected upon posts and standards.

(B) *Wood Preservative.* All wooden posts, anchors, and braces that rest upon or enter into the ground shall be treated with a commercially available wood preservative. If creosote or any other restricted-use substance is used, it shall be applied by a state-certified handler.

(vi) *Base Materials.* Monument bases and frames shall be constructed of a durable material, such as concrete blocks, wood, or brick, or other material as permitted by the community development director.

(b) *Freestanding Sign Standards.*

(i) *Heights.*

(A) Signs along SR 532 shall not exceed heights greater than 15 feet above the level of the street upon which the sign faces, or above the adjoining ground level, if such ground level is above the street level.

(B) Signs on commercial streets other than SR 532 shall not exceed heights greater than 12 feet above the level of the street upon which the sign faces, or above the adjoining ground level, if such ground level is above the street level.

(ii) *Setbacks.*

(A) Signs along SR 532 shall be set back at least 10 feet from the property line of the property on which the sign is erected and may be raised an additional foot in elevation to a maximum of 20 feet for each additional foot of setback provided.

(B) Signs along commercial streets other than SR 532 shall be set back at least 10 feet from the property line of the property on which the sign is erected and may be raised an additional foot in elevation to a maximum of 15 feet for each additional foot of setback provided.

(iii) *Area Limitations.*

(A) Freestanding signs for a single business shall not exceed 40 square feet per side in area.

(B) Freestanding signs advertising more than one business shall not exceed 85 square feet per side in area.

(iv) *Space Between Sign and Ground and Other Signs and Structures.* Freestanding signs shall have an open space not less than two feet between the baseline of the sign and the ground level. This open space may

be filled in with a platform or decorative latticework that does not close off more than one-half of the square footage of the open space. No freestanding sign shall be closer than two feet to any other sign, building, or structure.

(c) *Monument Sign Standards.*

(i) *Height, Location, and Size Requirements.*

(A) *Height.* Monument signs shall not exceed six feet, measured from the average ground elevation to the top of the frame.

(B) *Location.* Monument signs may not be located closer than three feet from any driveway and must meet the sight distance requirements of SMC [17.145.130](#).

(C) *Size.* The square footage of the sign face of a monument sign shall not exceed 40 square feet (per side).

(ii) *Design Incentives.* The community development director may approve an increase in sign face size up to a total of 60 square feet (per side) and up to a total of eight feet in height for signs utilizing the following design mitigation:

(A) No internally lit cabinets. External lighting from the ground or by lamp attached to the outside of the sign is permitted.

(B) Architectural frame and base, utilizing architectural features and/or natural materials, such as metal, stone, trellis, etc.

(C) Muted color scheme approved by the director.

(2) *Readerboard and Electronic Signs.*

(a) No more than three lines of text shall be permitted in any approved sign.

(b) Text shall be a minimum of 10 inches in height, utilizing a single color on a black background.

(c) No images or logos shall be utilized.

(d) Text shall fade in and out (not scroll or flash) no more than once every 90 seconds.

(e) Electronic signs shall be limited to no more than one per property or group of adjacent properties held by a single land owner.

(f) Electronic signs shall be designed as part of a larger sign with the electronic portion consuming a maximum of 75 percent of the sign face. The remaining 25 percent shall adhere to the other applicable sections of this chapter.

(g) Readerboard signs that are attached to pole signs and meet the standards of SMC [17.110.070\(2\)](#) and subsection [\(1\)](#) of this section shall be permitted.

(h) Readerboard signs that are converted into monument signs that meet the standards of SMC [17.110.070\(2\)](#) and subsection [\(1\)](#) of this section shall be permitted.

(i) The advertisement contained on any readerboard sign shall pertain only to the business conducted on or within the premises on which such sign is erected or maintained.

(3) *Wall Signs.*

(a) *Location.*

(i) *Limitation on Placement Area.* No wall sign shall cover wholly or partially any wall opening, nor project beyond the edges of the wall to which it is attached. No wall sign shall exceed 125 square feet in area.

(ii) *Projection Above Sidewalk.* No wall sign shall be permitted to project more than 16 inches beyond the building line. If a wall sign projects more than six inches from the wall it must be attached to the wall at a height of at least eight and one-half feet above the sidewalk or ground.

(b) *Construction of Sign.*

(i) *Supports and Attachment.* Wall signs shall be safely and securely attached to the building wall by means of metal anchors, bolts, or expansion screws of not less than three-eighths-inch diameter, embedded into the wall at least five inches.

(c) *Mixed-Use Buildings.* See SMC [17.112.050\(17\)](#) for additional requirements for signs on mixed-use buildings.

(4) *Projecting Signs and Blade Signs.*

(a) *Construction.*

(i) All projecting and blade signs, including frames, braces and supports, shall be two-faced.

(ii) Signs shall be designed by a structural engineer when the building official determines that engineering is required to meet wind pressure and dead load standards in SMC [17.110.050\(8\)](#) and/or building code requirements.

(iii) *Illumination.*

(A) Illumination shall concentrate upon the area of the sign and prevent glare upon the street, sidewalk or adjacent property.

(B) No floodlight or spotlight nor reflectors of the gooseneck type shall be permitted.

(iv) *Glass Lettering Requirements.* The lettering or advertising designs to be illuminated may be composed of glass. Any glass forming a part of any sign shall be safety glass or plate glass at least one-quarter-inch thick, and in case any single piece or pane of glass has an area exceeding three square feet,

it shall be wired glass. One section, not exceeding three square feet in area, constructed of wire glass or safety glass shall be permitted on each side of a sign.

(v) *Movable Parts to Be Secured.* Any movable part of a sign such as the cover of a service opening shall be securely fastened by chains or hinges.

(vi) *Thickness Limitation.* The distance measured between the principal faces of any sign shall not exceed 18 inches.

(vii) *Bracing, Anchorage, and Supports.* Bracing, anchorage and supports of signs shall conform to the requirements of SMC [17.110.050\(8\)](#), Wind Pressure and Dead Load Requirements.

(b) *Location/Height/Clearance.*

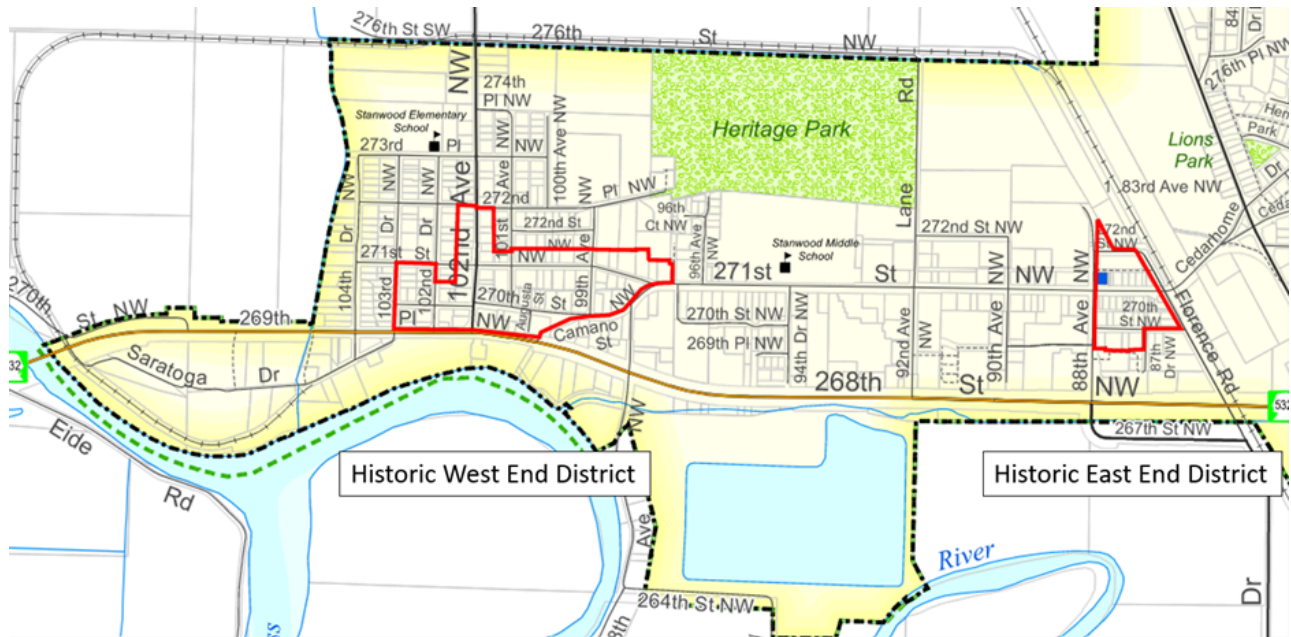
(i) Projecting signs shall be placed at least eight feet above the sidewalk or walkway over which they are extended, and no more than two feet from the face of the wall to which attached, measuring from the point of the sign nearest the wall, unless modified as provided in subsection [\(4\)\(b\)\(iv\)](#) of this section.

(ii) Blade signs shall be hung a minimum of eight feet above the sidewalk or walkway with no more than one foot from the soffit or other architectural feature from which they are hung unless modified as provided in subsection [\(4\)\(b\)\(iv\)](#) of this section.

(iii) Blade and projecting sign shall be at least one foot away from the curblineline and at least 15 feet above any driveway, alley, or thoroughfare over which it is erected.

(iv) Upon written request, the height clearance requirement for projecting and blade signs over sidewalks or walkways may be reduced by the community development director or designee to 84 inches if all the following findings are made:

(A) The projecting or blade sign is mounted on a building existing in the historic east and west end areas prior to September 1, 2010, and the building has a roof line, projecting soffit or eave that is too low to allow clearance of eight feet.



(B) The reduced clearance is the minimum necessary to allow identification of the business entry.

(C) The condition of the building, walkway and landscaping allow reasonable unobstructed clearance that meets minimum Municipal Uniform Traffic Control Device Standards.

(c) *V-Shaped Signs Prohibited.* V-shaped signs consisting of two single-faced signs erected without a roof and a ceiling shall not be permitted.

(d) *Size and Number of Signs.*

(i) *Area Limitations.* Signs shall be limited in area as follows:

- (A) Horizontal projecting signs shall not exceed 25 square feet on each side.
- (B) Vertical projecting signs shall not exceed 50 square feet on each side.
- (C) Blade signs shall not exceed four square feet.

(ii) *Number of Signs.*

- (A) One projecting sign is allowed on each business entry.
- (B) One blade sign is allowed on each business entry.

(e) *Projecting and Blade Signs Over the Public Right-of-Way.*

(i) *Indemnification and Hold Harmless.* Owners of projecting and blade signs that extend, hang and/or project over city public right-of-way shall assume and are responsible for liability for damage resulting from their construction, placement, and/or use. Prior to issuance of a sign permit, the applicant shall execute and deliver to the city, upon a form supplied by the city, a written agreement to defend,

indemnify and hold harmless the city and its officers, elected officials, employees and agents from any and all claims, actions, or damages of any persons and/or entities by reason of or related to the construction, placement and/or use of the sign.

(ii) *Public Liability Insurance.*

(A) Prior to the issuance of a sign permit for a projecting and/or blade sign that extends, hangs and/or projects over city public right-of-way, the applicant shall provide the city with a certificate of public liability insurance. The permittee shall maintain said insurance coverage while the sign is in place and is in use.

(B) The public liability insurance shall be written on an occurrence basis, shall name the city as an additional insured, and shall contain a provision prohibiting cancellation of the policy except upon 30 days' prior written notice to the city.

(C) The public liability insurance shall have the following minimum insurance limits coverage: \$1,000,000 commercial general liability insurance per occurrence combined with single limits, and \$2,000,000 aggregate.

(5) *"A" Board Signs and Portable Signs.*

(a) "A" board and portable signs are allowed only as temporary and supplemental advertising for businesses within the city that have permitted permanent signage. The advertisement contained on any "A" board or portable sign shall pertain only to the business conducted on or within the premises on which such sign is erected or maintained. A separate sign permit is required.

(b) "A" board and portable signs must be a minimum of 30 inches in height and not exceed 48 inches in height when displayed. They must be at least 18 inches in width and not exceed 30 inches in width, and shall not be located within 10 feet of a driveway or other access point.

(c) "A" board and portable signs shall not be located within the paved portion of the vehicular right-of-way or upon traffic islands or crosswalk areas.

(d) Any "A" board or portable sign located on a sidewalk must be located to provide a minimum of five feet of clearance on at least one side for wheelchair and walking access.

(e) No more than one "A" board or portable sign per 25 linear feet of property frontage shall be permitted. No more than two "A" board or portable signs shall be permitted for a given business.

(f) "A" board and portable signs shall be removed nightly.

(g) Owners of "A" board signs located upon the city sidewalk shall assume liability for damage resulting from their use as part of the permit process and shall provide the city with an appropriate document holding the city harmless from such resulting loss. The city shall not assume any liability for any accident incurred in conjunction with an "A" board sign.

(6) *Feather Banner Signs.*

- (a) Feather banner signs are allowed only as supplemental advertising for businesses within the city that have permitted permanent signage. The advertisement contained on any feather banner sign shall pertain only to the business conducted on or within the premises on which such sign is erected or maintained. A separate sign permit is required.
- (b) Feather banner signs shall be securely anchored and not greater than 20 feet in height and shall not exceed 40 square feet.
- (c) Feather banner signs shall not be located within the paved portion of the vehicular right-of-way or upon traffic islands or crosswalk areas.
- (d) Feather banner signs shall not be located within 10 feet of a driveway or other access point and not obstruct views from a driveway to ensure safe ingress and egress from the premises.
- (e) Any feather banner signs shall not be located on public sidewalks.
- (f) No more than two feather banner signs shall be permitted for a given business.
- (g) Feather banner signs shall be removed nightly. (Ord. 1440 § 5, 2017; Ord. 1398 § 25, 2015; Ord. 1323 § 3, 2012; Ord. 1280 §§ 1, 2, 2010; Ord. 1276 § 4, 2010; Ord. 1262 § 1, 2010).

### **17.110.085 Banners on or within the public right-of-way.**

(1) Horizontal over the right-of-way banners are permitted for noncommercial messages for the following events:

- (a) Special events as defined in Chapter [5.06](#) SMC when located within the city;
- (b) Events which are excluded from the definition of special events when located within the Port Susan geographical area.

(2) Application shall be made for city installation and removal of banners over or within the public right-of-way on a form provided by the city and according to administrative procedures published by the city. Application shall be made a minimum of 14 days prior to the event.

(3) Banners that are displayed on or over the public right-of-way require a sign permit and a temporary encroachment permit. Review of sign and encroachment permits may be combined and issued with one permit and fee.

(4) *Sign Standards for Banners.*

- (a) Banners shall meet the minimum standards in SMC [17.110.050](#), including but not limited to wind load.

- (b) Banners shall be three feet high and 20 feet wide and shall not exceed 60 square feet.
  - (c) Materials shall be resistant to ultraviolet rays, mold and mildew and have sewn loops or equivalent for attachment.
  - (d) Banners shall not be erected more than 14 days in advance of the event, and shall be removed within three days after the termination of the event. Vertical banners on light poles used for city marketing may be exempted from this requirement.
  - (e) A temporary banner shall hang a minimum of at least 16 feet above the road.
- (5) The applicant shall maintain general liability insurance for property damage and bodily injury or death throughout the term the banner is in place over the roadway in an amount and terms determined by administrative procedures published by the city. (Ord. 1440 § 5, 2017; Ord. 1311 § 4, 2012).

### **17.110.090 Other advertising structures considered signs.**

The following on-premises advertising structures may be permitted in compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

- (1) *Marquees.*
  - (a) *Construction.*
    - (i) *Materials Required.* Marquees, including the anchors, bolts, supports, rods and braces, shall be designed by a structural engineer and illuminated.
    - (ii) *Drainage.* Marquee roofs shall be properly guttered and connected by downspouts to a storm sewer so that rainwater will not drip or flow onto public property.
    - (iii) *Roofs – Use and Construction.* Marquee roofs shall be used for no other purpose than to form and constitute a roof, and at least 25 percent of the area of the roof of every marquee shall be of glass or other transparent substance.
  - (b) *Location.*
    - (i) *Height Above Sidewalk.* No portion of a marquee shall be less than eight and one-half feet above the level of the sidewalk or other public thoroughfare over which it is erected.
    - (ii) *Setback from Curbline.* No marquee shall be permitted to extend beyond a point three feet inside the curbline.
    - (iii) *Width.* No marquee shall be wider than the entrance or entrances of the building plus five feet on each side. No marquee shall extend beyond the edge of the facade onto which it is attached. However,

where the entrances to a building are not more than 20 feet apart, a marquee may be made a continuous single structure between the entrances.

(c) *Construction.*

(i) *Bracing, Anchorage, and Supports.* Marquees shall be supported solely by the building to which they are attached, and no columns or posts shall be used as supports.

(ii) *Roof Live Load Requirement.* Marquee roofs, except the glass area required, shall be designed and constructed to support a live load of not less than 100 pounds per square foot. Marquees shall be designed to meet the wind pressure requirement provided in SMC [17.110.050\(8\)](#).

(iii) *Anchorage to Wood Structure Prohibited.* No marquee shall be erected on any building of wood frame construction unless attached to the masonry, concrete, or steel supports of the building.

(d) *Signs Attached to the Marquee.* Signs attached to or hung from a marquee shall be completely within the borderline of the marquee outer edge and shall in no instance be lower than eight and one-half feet above the sidewalk or public thoroughfare. No sign or advertising material shall exceed five feet in height, exclusive of the name of the establishment exhibiting such marquee. No advertising material shall be placed upon the roof of any marquee.

(2) *Awnings and Canopies.*

(a) *Construction.*

(i) *Materials (Awnings).* Awnings may be constructed of cloth or metal hood; provided, however, all frames and supports shall be of metal.

(ii) *Materials (Canopies).* Canopies may be constructed of cloth or metal hood; provided, however, all frames and supports shall be of metal.

(b) *Location.*

(i) *Height Above Sidewalk (Awnings).* No portion of an awning shall be less than eight and one-half feet above the level of the sidewalk or public thoroughfare over which it is erected.

(ii) *Height Above Sidewalk (Canopies).* No portion of a canopy shall be less than eight and one-half feet above the level of the sidewalk or public thoroughfare over which it is erected.

(iii) *Setback from Curblines.* No awning or canopy shall be permitted to extend beyond a point one foot inside the curblines.

(iv) *Width.* No limitation on width of awnings; provided, however, full compliance with the wind pressure and dead load requirements of SMC [17.110.050\(8\)](#). No canopy shall be permitted to exceed eight feet in width.

(c) *Construction of Sign.*

(i) *Support (Awning)*. Awnings shall be securely attached to and supported by a building. Posts or columns beyond the building line shall not be permitted for awnings. No awning shall be attached to wood jambs, frames, or other wood members of a building (frame buildings excepted) when such building is less than 10 feet from public property.

(ii) *Support (Canopies)*. The frameworks of canopies shall be designed by a structural engineer and approved by the building official and in compliance with the building code of the city of Stanwood. All frames and supports shall be of metal and designed to withstand a wind pressure as provided in SMC [17.110.050\(8\)](#).

(d) *Advertising*. No advertising shall be placed on any awning or canopy, except that the name of the owner and the business, industry, or pursuit conducted within the premises may be painted or otherwise permanently placed in a space not exceeding 24 inches in height on the front and side of the awning or canopy.

(3) *Street Clocks*.

(a) *Construction*.

(i) *Regulation of Size of Dial*. The dial of such clocks shall be not less than 30 inches, nor more than 40 inches, in diameter.

(ii) *Glass Requirements*. Any glass forming a part of a clock shall be safety glass or plate glass at least one-quarter-inch thick, and in case any single piece or pane of glass has an area exceeding three square feet, it shall be constructed of wire glass, securely held in place.

(iii) *Movable Parts to Be Secured*. The cover or service openings of street clocks shall be securely fastened by metal hinges.

(b) *Location*.

(i) *Clocks Erected on Walls*. Clocks supported on the corner of any building or structure at the intersection of two streets shall not be less than 15 feet nor more than 20 feet above the sidewalk and shall not project from the face or wall of the building or structure more than five feet.

(ii) *Clocks Erected on Sidewalk*. Clocks erected on the sidewalk shall be supported upon a post of ornamental design, shall be not less than 15 feet in height, shall be not more than 20 inches from the outer edge of the curb, and shall be at least 20 feet from the point of intersection of the lines of any street, measured parallel with the street.

(c) *Construction of Sign*.

(i) *Clocks Erected on Walls*. Clocks erected on the corner of any building or structure shall comply with the requirements set forth in SMC [17.110.080\(3\)](#), Wall Signs, or SMC [17.110.080\(4\)](#), Projecting Signs, whichever is applicable.

- (ii) *Wind Pressure and Dead Load Requirements.* Street clocks, whether erected on exterior walls or on the sidewalk, shall comply with the requirements of SMC [17.110.050\(8\)](#).
- (d) *Limitation on Permits – Clocks on Sidewalks.* Any person erecting a street clock on any public sidewalk shall obtain the special written permission of the city council in addition to all other permits required by this title.
- (e) *Limitation on Permits – General.* No person shall be permitted to erect more than one street clock at any one business location.
- (f) *Must Keep Accurate Time.* Street clocks shall keep accurate time and shall be properly repaired or removed if this requirement is not complied with. (Ord. 1440 § 5, 2017; Ord. 1262 § 1, 2010).

### **17.110.100 Revocation of permit.**

The community development director or designee may revoke any permit where there has been a violation of the provisions of these standards or a misrepresentation of fact on the permit application. (Ord. 1440 § 5, 2017; Ord. 1262 § 1, 2010).

### **17.110.110 Permit expiration.**

If the work authorized under a sign permit and/or building permit is not completed within 180 days after the date of issuance, the permit shall become null and void. (Ord. 1440 § 5, 2017; Ord. 1262 § 1, 2010).

### **17.110.120 Variances.**

- (1) The community development director may grant a variance to allow the following:
  - (a) Setback less than that required under this title; or
  - (b) Area or height of a sign to be increased by up to 50 percent of the maximum allowable height or area subject to the following finding:
    - (i) The unusual shape or topography of the property in question prevents signage allowable under the provisions of these standards from adequately identifying the business or other activity located on such property.
- (2) *Off-Site Signage.* A variance may also be allowed for off-site signage when the business has no other visible alternative for the placement of signage, as determined by the community development director.
- (3) *Roof Signage.* The community development director may grant a variance to allow roof signs when the business has no other alternative for the placement of signage. Such approval shall be granted based on the

finding that no alternatives are available to the applicant other than roof signage. If roof signage is permitted, it shall conform to all requirements for signs under this chapter. (Ord. 1440 § 5, 2017; Ord. 1262 § 1, 2010).

### **17.110.130 Unlawful signs on city property or public right-of-way.**

If the community development director or designee finds that any sign or other advertising structure located on city property or public right-of-way is prohibited by or is not in compliance with the provisions of this chapter, the said official may cause such sign to be removed with or without notice to the owner of the sign. (Ord. 1440 § 5, 2017; Ord. 1262 § 1, 2010).

### **17.110.140 Nonconforming signs.**

(1) *Nonconforming On-Site Signage.*

(a) Any on-site signage that does not conform to this chapter, but was legally in place before the effective date of the provision to which the signage does not conform, shall be considered legal nonconforming signage. Such existing signage may be maintained and/or repaired but at such time as a merchant replaces or modifies the signage, then the signage must conform to the requirements of this code except as provided in subsection [\(1\)\(b\)](#) of this section. No temporary signage shall be considered as legal nonconforming signage under this section. "Legally in place" shall mean:

- (i) Installed prior to the existence of sign regulation within the city;
- (ii) Installed pursuant to a permit issued by the city.

(b) Modification of legal nonconforming signage is limited to change of copy, change of sign background associated with a change of copy, or reduction in cabinet size associated with a change of copy.

(c) Change of copy or sign background for legal nonconforming signs shall be processed as a modification to a sign permit if the modification meets the criteria in SMC [17.110.020\(2\)](#) and shall be subject to the sign modification permit fee unless there is alteration of the cabinet, or change in connection hardware, or the building official determines that windload must be reviewed. In these instances the modifications shall be processed as provided in SMC [17.110.020\(1\)](#) subject to a sign permit fee and building permit fee.

(d) The nonconforming status of a sign shall not be affected by cleaning or other normal maintenance and repair; provided, that the original design function, operational capability, and structure of the sign are maintained and the sign is not otherwise enhanced or upgraded except as provided in subsection [\(1\)\(b\)](#) of this section.

(2) *Nonconforming Billboards and Off-Premises Signs.* Any billboard or off-premises sign legally in existence shall be removed, so as to conform with the provisions of this chapter, within six years of said date. (Ord. 1440 § 5, 2017; Ord. 1291 § 2, 2011; Ord. 1262 § 1, 2010).

## 17.110.150 Temporary signs.

- (1) *No Permit Required.* No sign permit is required for temporary signs.
- (2) *Removal.* Temporary signs shall be removed if the sign is in need of repair, is worn, dilapidated or creates a public nuisance.
- (3) *City Property (Excluding City Right-of-Way).* Temporary signs on city-owned property (excluding city right-of-way) are allowed only in conjunction with an approved special event permit.
- (4) *City Right-of-Way outside of the Roadway.* Temporary signs on city right-of-way placed outside of the roadway must comply with the following requirements:
  - (a) *Location.* Allowed only between the property line and the back of the nearest curb, or where no curb exists, between the property line and the nearest edge of the pavement. Signs may not be placed on sidewalks, driveways or other paved areas designed for pedestrian or vehicular use, or as conditioned in a right-of-way use permit.
  - (b) *Type.* Signs on stakes that can be manually pushed or hammered into the ground are allowed. All other signs are prohibited, unless specifically allowed by a right-of-way use permit.
  - (c) *Size and Height.* Limited to four square feet, and three feet in height.
  - (d) *Dilapidated or Nuisance Signs.* Any temporary sign in the right-of-way that is dilapidated or a nuisance shall be removed by the person responsible for placement of the sign.
  - (e) *Other Signs.* The city may allow other signs in city right-of-way with a right-of-way use permit.
- (5) *Residential Zones.* Temporary signs may be placed on property residentially zoned in accordance with the requirements of this section and the following:
  - (a) *Freestanding Signs (Includes Post-Mounted and Stake Signs).*
    - (i) *Single-family zones:* Temporary freestanding signs shall not exceed four square feet in size and five feet in height, if the sign is mounted on the ground, and not to exceed three feet in height if the sign is stake-mounted.
    - (ii) *Multifamily zones:* Temporary freestanding signs shall not exceed six square feet in size and five feet in height if the sign is post-mounted on the ground, and not to exceed three feet in height if the sign is stake-mounted.
  - (b) *Surface-Mounted Signs.* Limited to sites two acres or larger:
    - (i) *Size.* No larger than 32 square feet.

(ii) *Location.* Must be flatly affixed to walls below the fascia or parapet line, or flatly affixed to on-site fences either facing or abutting the street, or facing inward to the subject site. Signs shall not be attached or tethered to other site improvements.

(6) *Nonresidential Zones.* Temporary signs are allowed on nonresidentially zoned property in accordance with the requirements of this section and the following:

(a) *Window Signs.* Limited to 50 percent of the window area, subject to the window sign requirements of SMC [17.110.060\(2\)](#).

(b) *Freestanding Signs (Including Post-Mounted and Stake Signs) – Size/Height.* Limited to four square feet and five feet in height if the temporary sign is mounted in the ground.

(c) *Surface-Mounted Signs.*

(i) *Size.* Limited to 30 square feet.

(ii) *Location.* Must be flatly affixed to walls below the fascia or parapet line, or flatly affixed to on-site fences either facing the abutting street, or facing inward to the subject site. Signs shall not be attached or tethered to other site improvements.

(7) *Temporary Signs on Large Properties, Residential or Nonresidentially Zoned Properties.* The following temporary signs may be placed on any site at least two acres in size, in accordance with the requirements of this section and the following:

(a) *Type.* Any type.

(b) *Size/Height.* Not to exceed 64 square feet and up to eight feet above ground level.

(c) *Exclusivity.* The sign allowed under this subsection is in lieu of and shall not be displayed with or be in addition to other temporary signs allowed by this section.

(8) *Duration of Temporary Signs.* Temporary signs shall be allowed one time only for a period not to exceed six months in any consecutive 12-month period. (Ord. 1440 § 5, 2017).

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**The Stanwood Municipal Code is current through Ordinance 1561, passed February 26, 2026.**

Disclaimer: The city clerk's office has the official version of the Stanwood Municipal Code. Users should contact the city clerk's office for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited above.

[City Website: stanwoodwa.org](http://stanwoodwa.org)

[Hosted by General Code.](#)



**CITY OF STANWOOD  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

**ITEM:** 4.b  
**DATE:** May 7, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** Storefront Improvement Program Application  
**CONTACT PERSON:** Aaron Weinberg, Business and Community Relations Coordinator

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this agenda item is for the Committee to review an application for the Storefront Improvement Program.

**BACKGROUND**

City of Stanwood has a rich history, with many historic and unique buildings, housing locally owned businesses in the downtown commercial retail area. In 2023, City Council approved the Storefront Improvement Program. The Storefront Improvement Program is intended to both preserve and enhance the character and charm of downtown Stanwood, while also encouraging investment in downtown through physical and visual improvements to storefront buildings.

The Storefront Improvement Program incentivizes businesses and property owners to make improvements to the appearance of their buildings by offering up to \$20,000 in matching grant funds for qualifying projects. Storefront improvements that are eligible for reimbursement include but are not limited to exterior paint, awnings, doors and windows, streetscapes and signage.

The City has entered the 2026-2027 budget cycle and has \$59,109.62 in available Storefront Improvement Program grant funds this year, with \$12,884.62 in unused funds rolling over from 2025. Eleven grants have been funded through the program since 2023.

**ANALYSIS**

**8701 271<sup>st</sup> NW Storefront Improvement Program Application**

On April 16, City staff held a pre-application meeting with Mehdi Fallahian, owner of the property adjacent to Depot Park at 8701 271<sup>st</sup> NW. The property has multiple business tenants, including Merry Little Baker, Bleached Society Salon, and Beautiful Skin by Lynn.

The applicant intends to replace existing storefront single-pane windows with new dark bronze aluminum double-pane windows. The proposal also includes replacing the old railing, repainting the decorative wood awning and trim around the door and windows a

similar dark brown, replacing the decal signage for both windows, and installing new nonslip step covers.

Below are the application details and proposed improvements:



Current building photo

Property Owner Information (If not applicant)			
Name of Property Owner:	Mehdi Fallahian		
Phone Number:	760-969-3200		
Email:	pcfineart@yahoo.com		
Property Address:	8701 271st NW		
	City:	State:	Zip:
	Stanwood	WA	98292
Mailing Address:	8816 E Lowell Larimer RD		
	City:	State:	Zip:
	Snohomish	WA	98296
Years Owned:	5 years		

<b>Project Information</b>	
<i>Improvement Type (select all that apply):</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Signage</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Awnings</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Paint</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Doors and Windows</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Streetscapes</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Creative and Imaginative Exterior Elements</i>
<i>Brief Project Description (Please describe the scope of the proposed improvements, including descriptions of the building's current conditions):</i>	<p>Replace the existing store front woodframe single pane windows with new dark bronze aluminum double pane windows</p> <p>Replace the old railing with newer railing</p> <p>Paint the decorative wood awning and the trims around the front door and windows by the front door</p> <p>Replace the decal signage for both windows</p> <p>New nonslip step covers</p>
<i>Estimated Total Project Cost:</i>	<b>\$33,542.04</b>
<i>Requested Grant Amount:</i>	<p><i>(Not to exceed \$20,000, 1:1 match. For example, a \$2,000 project can receive up to a \$1,000 grant award. A \$50,000 project can receive up to a \$20,000 grant award)</i></p> <p><b>\$16,771.02</b></p>

Project Budget	
Project Element:	Total \$ Costs:
<i>Example: Quote for new pedestrian signage</i>	\$1,000
store front door + awning, wood trim paint	6,892.20
store front windows + new store logos	25,512.08
metal safy handrail	875.20
non slip step covers	262.56

ARIA GLASS LLC

Dark Bronze 2"x4-1/2" Aluminum Storefront  
Thermally Broken Storefront System

Double Pane Glass OA=1" filled Argon Gas  
FHC Aluminum Entrance Door with Closer, Handle  
& Panic Bar

Delivery, Installation and Dispose the Old  
Storefront & Broken Glass Panes

Customer Name: Mr. Mehdi Fallahian

*New window and door plan from Aria Glass LLC quote*



***Left:*** New railing example. ***Right:*** New window material example.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff recommend the Storefront Improvement application from Mehdi Fallahian be presented to City Council for approval. If approved \$16,771.02 in grant money will be awarded and \$42,338.60 will be left for 2026.

### **PROPOSED MOTION**

None: Discussion Item