

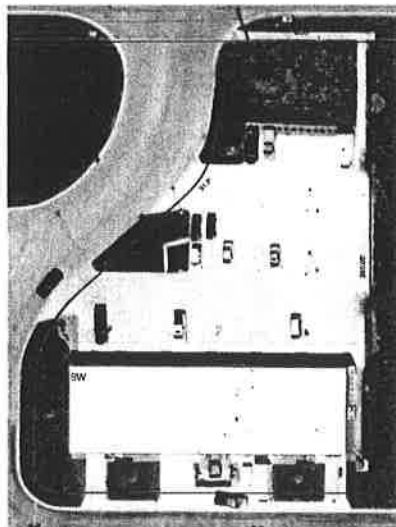
December 18, 2019

Dear Ames City Council,

The Building Board of Appeals is in place to hear appeals regarding the Building, Plumbing, Mechanical, Electrical and Sign codes of the City of Ames. At the regularly scheduled board meeting in November, the Board heard an appeal of the Sign code for which they feel a text amendment would be appropriate.

Section 21.121 of the Sign Code allows properties within agricultural, commercial or industrial zones a total allotment of three square feet of signage for each one foot of street frontage. This doesn't appear to be an issue on most properties, but it does have a large impact on properties with very little street frontage. The appeal heard on November 4, 2019 is a great example of a property experiencing a negative impact by this code section.

Greater Iowa Credit Union, located at 200 Airport Road, submitted an appeal citing fixed conditions (the lot frontage) that made strict compliance impracticable. The property has a multi-tenant building on it, but the frontage is much narrower than the area in which the structure sits. Currently, the site has 74.19 feet of frontage and is therefore allowed 222.57 square feet of signage. The allowed signage has already been used, prohibiting the tenant (appellant) from adding additional signage to their tenant space.



There was consensus among the Board that the way in which signage is currently allocated may not be the best practice. The Board is requesting that Council look into options that would provide a more equitable sign allowance so that 'flag' properties such as 200 Airport are not as negatively affected:

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Carnes".

David Carnes
Building Board of Appeals, Chairman