

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DESIGN COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE
HELD ON MARCH 6, 2014**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Moldafsky called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.
- II. **ROLL:** Present were Commissioners Hoopes, Roberts, Tobias, Director of Community Development Stanley, Planners Gjolme and Clarke. Commissioner Vavoulis was absent.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Flag Salute was recited.
- IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** There were no comments.
- V. **CONSENT CALENDAR:** Minutes - 2/20/2014 Design Commission meeting Hoopes/Roberts 3-0 to approve (Tobias abstained).
- VI. **CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None.
- VII. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None.
- VIII. **OTHER BUSINESS:**
 - A. Commission Goals and Objectives (discussion item).

Director Stanley gave an overview of the upcoming City Council goals meeting. He was looking for comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Hoopes asked about the joint meeting between the Commissions.

Director Stanley said it could be with other commissioners including the Traffic Commission.

Commissioner Tobias spoke about working with Public Works.

Director Stanley said that issues in public areas had implications for other Commissions. He gave an example of a pocket park in parking spots which would need an encroachment permit.

Commissioner Roberts said that Colorado Blvd. in Pasadena was being narrowed for a temporary pocket park.

Commissioner Tobias asked about protections for people sitting in pocket parks.

Commissioner Hoopes said that North Beach in Miami had lots of restaurants and lots of people. Awnings run out to the curb to protect diners from rain.

Commissioner Tobias asked about what happens to other businesses with the loss of parking spaces.

Commissioner Hoopes said it puts more customers on the street and visiting businesses.

Director Stanley said that there was a parking problem at Dish restaurant at lunch time.

Commissioner Tobias said Georgie's lot was used by other businesses. This was a similar situation for Panda Express and Pinkberry.

Director Stanley suggested meeting annually with the other Commissions.

Commissioner Roberts spoke about landscaping on the Boulevard - location and type. The Commission should take the lead on these issues.

Commissioner Tobias said they need to look at it strategically.

Commissioner Hoopes said he liked it as it improved business.

Commissioner Roberts said we can look at other cities and see how it works there.

Director Stanley suggested looking at the downtown area and make it more business friendly. Look at outdoor spaces - may be unusable before.

Commissioner Roberts said that Old Town Pasadena was considering pocket parks.

Planner Gjolme spoke about the streetscape manual with specs etc.

Chairman Moldafsky asked if we had a specific design which is relatively objective. How do we decide if the findings can be made?

Planner Gjolme said that the findings were subjective.

Chairman Moldafsky spoke about signage in different parts of the city. He felt uncomfortable hanging his hat on a directionless aesthetic. He is not getting guidance from the City Council but he is getting it from the public.

Commissioner Roberts did not think that the manual provided the spirit of what they are trying to convey. We don't want bright colors. He mentioned corporate signs and colors.

Director Stanley said that the other commercial areas other than downtown need guidelines. They may need to consider creating plans for different parts of Foothill Blvd.

Commissioner Roberts said that staff and Commissioners will change over time and this needs to be in print as history is lost.

Chairman Moldafsky mentioned district level design description.

Commissioner Hoopes mentioned the San Marino design booklet for residential uses.

Director Stanley said we have design guidelines but not for commercial buildings.

Commissioner Roberts said that the San Marino manual is very helpful and good as an example. He noted that other Commissions don't know the extent of the Design Commission's work.

Director Stanley spoke about transformation on the Boulevard due to the work of the Design Commission.

Commissioner Tobias said that two members will be leaving shortly. New members need to know what the Commission does. Suggested new council members meet with Design Commission for two hours.

Commissioner Roberts felt (along with Commissioner Hoopes) that their work was unfinished.

Director Stanley said different that districts work will need consultants. DVSP will be redone as part of the General Plan.

Commissioner Tobias asked if we could use some of the materials we have now and get a working document. There is a need to use local knowledge.

Chairman Moldafsky said that the community accepts the aesthetic that the Commission uses.

Commissioner Hoopes said that four members will leave in two years.

Chairman Moldafsky wants direction to continue his work on the Commission.

Director Stanley noted commercial district design guidelines; joint meetings with other commissions; education of the commissions; annual or twice a year meetings with the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Roberts said that the meetings should be at least every two years and also educate the City Council.

Chairman Moldafsky said we need council members who have a history in the City.

Planner Gjolme mentioned the sign ordinance revision and they wanted it completed.

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Tobias spoke about the reader board subcommittee. Councilmember Davitt will send out a memo that summarizes meeting. Four people but no staff in attendance at the meeting. There are 13 potential sites for reader boards. One tasteful reader board is not a problem particularly if it replaces a pole sign. Foothill east of freeway overpass for educational uses and only for high schools that have over 400 students and greater than three acres with school info only.

Chairman Moldafsky asked if they can name St Francis and Prep and have an overlay zone. We want a tasteful sign to replace the pole sign.

Director Stanley spoke about spot zoning.

Planner Gjolme said that there are only 8 sites that qualify - schools with one acre minimum.

Commissioner Tobias asked how many do we want in the city. They would like one tasteful sign. Variance findings may be possible for St. Francis but hard to do. This opens the YMCA for a potential Variance request.

Planner Gjolme said no ordinance will be going to the council in April.

Commissioner Tobias said that a memo from Councilmember Davitt will be sent out today and asked if it could be sent to the commissioners.

Commissioner Roberts asked when the Commission will see the Link project.

X. COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

Director Stanley said that the Vons center sold. New colors for the center to be approved by staff. Courtesy review by the Commission at this time

Commissioner Roberts disagreed with the proposal. Multiple colors for different elements including the tower. Five colors may be okay but thirteen is too many.

Director Stanley said that they were not using all these colors. He has authority from the Council to approve the request. It's not required to go to the Commission.

Commissioner Roberts spoke about how they worked to avoid Town Center problems in the Vons center.

Commissioner Tobias asked about a subcommittee to review.

Director Stanley suggested putting it on next agenda or having a subcommittee.

Commissioner Roberts said they don't know what the paint contractors will do. Edit it down and make approvable.

Director Stanley said new owners want to put their mark on the center.

Commissioner Roberts said that this was a big enough change to come to the commission for review.

Commissioner Tobias thought that they would be happy repainting it the same color. Eleven colors are too many. Existing colors okay.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 a.m.