



INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Development and Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: Jack Pace, DCD Director

BY: Minnie Dhaliwal, Planning Supervisor

CC: Mayor Ekberg

DATE: February 21, 2018

SUBJECT: Foster High School Reader Board

ISSUE

Response to public comment about the Foster High School sign.

BACKGROUND

The Foster High School reader board is a 14.5 foot tall pole sign with an electronically changeable face. It became non-conforming with the adoption of the 2010 Sign Code which only allows monument or wall signs. In residential zones the height limit of signs is 5 feet and the maximum area is 30 square feet per face with a total of 60 square feet. The Foster High School reader board is slightly larger than allowed, with a face of 36 square feet.

The decision to stop allowing construction of pole signs was a key recommendation of the Sign Code Advisory Committee which was comprised of representatives from the City Council, Planning Commission, Tukwila residents and business community. There was extensive public outreach during this update process.

DISCUSSION

The sign is in a 10-year grace period, however immediate compliance was triggered under TMC 19.36.040 C 2 when the site went through design review. The remodel/expansion of Foster High School received design review approval in June 2017. The District applied for a sign variance to the Hearing Examiner (L17-0028) but asked that the application be put on hold when notified that planning staff could not recommend approval because it did not meet the variance criteria at TMC 19.28.030.

The request has not gone to the hearing examiner and no denial has been issued. Staff has offered options such as removing the sign from the pole and converting it to a monument sign or installing it on the building as a wall sign.

Governments may not regulate sign content or make special provisions for particular uses (Reed vs. Town of Gilbert), so while the City may amend the sign code any changes would apply to all signs in residential zones.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

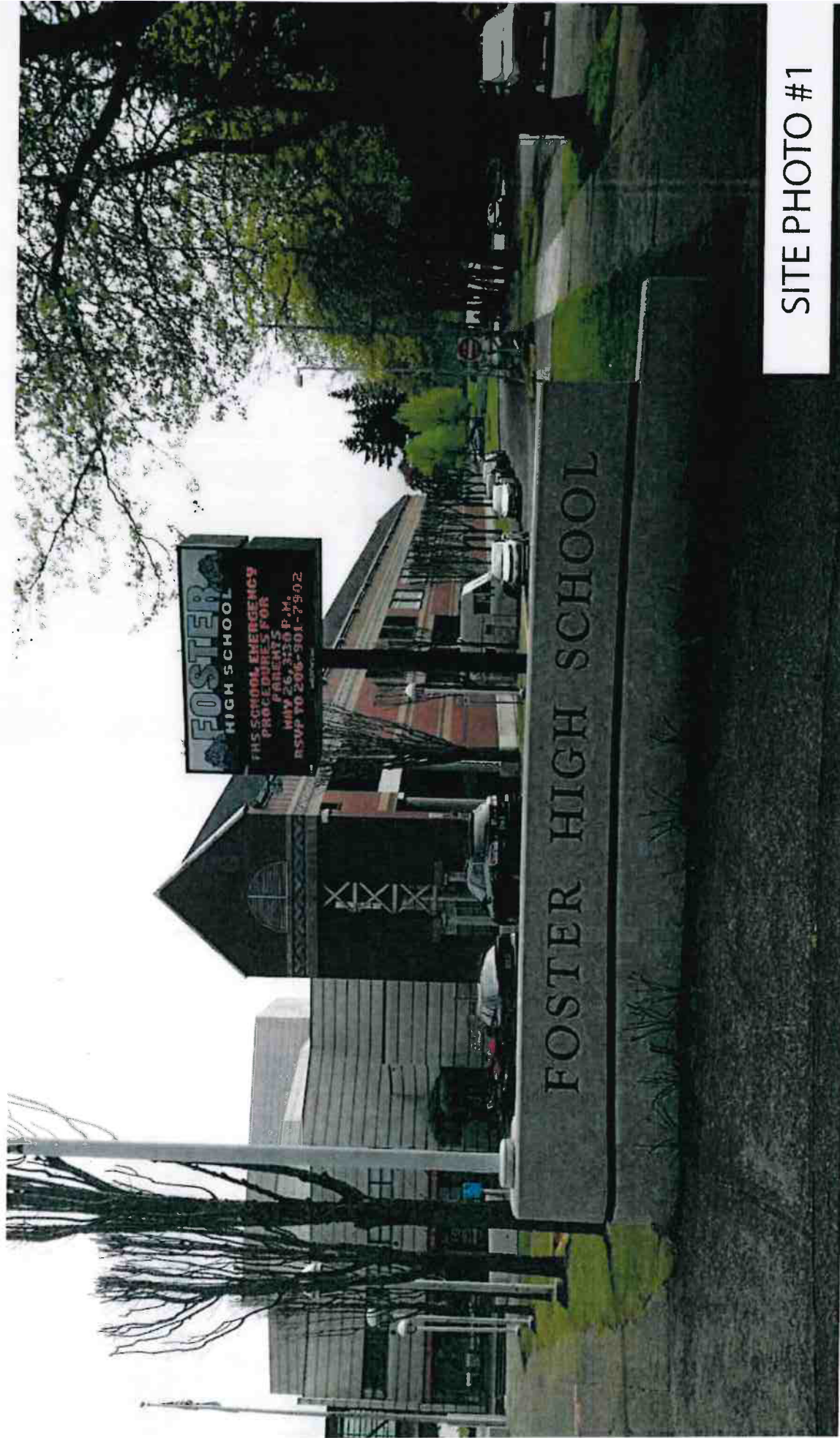
None

RECOMMENDATION

Information Only.

ATTACHMENT

Photo of the sign



SITE PHOTO #1

RECEIVED

MAY 31 2017

Community
Development