

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DESIGN COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE
HELD ON MAY 5, 2011**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Vavoulis called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.
- II. ROLL:** Present were Commissioners Hoopes, Moldafsky, and Vavoulis, Director of Community Development Stanley, Planner Clarke.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Flag Salute was recited.
- IV. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** There were no comments.
- V. CONSENT CALENDAR:**
 - A.** Minutes - April 7, 2011 - minutes were continued due to lack of quorum.
 - B.** Design Review 11-02; Calstar Realty & Mortgage; 1033 Foothill Blvd.; final review of new landscaping.

Director Stanley gave an overview. Commissioner Roberts had provided written comments regarding the landscaping and agreed to meet with applicant to discuss, if necessary.

Applicant (Mike Manuelian) agreed to meet with him.

M/S/C Hoopes/Moldafsky to approve with Commissioner Roberts to meet with applicant, if needed: Approved 3-0.

- VI. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS:**
 - A. Design Review 10-06;** Conoco 76; 1001 Foothill Blvd.; refurbish/remodel existing service station building in conjunction with convenience store expansion and installation of new pump island canopies.

M/S/C Hoopes/Moldafsky to continue the request to the May 19, 2011 meeting. Unanimous.

- VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**
 - A. Design Review 11-03;** Caterpillar Kids Place; 965 Foothill Blvd. #B; new wall signs.

Director Stanley gave an overview of the proposed signage for the new business.

Applicant Yesika Baker introduced herself.

Chairman Vavoulis mentioned staff's recommendations and agreed with them including the decrease in the size of some of the letters.

Director Stanley spoke about the light bars for the signs.

Commissioner Hoopes said that he had looked at the Sakura sign during the daylight and thought it showed up good with the lighting and lettering. He was concerned that part of the lettering on the proposed sign could fall off if not glued on good. He noted that the existing goose neck lights were not level or spaced out correctly and may be up to 6" off. He asked the applicant to make sure that the sign is installed flush with the roof and not the goose neck lights. He said that it was a terrific sign and emulates children. He would like to remove the existing lighting but overall he is okay with it.

Commissioner Moldafsky said that he had nothing to add other than to say that it was a wonderful sign.

M/S/C Hoopes/Moldafsky to approve with the following conditions added.

No letter height greater than 18" permitted; the sign is to be installed parallel to edge of roof and not the gooseneck lighting; the applicant can increase light bar to 6" tall with 4" internally lit letters. Approved 3-0.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Zone Change 11-02; Amendment to Section 11.47.020 - Design Review Applicability.

Director Stanley said that the amendment added color to the Design Commission review and that it some changed some sections of the Sign Ordinance.

Chair Vavoulis asked if Commissioners Roberts and Tobias had issues with the proposed changes. He asked about Commission purview over outdoor furniture. He noted that the Commission can only give advisory comments and can not affect furniture.

Director Stanley said that he would have to look into the technicalities of that issue in the code. Outdoor furniture was permitted in the DVSP by right unless outdoor speakers proposed which require a CUP.

Chair Vavoulis said that it does not come up often but that it needs to be considered.

Director Stanley said that they will continue to investigate and look to regulate outdoor furniture.

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Commissioner Hoopes asked about outdoor furniture that was not visible from the public way. If someone wanted to open an outdoor café, it would be appropriate to review, but if it was in an enclosed private area like Penelope's it may not be needed. He noted that Chipotles is visible from the public way.

Chair Vavoulis said that he was not concerned with it in private areas but was concerned when it changed the visible appearance of the outside of a building. Director Stanley mentioned yard furniture in treated by the code in residential areas. He will see if it can be regulated in commercial areas.

Pat Anderson said that the Caterpillar applicant wants to be part of the community. She commended staff on how they worked with the applicant.

Ms Anderson said that she will be meeting with the new owners of the Town Center. There will be a major face lift of the Center with better landscaping and façade treatment and the introduction of music. Issues will be addressed such as the area behind Sakura, which looks like a big alley. The new owners want to improve the directional signing in the Center. The new owners are IDS Real Estate which is a huge company. Two of the company owners live in Pasadena and look forward to working in La Canada Flintridge.

IX. **COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS:** The Commissioners had no comments.

X. **COMMENTS FROM STAFF:**

Director Stanley spoke about the existing park in the Town Center and how it has use restrictions associated with it. The new owners would like to see a farmer's market there to create synergy in the Center. They would like music and a tree lighting ceremony and want to be involved. They want to add water features and have outdoor music which requires a CUP. They would like more restaurants which would require a parking study as parking for the Center is calculated using a formula. A couple of Center executives live in town. They will be interested owners and will be hands-on.

Commissioner Hoopes asked if the new owners were willing to commit additional funding for the Center. He walked the Center to see what things can be done to improve it. The alley needs to be addressed as its not pedestrian friendly. The signs direct you up and down the alley and it's not a pleasant place to meander.

Director Stanley said Sakura turned its back on it and there were no stores facing it.

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Director Stanley stated that the budget will be considered by the City Council in late June and that requested budget items will be considered.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 a.m.