

# CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DESIGN COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE HELD ON JANUARY 15, 2015

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Moldafsky called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.
- II. **ROLL:** Also present were Commissioners Balcazar, Hoopes, King, and Roberts.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** None
- V. **CONSENT CALENDAR:** Minutes - 12/18/2014 Design Commission meeting.

M/S/C Hoopes/King to adopt the minutes as submitted. 3-0-2 Abstain due to absence at said meeting: Moldafsky and Roberts

### VI. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- A. **4515 Ocean View Boulevard**  
Verizon Wireless  
Design Review 14-12

*Installation of roof mounted antennae and associated equipment*

Senior Planner Buss recalls Design Commission direction for the applicant to prepare mockups for evaluation. He shows the original proposal with screen walls, recalling Design Commission direction for a different method of screening, or none at all. Photo simulations had also been provided upon request. Mr. Buss displayed a photo simulation of the antennas without screening, in gray, and both a mockup photo and a photo simulation of a hedge treatment and of socks.

William Desmond introduces himself on behalf of Verizon. He shows a material sample for the sock and hedge -- pine needles individually attached to a fabric screen. He notes that the mockup wasn't the full effect, not extending to the rear and not painted to match the green color. He notes that the needles are the same as on the monopine, and that they hold up well. Having looked at it both ways, he has no preference for the treatment.

Commissioner Roberts asks about the lifespan of the material. Mr. Desmond states that the antennas would be swapped out before socks or screening need replacement. Mr.

Roberts asks how the company assures maintenance; Mr. Desmond replies that a monthly visual check is made, and that the City can just call Verizon if there's a problem. Commissioner King asks about fading. Mr. Desmond states that any material will fade, but that the needles are UV-resistant, fading less than earlier versions. He offers that the City can call if fading becomes a problem, with no problem to swap it out.

Commissioner Balcazar states her preference for the screen over the socks.

Commissioner Hoopes states his dislike for the foliage, since "the more you put up the more attention it draws". He notes that without screening and painted light gray the antennae would blend into the sky. He states his belief that the socks really attract attention, and the other screen looks so contrived, since green foliage and a square shape don't go together.

Commissioner Roberts states his understanding of the theory about the square box, which he states could resemble tree in distance, and is not as artificial as he had expected. He offers willingness to entertain it as an option, noting that the bare antennas can become a big problem if there's a proliferation on the roof. He notes a preference for a hedge rather than a rectangle.

Commissioner Hoopes reiterates that the contrast to the background raises attention, while the antennas are light and wispy, and that greenery looks strange on the roof.

Commissioner King notes that she doesn't dislike the screen, although if top is flat, it looks like a box.

Mr. Desmond states that the curtain treatment can be made an irregular shape.

Chair Moldafsky notes the view angle and partial blockage by foreground trees so that it would not be obvious what is being viewed. He states no preference.

Director Stanley voices support for properly colored antennas as the least noticeable option.

Consulting Architect/Planner Cantrell states that a rectangular shape on the roof is not strange if it's treated as a pergola, with structure visible among the foliage.

Commissioner Balcazar states that they hadn't considered it. Commissioner Hoopes asks for clarification on the term "pergola". Chair Moldafsky notes that it would become a rooftop garden.

Commissioner Roberts notes that the Allen Lund rooftop is an example of undesirable proliferation. He expresses doubt about the effectiveness of the "no see-em" green paint

at making the antennae less visible. Commissioner Roberts states his willingness to try a green screen attempt because more antennas could appear. Chair Moldafsky states that it might be a good opportunity, trying the strategy far off the boulevard.

Director Stanley suggests just trying the painted antennae and coming back after six months for evaluation and possible revision. Commissioner Roberts reiterates that proliferation is the concern, and that the hedge is not offensive. Mr. Desmond notes that the mockup was not flattering, since it appears to be floating in space. He states his desire for a final determination. He notes that he has processed 18,000 wireless sites and that this would be the first with foliage on a rooftop, but that another is proposed for Los Angeles. He states that it is worth a try, and that if the Commission decides after 6 months that they don't like it Verizon can remove it.

Chair Moldafsky confirms the Commission's consensus against socks. Commissioner Balcazar makes a motion to approve the green panel, with an uneven top if possible, noting that it could resemble the top of a tree beyond the building. Mr. Desmond notes that the motion should include that the panel would be fully wrapped.

M/S/C Balcazar/King to approve the foliage panel, fully wrapped, with an uneven top subject to staff review and approval, and with the Commission option of removal of the foliage and repainting of the antennae an appropriate low-visibility color after 6 months. 4-1 No: Hoopes

**VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**A. STUDY SESSION - Streetscape Options Manual:**

Discussion and revisions prior to document finalization.

As an attachment to the Streetscape Options Manual, Commission Roberts presents the background of his efforts to formulate a program for street landscaping along the entire length of Foothill Boulevard, coordinated with the Public Works Department. The Commission and staff review the landscape work and agree that the landscape components should be removed from the Manual which would instead refer to the separate component being generated, allowing the Manual to be completed and adopted by the City Council quickly. The Manual should include reference to the new concepts of shared tree wells and large street planter pots.

The Commission reviews the Streetscape Options Manual page by page, generating consensus revisions for Mr. Cantrell to use in preparing the document for continued and final review at the February 5, 2015 Design Commission meeting.

- IX. **COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS:** None
- X. **COMMENTS FROM STAFF:** None
- XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** M/S/C Roberts/Balcazar to adjourn the meeting. 5-0. 11:01 a.m.