

Toronto's Sign By-law

Sign Variance Committee Appointments



March 4, 2010

Background

- New Sign By-law April 6, 2010
 - to address inconsistent standards across the City
 - out of date regulations in the 7 current by-laws
 - to reflect City's vision for public realm reflected in the Official Plan

Sign Variance Committee

Decisions

- 3rd Party Signs - makes decisions on variance applications
- 1st Party Signs - hears appeals of the Chief Building Official's decisions on variance applications
- SVC approvals may be appealed to Council

Sign Variance Committee

Responsibilities

- conducts itself in accordance with Procedures By-law
- governed by the Sign By-law
 - 9 criteria to be considered [see next Slide]
- administration by Clerk's staff

Sign Variance Committee

Sign By-law Variance Criteria

- Physical circumstances
- Consistent with architecture of the building
- Consistent with buildings & other features of properties within 120m
- Not alter essential character of the area
- Not adversely affect adjacent properties
- Not adversely affect public safety
- Not contrary to public interest
- Is a sign that is permitted
- Is a sign not expressly prohibited

March 4, 2010

Sign Variance Committee

Eligible

- a resident of Toronto, and
- at least 18 years old

Members - 5

- 3 members - adjudication experience
- 2 members - public speaking & organization skills
- 1 member appointed “Chair” by City Council
 - chairs public meetings and maintains order in conflict situations

Sign Variance Committee

First Year Expectations

- Approve Procedural By-law
- Establish working relationship with support staff
- Develop effective & appropriate administrative procedures and forms
- Establish quasi-judicial culture – evidence based
- Set tone for committee functions

Sign Variance Committee

Qualifications

- 3 members with quasi-judicial experience
- 2 members with public speaking/organizational skills to chair meetings & maintain order in conflict situations
- Respond consistently to rules or policies in the By-law, not as a reaction to specific situations
- Experience reading/interpreting and applying policies –e.g. variance criteria in By-law [experience in field – e.g. lawyers, architects, planners]
- Demonstrated interest in city building
- Appreciate diversity of neighbourhoods & communities across the City – single committee city-wide
- Balanced/neutral position with respect to signs

March 4, 2010

Sign Variance Committee

Conflict – cannot:

- act as agent for parties before the SVC
- be an owner, employee or agent of:
 - an advertising agency, communications or media relations agency
 - a business which owns, controls or has shares in a media outlet

Sign Variance Committee

Term of office

- 1st term approx. 1 year – renewable
- this Committee appointed until November 30, 2010 or until their successors are appointed
- Normal - 4 years coincident with the term of Council
- may apply for re-appointment in the next Council term

Meetings/Hearings

- generally scheduled every 4 weeks
- City Hall
- anticipate approx. 120 applications per year