

Chapter 2 - DEFINITIONS

Section 200 - Definitions.

Signs.

Abandoned shall mean any sign or sign structure which bears no sign or copy for a period of six (6) consecutive months, ~~or for onsite signs that display for a period of six (6) consecutive months, information which incorrectly identifies the business, owner, lessor, or principal activity conducted on the site.~~ Abandoned sign shall also mean any sign on which proper maintenance is not being done; or any on-site sign on a parcel that has been vacant or unoccupied for six (6) months or more; ~~or any sign which pertains to a time, event or purpose which no longer applies, regardless of the message or lack of message.~~

Adjustment shall mean relief granted by either the County Administrator, or designee, or the Hearing Officer ~~(or the Board if part of a Planned Development)~~, limited to relief from certain specifications as to height of sign, size of sign and setback of sign as described in Chapter 6 of this Code.

Allowable Sign shall mean all signs for which a sign permit is not required but which must, nonetheless, conform to all the other terms and conditions of this Code.

Alteration of a Sign shall mean but shall not be limited to the following: The addition of sign area, the changing or relocation of light source, or the relocation of an outdoor advertising display from one (1) location to another location. "Alteration" includes any and all structural changes in the sign, but shall not include the changing of copy on a sign which is designed as a changeable copy sign.

Animated Sign shall mean any sign which changes physical position by any action, motion, or gives the optical illusion of action or motion, or color changes of all or part of the sign area, requiring electrical energy, or set in motion by movement of the atmosphere.

Awning (a/k/a Canopy) shall mean any shelter, supported partially or entirely from the exterior wall of a building, which is used for advertising. Such sign may be constructed of canvas, plastic, metal, or other similar material.

Figure 2-1: Awning/Canopy Signs



Bench shall mean any bench whose primary purpose is collateral with providing transportation service to the public upon which a sign is indelibly drawn, painted, or printed.

~~Changeable Copy Sign shall mean a sign or an integral part of a sign not covering more than sixty-five (65) percent of the sign area and designed so as to readily allow the changing of its message either manually, mechanically or electronically (electronic message center). Signs with changeable copy that utilize a computer generated message, images or is controlled or changed by some other electronic means are included in this definition.~~

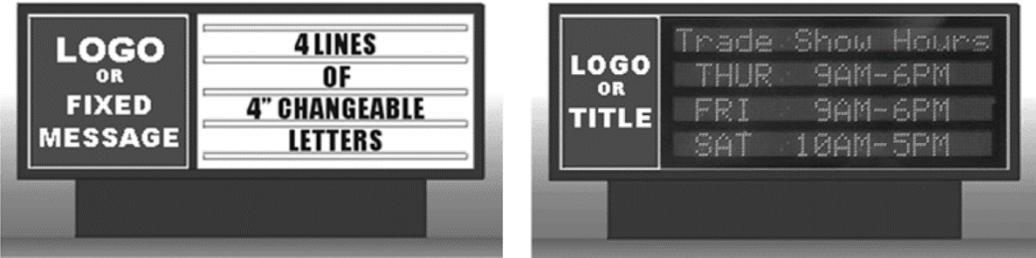
Figure 2 - 2. Changeable Copy Sign



~~Combination Sign shall mean a single, permanent on-site non-animated sign composed of:~~

- ~~a. One (1) message relating to the entire premises on which it is located, and~~
- ~~b. One (1) or more additional messages of substantially the same size, material, and design, arranged in a compact group on the same structure, and identifying the establishments on the premises.~~

Figure 2-2: Combination Signs



Construction Sign shall mean any temporary on-site identification sign erected at a building site while active construction is underway.

Directional-DRI Sign shall mean a freestanding sign located within a project approved as a Development of Regional Impact (DRI), ~~which indicates the distance, direction, location and name of the facilities and services located within the boundaries of the same DRI project.~~

Directional-Off-Site Sign shall mean a sign which ~~indicates no more than the distance, direction, location, and name of any facility or activity located in Manatee County.~~

Figure 2-3: Directional Off-Site Sign



~~Directional On-Site Sign shall mean a permanent on-site sign, which directs traffic within a parcel, or which identifies the location of entrances, exits, restrooms, telephones, freight, etc.~~

~~Electronic Message Center – see Changeable Copy Sign definition.~~

~~Farm sign shall have the meaning set forth in Section 604.50, Florida Statutes.~~

~~Fascia Sign. (See "Wall Sign.")~~

~~Flags shall mean any fabric or similar material or bunting containing the same colors, patterns or symbols used as an ornamental flag or as a symbol of government, political subdivision, corporation or business or other entity and designed to be flown from a flagpole or similar device which is not a banner.~~

~~Flashing Sign shall mean any sign on which any electric lighting by any device is either alternated on and off or raised and lowered in brightness or intensity, or reflects lighting or gives the appearance of flashing.~~

~~Freestanding Sign shall mean a sign on or in the ground and not supported by any building. This term shall include ground sign, monument sign, pole sign and pylon sign.~~

~~Gateway Sign shall be a ground or monument sign that identifies the CDD or DRI located at major thoroughfare intersections or points along major thoroughfares near the a CDD or the boundaries of a DRI. boundaries.~~

~~Government Sign shall mean any sign erected by or on the order of a public official or quasi-public entity (i.e., Community Development District, Community Redevelopment Agency, Water Management District) in the performance of his or her official office or duty including but not limited to, on- and off-site signs identifying a government building or service, traffic control signs, street name signs, warning and information signs, public notices of events, or signs of a similar nature. Signs posted for the purposes of providing public notice for identifying a proposed change of land use or zoning shall be deemed to serve similar purposes as Government Signs.~~

~~Ground (a/k/a Monument sign) shall mean a freestanding sign whose structural system is that other than a pole(s), column(s) or post(s) or other similar type structural system.~~

Figure 2-4: Ground Sign

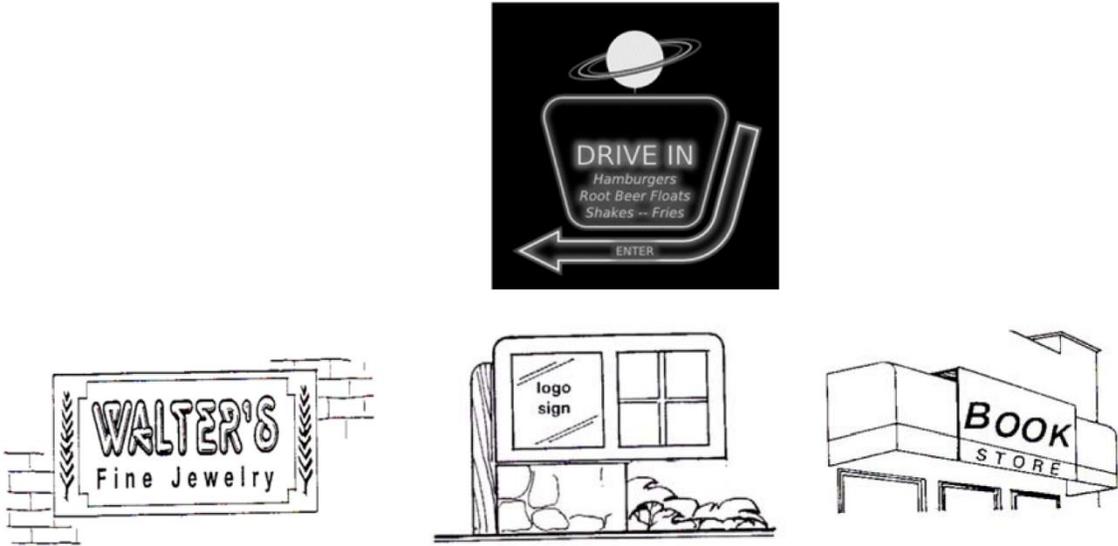


Illegal Sign shall mean any sign erected unlawfully.

Illuminated Sign shall mean any sign which either:

- a. Provides artificial light through exposed bulbs, lamps, or luminous tubes on the sign surface; or
- b. Emits light through transparent or translucent material from a source within the sign; or
- c. Reflects light from a source intentionally directed upon it.

Figure 2-5: Illuminated Signs



Mansard Sign shall mean any sign which is attached to a mansard style roof with the face parallel to the structure to which it is attached and which does not project more than twenty-four (24) inches from such structure. Since such sign is to be mounted parallel to and within the limitations of the building wall or mansard roof on which it is to be mounted, a mansard sign shall be considered a wall sign and not a roof sign.

For the purposes of this definition, the term mansard roof shall mean a single slope roof, usually found along the front of a building, with a maximum angle of forty-five (45) degrees measured from the roofing surface upward to the vertical.

Figure 2-6: Mansard Sign



Monument Sign. (See "Ground Sign.")

Moving Sign shall mean any sign or part of a sign which changes physical position by any movement or rotation, or which gives the visual impression of such movement or rotation.

Mural Sign shall mean a wall sign painted on the exterior wall of a roofed building with its face in a parallel plane to the plane of the building façade.

Multiprism Sign shall mean any sign made with a series of triangular vertical sections that turn and stop to show two (2) or more pictures or messages in the copy area.

Nonconforming Sign shall mean a sign which does not conform to this Code but was in conformance with all sign, permitting and other regulations applicable at the time it was permitted or erected. The term legal nonconforming sign shall mean the same as nonconforming sign. This term does not include signs that were erected without a permit when one was required.

Off-site Sign shall mean any sign not located on the same lot as the business, commodity, service or entertainment to which it relates. This shall include any structure designed primarily for the display of off-site signs. (See "Outdoor Advertising.")

On-site Sign shall mean any sign located on the same lot or parcel as, and is accessory to, the business, commodity, service or entertainment to which it relates.

Outdoor Advertising Sign shall mean any sign structure advertising an establishment, merchandise, service, or entertainment which is not sold, produced, manufactured, or furnished at the property on which the sign is located. This shall include but shall not be limited to billboards, off-premises signs or off-site signs. (See "Off-site.")

Permanent Sign shall mean any sign which is affixed to a building or the ground in accordance with the requirements of the Florida Building Code and any other applicable federal, state, or local laws, and in such a manner as to be immobile without the use of extraordinary means such as disassembly.

Pole Sign shall mean a freestanding sign whose structural system consists of a pole(s), column(s), post(s) or other similar type structural system. Pole signs may also be referred to as pylon signs.

Pole Cover shall mean covers that enclose or decorate the poles or other structural supports of a sign.

~~*Political Sign* shall mean a type of temporary off-site sign which constitutes a political advertisement, the primary purpose of which is related to the candidacy of any person for public office or any issue which has been submitted for referendum approval.~~

Portable Sign shall mean any sign which is manifestly designed to be transportable, including transportation by trailer or on its own wheels, even though the wheels of such sign may be removed and the remaining chassis or support, constructed without wheels, is converted to an A or T frame sign, or attached temporarily or permanently to the ground, since this characteristic is based on the design of such a sign. It is characteristic of such a portable sign that the space provided for advertising matter consists of a changeable copy sign.

Figure 2-7: Portable Sign



Projecting Sign shall mean any sign which is attached to and which projects more than twenty-four (24) inches from the outside wall of any building or structure.

Figure 2-8: Projecting Sign



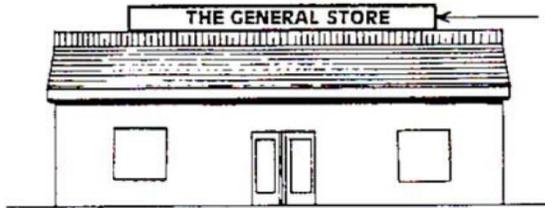
~~*Real Estate Sign* shall mean a temporary non-illuminated on-site ground sign offering for sale, lease or rent a structure or parcel.~~

~~*Restricted Temporary Sign* shall mean animated signs, banners, flashing or moving signs, multi-prism signs, portable signs, roof signs, snipe signs, twirling signs and other similar signs.~~

Revolving Sign (a/k/a Rotating) shall mean any sign so erected or constructed as to periodically or continuously change the direction toward which any plane containing the display surface area is oriented.

Roof Sign shall mean a sign erected upon or above the roof surface of any building. This term shall not include a mansard sign or a sign erected on the vertical wall portion of a cupola.

Figure 2-20: Roof Sign



Sandwich Board Sign shall mean a portable, freestanding, movable and double-faced sign ~~and shall be displayed as a temporary sign.~~

Sidewalk Sign shall mean any sign placed on a public or private sidewalk.

Sign shall mean any combination of sign structures (poles, fences, walls) and writing, pictorial presentation, illustration decoration, symbol, any material, color, lighting or other device which:

- a. Is used to announce, direct attention to, identify, advertise or otherwise make anything known; and
- b. Is visible from any public way or adjoining property.

The term "sign" shall not be deemed to include ~~the terms~~ "building," "landscaping," any architectural embellishment of a building not designed to communicate information, ~~religious symbols, memorials or tablets.~~

Sign Contractor shall mean any individual who is qualified to install, repair, add to, or change signs.

Sign Face shall mean the area, display surface, or part of a sign on which the copy or message is placed.

Sign Permit shall mean a permit issued by the Director that authorizes the holder to erect, move, enlarge or substantially alter a sign.

Snipe Sign shall mean an off-site ~~temporary~~ sign made of any material in the public right-of-way or utility easement which is tacked, nailed, posted, glued, or otherwise attached to any utility pole, tree, fence, fence post supports, stakes, or other signs or other similar objects.

Figure 2-9: Snipe Sign



Structure Sign shall mean any structure which is designed specifically for the purpose of supporting a sign, has supported, or is capable of supporting a sign, including any decorative covers, braces, wires, supports, or components attached to or placed around the sign structure.

~~*Subdivision Sign* shall mean a identification sign which is designed to identify a major subdivision (defined generally as eleven (11) or more residential lots and more specifically in Chapter 2 of this Code).~~

Figure 2-10: Subdivision Sign



~~*Tag Sign* shall mean a sign for scannable information without readable text.~~

Figure 2-11: Tag Sign



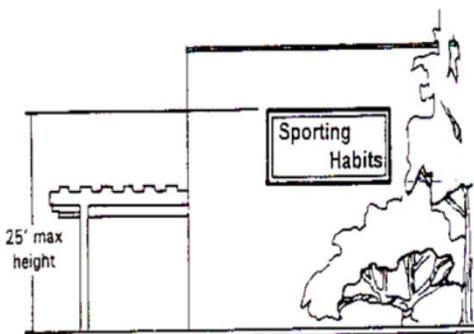
~~*Temporary Sign:* A sign not permanently imbedded in the ground or permanently affixed to a building or sign structure and intended to be capable of being moved. shall mean any sign erected on-site for a specific purpose (e.g., construction sign) intended to be displayed for 3~~

~~months or less at the end of which the temporary sign is expected to be removed along with the pole, mast, frame or other structure to which it is attached if it is a freestanding sign.~~

~~Temporary Off-Site Sign shall mean any temporary sign not located on the same lot as the business commodity, service or entertainment to which it relates. This shall include any structure designed primarily for the display of off-site signs.~~

Wall Sign shall mean any sign which is painted on, fastened to, or erected against an exterior wall of a roofed building with its face in a parallel plane to the plane of the building facade or wall and which shall not project more than twelve (12) inches from such wall.

Figure 2-12: Wall Sign



Warning Sign shall mean any sign which is designed to provide public notice of a clear and present danger to public health, safety, or welfare and shall not exceed six (6) square feet of sign area.

Window Sign shall mean any sign which is painted on the inside of, or attached to, the inside of, or visible through a window, excluding the display of merchandise.