

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DESIGN COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE
HELD ON JANUARY 3, 2013**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Hoopes called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.
- II. ROLL:** Present were Commissioners Tobias, Vavoulis, Planners Gjolme and Clarke. Commissioner Roberts arrived at 7:47 a.m. Chairman Moldafsky was absent.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Flag Salute was recited.
- IV. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** There were no comments.
- V. CONSENT CALENDAR:**
- A.** Minutes - December 6, 2012 Meeting M/S/C Tobias/Vavoulis to approve the minutes as submitted. Unanimous 3-0.
- VI. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None.
- VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**
- A. Design Review 11-17;** St. Francis High School; 200 Foothill Blvd.; **re-approval** of new 3,900 sq. ft. classroom addition; final phase of approved master plan.

Planner Gjolme gave an overview of the request. The Commission had no issues or questions. M/S/C Vavoulis/Tobias to approve the request. Approved 3-0.

- B. Design Review 12-17;** Bank of America; 537 Foothill Blvd.; new ATM sunscreen.

Planner Gjolme gave a history of the Commission's review of the building. He showed slide from 2005 with screen placed in front of ATM without Commission approval.

Commissioner Tobias asked about position of the screen - if it was centered.

Applicant Ernesto Torres said that they keep the screen close to width of ATM. No functional reason to be larger. No issue with wood with bank. He can match texture and metal mullions to look like wood.

Commissioner Hoopes asked about Sheet 6 which showed the sections. He asked about construction and materials used. What was the size of the beam?

Mr. Torres said it will be engineered to work with the wind factor.

Commissioner Tobias raised the following issues - screen to be the same width as canopy, incorporate trash can by bolting it, prefer 6"x6" or 6"x8" posts, roof canopy does not match other elements of the building.

Commissioner Hoopes suggested putting in a different pitched roof over the ATM enclosure because it will be there for 20-30 years. The metal roof was causing restraints.

Planner Gjolme showed the Commission the other roof element.

Commissioner Hoopes said that the roof would come out further and be more attractive structure. He could draw it.

Commissioner Tobias suggested replacing white iron along the sides.

Mr. Torres said he understood symmetry.

Planner Gjolme said these issues were within the scope of findings.

Commission Vavoulis was not in support of changes and was not certain the potential revisions would work.

Commissioner Tobias agreed.

Commissioner Hoopes visited site at 3:00 pm and noted the impact of the full bright sun.

Commissioner Roberts shared concerns - shed roof. Bank of America may not be tenant for ever. Ruined building possibly for ATM.

Commissioner Tobias said that there were two other ATMs within 25 feet.

Mr. Torres noted these were drive-thru ATMs.

M/S/C Vavoulis/Roberts to continue to item to explore design alternatives. 4-0.

C. Design Review 12-15; Magpie's Grill, Lupe's Place, Anna's Acupuncture; 1438, 1442, 1446 Foothill Blvd.; change of copy to existing pole sign.

Planner Clarke gave an overview of the request which involved an unauthorized copy change to an existing non-conforming pole sign and the addition of an address bar at the top of the sign.

Natalie Karasik - daughter of property owner - stated that her father developed the property and installed the now grandfathered sign. She apologized for refurbishment without permission. She did not like the address bar at the top of the sign, and had no deliberate intention of making the sign taller.

Commissioner Tobias confirmed that the decorative lamps adorning the front façade had been removed.

Commissioner Vavoulis had no issue with the copy change but felt the address bar should be removed.

Commissioner Roberts noted that the Fire Dept. requires building addresses, but they are typically affixed to the subject building and there is no requirement for them to be on the pole sign.

Commissioner Hoopes did not believe that the addresses could be successfully integrated anywhere on the pole sign.

Commissioner Tobias reaffirmed that the issue was the increased height of the sign, not just the installation of addresses.

M/S/C Vavoulis/Roberts to approve they request with a condition to remove the address bar atop the sign. Unanimous 4-0.

D. Design Review 12-16; Anna's Acupuncture; 1442-1444 Foothill Blvd.; new wall sign.

Planner Clarke gave an overview of the new wall sign that was installed without prior approval from the Design Commission.

Commissioner Hoopes asked how the item would be treated if the applicant was not in attendance.

Planner Gjolme responded that an approval action is always the objective, but a continuance may be needed depending on the issues and/or changes to a project that result during review and discussion.

Commissioner Tobias asked about the maximum sign area allowed for the subject building.

Planner Clarke responded that 59 sq. ft. was allowed.

Commissioner Tobias felt the sign looked too large for the building.

Commissioner Roberts felt the sign was acceptable provided the building had no other tenants and additional signage. He felt an approval condition requiring re-review of this sign in conjunction with any future signs was needed.

Commissioner Tobias did not like the sign's style and design.

Commissioner Hoopes felt the sign was acceptable, albeit not optimal.

Commissioner Roberts noted that the sign was not necessarily a permanent addition given the possibility of future business turnaround. As such, he was amenable to the sign as proposed.

Planner Gjolme noted that a matte finish should be applied to the glossy blue letters.

M/S/C Roberts/Vavoulis to approve the sign subject to application of a matte finish and a requirement for re-review if other signs are proposed in the future. Unanimous 4-0.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS: There was no other business.

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Tobias commented on the 'now open' flags in the corner planter fronting "The Habit", which have been in place for over a month.

Planner Gjolme responded that staff would notify "The Habit" and have the flags removed.

X COMMENTS FROM STAFF: There were no comments.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.