

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DESIGN COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE
HELD ON MARCH 15, 2012**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Moldafsky called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.
- II. **ROLL:** Present were Commissioners Hoopes, Roberts, Tobias and 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:**
 - A. **Minutes - 2/16/2012 meeting.** Approved 3-0-1. Abstain - Tobias.
- VI. **CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS:**
 - A. **Design Review 11-25;** Plaza de La Canada; 633-661 Foothill Blvd.; tenant sign program.

Planner Clarke gave an overview of the new sign program for Vons, which was continued from a previous meeting.

The Commission had no questions for staff.

Tim Pitts - representing Vons - discussed the sign program and revisions to the plans.

The Commission discussed the precise material and composition for the new signs.

Commissioner Tobias noted that actual construction drawings were not yet provided.

Mr. Pitts responded that construction drawings would be prepared after concept approval and prior to plan check.

The Commission discussed the 4' depth of the blade signs and their location on the fascia. Commissioner Hoopes was concerned that they were too large.

The Commission discussed the language in the written sign program and noted a need for a provision that stipulates future compliance and adhering to the City's Sign Ordinance.

M/S/C Tobias/Roberts to approve the sign program subject to the sign boxes framed entirely by wood with mitered edges; a reduction of the blade sign depth to 3'-6" and proportionate reduction to the remainder of the sign and attachment bracket/arm; provision of language in the written sign program and a condition of approval that stipulates future compliance with said program's parameters and the City's Sign Ordinance. Approved 4-0.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Zone Change 11-02; Amendment to Section 11.47.020 - Design Review Applicability. Guidelines for outdoor furniture.

Planner Gjolme explained the City Council's direction to prepare a guideline for the use of outdoor furniture.

The draft language was presented and discussed by the Commission.

M/S/C Tobias/Hoopes to recommend approval of said guideline as presented by staff. Unanimous 4-0.

B. Discussion item - Electronic reader boards. Amendment to Sign Ordinance to allow reader boards in excess of 4 sq. ft. on Public/Semi-public and Institutionally-zoned properties.

Planner Gjolme discussed the request from St. Francis High School and discussed the code limits for reader boards. A Variance or code change would be needed to allow an over-size reader board as proposed, albeit as a concept at this point.

The Commission discussed the issue and unanimously agreed that no action should be taken and that code standards pertaining to reader boards remain as is. The Commission noted the potential for a troubling precedent and possible proliferation of reader boards that could occur, associated impacts on aesthetics, the semi-rural quality of adjacent residential neighborhoods and the general compromising of Foothill Blvd.'s appearance and character.

M/S/C Tobias/Roberts strong recommendation to the City Council to take no action on issue for reasons cited above. Unanimous 4-0.

VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Hoopes noted his concern with commercial leasing signs. Staff was directed to review codes from other cities and report back to the Commission.

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Chairman Moldafsky mentioned the Valley Sun's misleading article about the building color code change currently underway.

Commissioner Tobias commended Planner Gjolme on the reader board report, noting it was thorough and well thought-out.

IX. COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

Planner Gjolme noted that a Special meeting for the Unocal 76 project would be held on March 22, 2012.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 a.m.