

CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DESIGN COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE HELD ON MARCH 5, 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:** The Flag Salute was recited.
- IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** None.
- V. **CONSENT CALENDAR:** Minutes – 2/19/2015 Design Commission meeting.
M/S/C Hoopes/Balcazar to adopt minutes. 4-0-1 (abstain: King)
- VI. **CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None
- VII. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- A. **Design Review 15-03**
954 Foothill Boulevard
Montrose Travel

New sign panels for an existing pole sign

Planner Gjolme reviews the request for replacement pole sign panels. He notes that the pole sign is nonconforming, but that replacement panels are allowed with positive findings. The temporary sign in place gives good idea of what it will be. The panels utilize white copy set against a blue field and are of pleasing composition. Mr. Gjolme reports no issues with layout or composition, noting a condition requiring an opaque field to limit nighttime illumination to the copy. He recommends positive findings and approval.

Commissioner Roberts asks if a color sample was submitted. Planner Gjolme responds that none was, but that the temporary sign gives some indication of what is intended. Commissioner Hoopes visited site, and notes that the blue of the temporary sign is quite muted and dull. Daren Autry, sign company representative, responds that the blue on the banner is not as vibrant as blue plastic would be. Commissioner Hoopes states his desire to see what the color would be, noting also that it is not as important

with blue as with reds. Planner Gjolme recommends that a submitted sample be subject to staff review; Mr. Hoopes indicates his concurrence with the recommendation.

Commissioner Hoopes asks about lighting, noting that the staff report indicated that internal illumination was not expected. Mr. Hoopes notes that the pole isn't electrified, and that there are two roof lights pointed to the sign. He expresses concern that a reflective sign surface could be a problem with the external lights.

Mr. Autry confirms that there is no electricity to the sign, and that there is a light switch inside for the roof lights. Commissioner Roberts recalls that the sign was never internally illuminated.

Chair Moldafsky asks if the angle of external illumination is acceptable. Commissioner Hoopes notes the requirement of a matte finish. Commissioner Roberts states that shielding the lights to prevent direct view from the street is not an economic issue, since simple metal shields on the outside could better direct light to the sign.

Commissioner King confirms with Mr. Autry that no further sign requests are planned.

M/S/C Hoopes/Balcazar to approve the change of sign copy with conditions requiring a matte finish and a color sample for staff approval, and allowing external illumination with shrouding of the light source (as necessary) from street view and direction of the light onto the sign. Unanimous 5-0.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. STUDY SESSION - Streetscape Options Manual & Street Plantings Appendix

Discussion and revisions prior to document finalization

Consulting Architect/Planner Cantrell notes that there are a limited number of items left to review. He states that the Street Plantings Appendix needs to be referenced in the Table of Contents and the Sidewalk & Curb Extensions section.

Mr. Cantrell recalls that the Commission had recommended putting the Landscaping section back into the Manual. He notes that there was little to that section, and that it works better to just add the landscape items to the Sidewalk & Curb Extension section.

He also notes that it is difficult to find good examples of street tree planters online; Commissioner Roberts agrees. Mr. Cantrell notes that the examples in the Manual are from State Street in Santa Barbara - large installations rather than a product the developer could merely purchase. He also notes that these are the only photos in the

Manual that are outside the City. Commissioner Hoopes asks if the items can be manufactured specifically to City specifications. He notes that he and Commissioner Balcazar might find something at the upcoming landscaping expo. Commissioner Roberts states that the Commission should conduct just one more session to pin down the design of street planter box.

Commissioner Balcazar comments that the font and elements on page 6 (DVSP Figure 5.1) are too small. Commissioner Roberts recommends that a photo of the curb extension west of the Chevron driveway on page 7 be replaced by one of the curb extension on the Memorial Park side of the Foothill Boulevard crossing. Commissioners King and Balcazar request further enlargement of catalog items on page 10. Mr. Cantrell indicates that all will be done.

Commissioner asks how developers will know where to place the bollards; Mr. Cantrell responds that it will be through communication with the Public Works Department specific to each site.

Commissioner Hoopes confirmed with Mr. Cantrell that construction details will be provided to developers for required streetscape improvements.

Commissioner Roberts notes that the block from Pinkberry to Georgie's would benefit from street planters replacing the street trees and replace with planter boxes, with improved sign visibility one benefit.

Commissioner states that it is critical to delay the document to get the right street planter box into it. Commissioner Roberts notes that the appendix can include recommended plantings for the street planter boxes.

Chair Moldafsky and Commissioner Roberts compliment Mr. Cantrell for the document.

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Roberts asks staff to investigate whether new signage has been installed at the Arco canopies. He also asks for a letter to be sent to Ralphs regarding dead trees along Foothill Boulevard. Mr. Roberts notes as well that the annual color required to be planted at the 76 Station is again not in place.

X. COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

Planner Gjolme reports that the alternate design worked out by staff and the subcommittee for the La Canada Imports signage will not be possible because Building

& Safety requires that the sign cannot extend downward below the existing bottom of beam. He indicates that further work will be done.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

M/S/C Hoopes/Roberts to adjourn meeting at 8:33 a.m. Unanimous 5-0.