

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DESIGN COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE  
HELD ON MARCH 3, 2016**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:35 a.m.
- II. **ROLL:** Chairman Moldafsky, Vice Chairman Hoopes, and Commissioners King, and Balcazar were present. Commissioner Roberts arrived at 7:36 a.m.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Flag Salute was recited.
- IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** There were none.
- V. **CONSENT CALENDAR:** There were no items.
- VI. **CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS:** There were none.
- VII. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**
  - A. **Design Review 16-02;** 550 Foothill Blvd.; Arco: illuminated canopy wrap, station façade and signage upgrades.

A staff report was presented by Planning Consultant, Roger Cantrell. Mr. Cantrell explained that the station has a traditional design. The canopy that is being reviewed contains open gables. A reverse color scheme for the canopy bands was approved by the Design Commission in 2000.

Four components will be reviewed: The canopy, pole sign, pumps, and the graphic along the building. The canopy will be wrapped around the building gable to the north. Staff has concerns with this as it appears to be awkward.

Staff recommends that the canopy roof be redesigned to a hip design. The ridge is not a visible problem. Staff questions the location of the "spark" design. Staff recommends narrowing the canopy strip in the middle. The colors that are proposed are white on dark blue. Staff believes the sandwich sign is cluttered and suggested de-cluttering them by rewrapping the new vinyl graphics and deleting the large Arco logo and pump graphic.

Commissioner Roberts asked about the dimension of the wrap on the canopy and its height.

Staff indicated that the letters will be 20 inches tall and the band will be 15 inches high.

Applicant, Sorin Enache, indicated that the lettering has to be eight inches in height. Twelve inch letters are proposed which will be tight. State law dictates what can be listed on the signs. Only the vinyl and logos are proposed to be changed.

DC Minutes - 3/3/2016 Meeting

Commissioner Roberts asked the applicant for clarification of the canopy and lettering dimensions.

Vice Chairman Hoopes asked if the "Arco" verbiage is in the gable.

The applicant clarified that the logo is proposed to be changed and that the "spark" will be contained within a circle.

Vice Chairman Hoopes asked if sidewalk signs were restricted.

Director Stanley clarified that no signs would be allowed in the Public Right-of-Way.

Commissioner Roberts asked staff about the canopy angle and whether it would be possible to angle the canopy at the corner northeast portion. Converting the returns to white would be preferable.

The applicant said that he will look into it.

Mr. Cantrell recommended that the white wrap around a few inches at the north ends of the bands.

Commissioner Roberts indicated that it would be cleaner and would frame the whole logo.

Commissioner King suggested that the edge should have a few inches of white as well.

Chairman Moldafsky and Commissioner Roberts asked about the pole sign having cleaner lines.

Commissioner Balcazar asked about adding a flag to the pole.

The applicant indicated that they'd try to squeeze the letters on the pole sign.

Chairman Moldafsky asked if a self-service sign was needed and Commissioner King asked if the self-service verbiage could be reduced in size.

Vice Chairman Hoopes asked if the wings could remain and Planner Chris Gjolme indicated, "Yes, it can remain because it is nonconforming.

The applicant added that they would work with staff on the signage and would check on what Arco would allow.

Director Stanley indicated that the City can assist with the cost of pole sign removal through the Façade Improvement grant program.

Commissioner Roberts asked about new proposed lighting changes.

The applicant indicated the word, "Arco" would be illuminated.

Commissioner Roberts asked about the channel lettering proposed for the canopy. He indicated that illuminating the Arco sign could be excessive. Possibly, reverse channel lettering could be considered. He commended staff for considering a hipped roof option on the north end of the canopy. Mr. Roberts also felt that staff could work with the applicant on the pole sign price panels.

Vice Chairman Hoopes agreed that there are too many Arco signs. He suggested that something be done with the electrical panel in the front planter area. He feels that the wrong panel box was installed and that it is unsightly. Possibly painting it green and installing a tall vine could help make it more aesthetically pleasing.

Vice Chairman Hoopes and Commissioner Roberts both suggested that the vinyl wrapping at the north elevation be eliminated and that a white band of six inches be included at both ends of the band. Possibly reverse channel lettering could also be considered.

As to the pole sign, the Commission strongly recommended that it be removed and a monument sign be installed in its place. As to the canopy, the Commission directed staff to work with the applicant on the scale of the canopy and to ensure that the current band width remains. The Commission asked that no new canopy lighting be installed.

Speaker, Pat Anderson, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, encouraged the applicant to install a new monument sign and to take advantage of the City's grant funding. She stated that the applicant is upstanding in the community and as a business owner.

M/S/C - Roberts/Hoopes to approve with additional conditions, including use of reverse channel letters for the ARCO signs. Approved 5-0.

B. **Design Review 16-01;** 965-A Foothill Blvd.; Luna Grill: new wall signs for restaurant.

Planner Gjolme presented the staff report. He indicated that two new wall signs are proposed on the façade facing Foothill Blvd. and the internal parking lot. This will result in a diminishment of the current approved sign program. Proposed is a brushed aluminum raceway with channel letters. The Luna verbiage is proposed to be "Cardinal Red." Staff likes the bronze returns and the color of the letters and is not concerned with over-illumination given their size and thickness. There is a nice mix of signage in the center. The "Weight Watchers" business sign that was reviewed in the past by the Design Commission was designed in this way as well.

The existing street tree could impact the visibility of the sign. It is possible that this sign could be moved to the west. The sign would be located in-between two arches in order to be sure that its visibility is maximized. The letter and sign height is less than what code typically allows and therefore staff supports it.

Vice Chairman Hoopes indicated that he liked the sign.

Applicant, Ross Ireland, said that he felt the sign compliments the interior design.

Mr. Gjolme said he did not believe there would be any issues with the visibility because the returns will provide adequate contrast.

Commissioner Roberts stated that the word, "Grill," in reverse channel lettering will glow against the proposed silver.

The applicant indicated that Luna Grill's CEO prefers to keep a uniform piece and would like to show a strong presence because cars drive fast along Foothill Blvd.

Chairman Moldafsky and Vice Chairman Hoopes said that if it is placed off center, it is not a big enough concern to write as a condition.

Mr. Gjolme indicated that the depth of the race way will help to diminish any clashing.

Commissioner King mentioned that to the west, Sakura, has signage that is red and asked whether the new signage would be similar.

Speaker Pat Anderson indicated that the Luna Grill organization is one to involve themselves heavily in the Community. She indicated that a soft opening was scheduled for March 19, 2016.

M/S/C - Hoopes/King to approve as submitted. Approved 5-0.

#### VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:

- A. Design Review 15-14;** 965-A Foothill Blvd.; Luna Grill dining patio; Substantial Conformance Determination to allow removal of one street tree in conjunction with the project.

Planner Gjolme presented a staff report. He explained that the applicant is requesting to remove one street tree and retain another at the business location, contrary to a prior condition of project approval that required replacement of both trees. One of the two trees is unhealthy. Public Works will need to make the determination whether the tree may be removed.

Director Stanley recommended that in the future, conditions involving trees be vetted out with Public Works prior to the Design Commission making a condition.

Vice Chairman Hoopes asked why the street tree was not proposed to be removed.

Director Stanley stated that Public Works should be consulted first about street tree matters and a condition requiring this could be crafted. Perhaps a larger tree could be proposed. Staff would like to modify a condition to address the tree that is of concern. Director Stanley indicated that a Brisbane Box tree is called out in the approved landscape plan. The new City Tree Ordinance calls for a process for removal of the tree. The request must go to the Public Works Commission.

Mr. Gjolme stated that a motion re-drafting the condition should be made to allow for removal of only one of two trees because the one tree is struggling.

Chairman Moldafsky suggested that there be an amendment of the Condition that discusses street trees along Foothill Blvd.

Director Stanley suggested that the condition be removed altogether.

M/S/C - Moldafsky/Hoopes to approve and modify conditions by eliminating the condition that requires the removal of street trees. Approved 5-0.

**IX. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner King asked about Taylors Restaurant and the change to their landscaping along Foothill Blvd.

Director Stanley indicated that he spoke to an associate of the business to install the required landscaping that was originally approved by the City. Staff will follow up on this.

Chairman Moldafsky asked about penalties and or fines.

Director Stanley said that the issue could become a Code Enforcement case.

Commissioner Balcazar asked about the hydrogen station and the electrical box that exists on the site.

Director Stanley said that it was in the original plan and was approved.

Commissioner Roberts suggested staff give a courtesy notification to the station owner to tell him about our concerns.

Mr. Gjolme said that he could contact the owner to suggest that the electrical box be painted and that landscaping be planted at the base or that the box be lowered slightly.

Commissioner Roberts asked about the replacement of trees in front of Ralphs Supermarket.

Mr. Gjolme said that he would look into the matter.

Chairman Moldafsky suggested that a process be followed. He noticed that some of the trees had died. He suggested a penalty process with fines could be instituted.

Vice Chairman Hoopes stated that, otherwise, the hydrogen station looks nice.

Director Stanley indicated that the City's hydrogen station is being recognized and has been highlighted in webinars on the subject as well as in local City of La Cañada Flintridge newspapers.

**X. COMMENTS FROM STAFF:**

Director Stanley indicated that the streetscape manual was under review by Public Works. The Commission asked if there were significant changes and if the Design Commission would have a chance to review and comment on the requested changes.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.