

**ACTION MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DESIGN COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE
HELD ON MAY 21, 2015**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Moldafsky called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.
- II. **ROLL:** Also present were Commissioners Balcazar, Hoopes, King and Roberts.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Flag Salute was recited.
- IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** Anthony Portantino was in attendance to represent the Chamber of Commerce.
- V. **CONSENT CALENDAR:** Minutes: 5-7-2015 and 5-14-2015 DC Meetings. M/S/C Hoopes/Balcazar to approve the minutes as submitted with a change to the spelling of Commissioner Hoopes' name. 4-0-1. (Chairman Moldafsky absent on 5/7/2015; Commissioner King absent on 5/14/2015)
- VI. **CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

A. **Design Review 15-06;** T-Mobile; 506 Foothill Blvd.; new wall sign. M/S/C

The applicant provided sign letter examples that were reviewed by staff and the Commission, with the Commission's preference being face and back lit letters pinned from the building.

Planner Gjolme suggested allowing standard reverse channel letters, which were also presented, as an alternative in the event corporate approval for the face/back lit letters could not be obtained.

M/S/C/Hoopes/Roberts to approve the sign with either reverse channel letters pinned 1.5" from the fascia or face and backlit letters pinned 1" from the fascia. Unanimous 5-0.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. **Design Review 15-09;** Subway; 518 Foothill Blvd.; new wall sign.

Planner Gjolme explained that the longstanding sign had been removed during remodeling of the shopping center and re-installed without approval. He noted

the sign's distinct and fluid design and believed positive findings could be made despite the use of standard channel letters.

The Commission disagreed and thought the sign needed to be updated/improved, similar to the higher design standard other new signs in the center have been held to.

M/S/C Roberts/Hoopes to approve the sign with open channel letters and exposed neon and a green flange/border in accord with the revised plan submitted at the meeting. Unanimous 5-0.

B. Design Review 15-10; John Hart Real Estate; 1420 Foothill Blvd.; new wall signs.

Planner Gjolme gave an overview of the request to install two new externally-illuminated wall signs. He noted that the upper fascia had been repainted and the color change was also within the Commission's purview for the project.

The Commission was pleased with the signs and though not wholly satisfied with the new façade color, felt that positive findings could be made for the overall project.

M/S/C Hoopes/Balcazar to approve the signs as submitted with an additional condition to center each sign below the center gooseneck light fixture on the north and east facade. Unanimous 5-0.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS: There was no other business.

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS: There were no comments.

X. COMMENTS FROM STAFF: Director Stanley asked the Commissioners for their input on artificial turf in the front yards of residential and commercial properties.

Chairman Moldafsky and Commissioner Hoopes felt that it has to look just like real grass if it were to be allowed.

Commissioner King noted that it invariably wears out and looks shabby after time. Given this, she questioned the appropriateness of it.

Anthony Portantino, representing the Chamber of Commerce, noted that tax incentives by water companies encourage the use of native drought tolerant plantings. He mentioned San Marino as having numerous properties that have

successfully incorporated drought tolerant front yard landscapes. He also mentioned that the State is closely monitoring the drought situation and measures to preempt local authority in response could occur in the future.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.