

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DESIGN COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE
HELD ON MAY 19, 2016**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Moldafsky called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.
- II. **ROLL:** Also present were Vice Chairman Hoopes and Commissioner Balcazar. Commissioners King and Roberts were late.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Flag Salute was recited.
- IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** There was none.
- V. **CONSENT CALENDAR:** There was none.
- VI. **CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS:** There was none.
- VII. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**
 - A. **Design Review 16-08;** Arco; 550 Foothill Blvd.; pole sign removal and replacement with new monument sign.

Planner Gjolme gave a staff report. He stated that the nonconforming pole sign on the corner will be removed. The proposed sign will consist of an illuminated cabinet with the Arco logo copy to the left and the pricing for three grades of gasoline to the right. The illumination of the signage would be limited at night. The blue field area would not be illuminated at night. The white and red logo will be the only areas that are illuminated. The State has weighed in and regulated the amount of illumination for gas pricing signs. City staff views the lighting scheme as appropriate but also feels that the base is not sufficient to compensate for the overall massing. The depth of the base is only six inches. If the base were to be heightened, it would result in better overall proportion.

Staff feels the color of the sign and the earth tone of the base are attractive, though, use of a ledge stone base could be a bit overdone. Ideally, in staff's estimation, the sign materials should tie into the hydrogen fueling station on site.

Staff has suggested an alternative design which calls for both a height and depth of 18 inches for the base of the sign. This would remedy the top-heavy effect of the original design. It is recommended that the color of the cabinet consist of beige and or tan. Also suggested by staff is changing the cabinet to a standardized size which would reduce the height of the sign and increase its depth. The applicant indicated that most of these

suggestions can be complied with. Planner Gjolme said that he drafted a conceptual set of revised conditions in case the Commission supports this suggestion. Should the Commission decide to agree with staff's recommendations, color, materials and size of the base would need to be confirmed.

Both the Commission and City staff are very happy about the coordination that has taken place in removing the pole sign.

Chairman Moldasky asked staff if façade improvement program monies are available to help with the cost of the pole sign removal. Staff answered and indicated that up to \$2,000 is available for those projects that qualify.

Vice Chairman Hoopes asked if any relief could be given for the sign height.

Planner Gjolme indicated that under the City's sign guidelines, flexibility can be given for certain design issues. However, he explained that, historically, staff has not exercised flexibility for sign height, which is a standard.

Commissioner Balcazar asked what type of material is proposed for the base.

The applicant's representative, Soren Enache, said that stucco is the proposed material. He also explained that if a sign is custom designed rather than by standard design, that the cost to do so could be three times the typical cost. He said that he proposes a beige color with a base of 12 inches. The monument sign will be placed where the pole sign was.

The Commission discussed neighboring wall colors and building materials as well as height considerations.

The public hearing was opened.

Commissioner Roberts said that he believed that because the hydrogen station does not contain any stone in its design, he does not believe that stone materials should be used for the base of the subject sign. He also indicated that he does not have a problem lowering the height of the existing monument sign. However, he does not want the sign to appear as if it is sitting on the ground.

Commissioner King recommended that the proposed tan color be more of a dark tan and that it should be consistently reflected throughout the design.

The Commission talked about the scale of the sign and size of the cap and reveals.

M/S/C – Roberts/King to approve the sign with the following additional conditions: 1) The base of the monument sign shall consist of stucco with an 18-inch cap reduced to a 14-inch base; 2) The color of the base and sides of the sign shall be a dark brown to match the trellis color of the hydrogen station; 3) The height of the base may be as submitted. Approved 5-0.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS:

The Commissioners asked about the selection of a new Commissioner.

The Commissioners inquired about the 76 Station status and about plans being drawn up to review.

Commission Roberts asked about the number of pole signs that are existing in the City to which the staff replied, approximately nine exist in town.

X. COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

Director Stanley said that plans have been received from 7-Eleven down the street next to La Cañada Imports for a new roof sign and monument sign. Mr. Stanley asked the applicant for some changes and the applicant suggested removing the pole sign and placing a roof sign that would be externally illuminated at the business. A Variance would possibly be applied for in that instance.

Planner Gjolme informed the Commission that Arco would be installing new taller landscaping and painting the utility box green in an effort to screen the box from view.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 a.m.