

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DESIGN COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE  
HELD ON APRIL 5, 2012**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Moldafsky called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.
- II. **ROLL:** Present were Commissioners Hoopes, Roberts, Director of Community Development Stanley and Planner Gjolme. Commissioners Tobias and Vavoulis were absent.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Flag Salute was recited.
- IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** There were no comments.
- V. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**
- A. **Minutes** - 3/15/2012 & 3/22/2012 meetings. Minutes were approved as submitted. Unanimous. 3-0.
- VI. **CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS:**
- A. **Design Review 11-14;** Los Gringos Locos; 631 Foothill Blvd.; new wall signs.

Planner Gjolme gave a brief overview of the request for two illuminated wall signs, concept approval for which was granted in November of 2011.

Commissioner Hoopes really liked the logo and couldn't envision the restaurant without it.

Commissioner Roberts noted the importance of confirming size and proportion of the painted brown 'halo' on the west elevation.

Commissioner Roberts was concerned with channel letters proposed for the Foothill Blvd. sign. He preferred reverse channel letters with painted faces.

Commissioner Roberts felt that raising the sign above the planter wall would work very well.

Bent Hansen - owner & applicant - agreed but reminded the Commission that landlord approval would be needed for any changes to the signs.

The Commission allowed for use of non-illuminated pin-mounted letters as shown on the plan if landlord approval could not be obtained to position the sign atop the planter wall.

M/S/C Roberts/Hoopes to approve the request subject to: the brown 'halo' border painted on the west elevation shall conform to the size and proportion in relation to the subject sign as shown on the plans labeled Design Review 11-1, approved at the 4-5-2012 meeting. Confirmation to this effect shall be demonstrated prior to permit issuance and verified prior to final clearance; the south sign shall employ non-illuminated letters placed atop the west end of the planter wall. Letter height shall not exceed 18", exclusive of appendages as allowed by code. Should landlord approval of said location not be granted, non-illuminated pin-mounted letters shall be allowed as shown on the plan approved at the 4-5-2012 Design Commission meeting. Unanimous 3-0.

**VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**A. Design Review 12-02 (advisory);** LCF Town Center; 2 Sport Chalet Drive, 895-985 Foothill Blvd., 890-990 Town Center Drive; new monument, wall and directional signs.

Planner Gjolme outlined the request to replace existing monument and directional signs at the Town Center and that this review would serve the Planning Commission's upcoming Variance review in an advisory capacity.

Commissioner Roberts confirmed that the signs on street wall would compensate for approved signs along the west side of Building C that had yet to be installed since the tenant space in question was empty.

Matt Trainor and Susan Schwartz - applicant and designer - offered to answer any questions.

Commissioner Hoopes thought the design of the street wall and sign panels was excellent.

Mr. Trainor clarified that a sign would still be allowed on the south elevation of building C, away from the street wall.

Commissioner Roberts felt the monument signs were excellent and a marked improvement to the current signs. He felt mock-ups of both signs and incorporation of landscaping into the sign plans was critical prior to Planning Commission review of the project

Chairman Moldafsky commented that the architecture and style of the proposal compensates for and de-emphasizes the inadequacies of the existing elements.

Commissioner Hoopes was concerned that the cupola atop the corner monument reads like a large birdhouse appendage and was visually stronger than it needed to be.

Ms. Schwartz felt the element was thoughtfully done, tiered appropriately and commensurate to scale of plaza and buildings.

The Commission and applicants agreed that the mock-ups, when installed, would confirm the overall scale and potential effects related thereto.

Commissioner Hoopes called attention to the boulders along the base of the directional signs and felt they should extend beyond the edges of the base to achieve a better sense permanence/stability.

The tile insert was discussed and Mr. Trainor explained that this was a new logo for the Center than was designed specifically to 'brand' the Town Center.

Commissioner Roberts discussed the idea of an additional parking sign along the east side of the driveway accessing Sport Chalet's rooftop parking lot.

Mr. Trainor responded that a new parking blade sign adjacent to the west side of the driveway was proposed.

Ms. Schwartz commented that off-white copy would be used for all the new sign panels on the monument signs to achieve an understated and consistent look.

M/S/C Roberts/Hoopes to grant concept approval for the request and recommend approval to the Planning Commission with regard to design and scale issues subject to: three-dimensional mock-ups of both monument signs shall be installed to better assess the height and scale of said signs in relation to surrounding buildings and the prevailing streetscape; proposed landscaping shall be integrated into the sign plans to better understand the collective visual scope of the project and interrelationship of hardscape and landscape elements. Unanimous 3-0.

#### **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:**

Pat Anderson - Chamber of Commerce - stated that the Chamber was in discussion with IDC to relocate the Farmers Market into the Town Center. She also confirmed that corporate colors and logos would still be allowed for the individual tenant wall signs.

#### **IX. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Roberts noted that the Los Gringos Locos project took time and did not rush through the process, but got it done right with a fantastic result. He felt it was important that the business community understand that some projects take additional time, but the end result is usually worth it.

**X. COMMENTS FROM STAFF:**

Director Stanley affirmed Commissioner Robert's comments and stated that the Design Review process is a positive and productive experience, as opposed to a counterproductive one, as has been perceived at times in the past.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.