

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DESIGN COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE  
HELD ON JUNE 2, 2016**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Moldafsky called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.
- II. **ROLL:** Also present were Vice Chairman Hoopes and Commissioners Roberts, King, and Balcazar
- 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:**

- A. **Design Review 16-05;** Unocal 76; 1001 Foothill Blvd.; continued review of canopy and monument sign revisions; trade dress changes for dispensers.

Mr. Cantrell gave a staff report. He indicated that the application was last reviewed on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016. He talked about the size of the orange 76 disk signs, the canopy, and the fact that there was no change proposed for the cornice. Mr. Cantrell informed the Commission of a condition that was included requiring a perforated matte finish for the sign. He expressed concern that placement of the halo effect could be uneven. Mr. Cantrell recapped that the applicant requests signage with silver and orange letters. 7-Eleven will be identified on the bottom of the monument sign. Two logos, similar in size are proposed. Staff recommends that the rectangle below the 76 disk be removed and that the wave shape be reworked in addition to the 7-Eleven text size being reduced. As to the 76 monument sign colors, staff recommended a darker silver base for refinement.

Staff recommended positive findings with the recommendations noted.

Commissioner King asked if the silver around the 76 logo is darker than the silver around the 7-Eleven.

Mr. Cantrell indicated that he did not believe the darkness of the silver would make that much difference.

Chairman Moldafsky referred to sheet P5 – 2 of the plans with regards to graphics to view the amount of space around the logos.

Mr. Cantrell indicated that there was a subtle difference.

Commissioner Balcazar asked about retaining the cornice.

Mr. Cantrell reiterated that there is a condition requiring that the cornice be retained.

Speaker, applicant, Sorin Enache, confirmed that the cornice will be retained.

Commissioner Roberts asked what the halo lighting effect was intended to achieve.

Mr. Enache said that he could alter the effect if necessary.

Commissioner Roberts asked if the existing field is bronze.

Mr. Enache confirmed that the existing field is bronze.

Commissioner King asked if the disk on the canopy can be shrunk.

Mr. Enache indicated that the disk is proposed to be 45 inches in size in diameter.

The Commission continued to discuss the size and depth of the disk.

Mr. Cantrell clarified that only the location is changing for the disk signs, not the size.

Commissioner Balcazar indicated that she is ok with the white field, though she believes that gray is more visible. It was discussed that the 7 Eleven logo might be more visible on the white background than the gray. It was suggested that installing the halo effect might not be effective.

Commissioner King said that she likes a dark frame and the light silver color as she believes that it helps to make the 76 logo more prominent. She suggested a condition be added to prohibit LED. She indicated that she preferred that the 7-Eleven font size be reduced.

Both Vice Chairman Hoopes and Roberts concurred with Commissioner King's suggestion.

Chairman Moldafsky asked if the Commission could allow LED if it conforms to the 2 square foot requirement.

Planner Gjolme indicated that such a request is possible but would be subject to review.

Commissioner Roberts asked about requiring the applicant to replace dead landscaping in the front planter.

Mr. Enache said that the applicant would like to be given the option to utilize LED for gas price signage and that he is concerned that the ownership might think the letters are too small.

Chairman Moldafsky reminded the Commission that no LED price signs has ever been approved on Foothill Boulevard. He believed that a condition should be listed that does not allow LED for gas price signage.

Mr. Enache said that he would like to be allowed to choose the landscaping to be installed.

Commissioner Roberts indicated that some required items had not been installed such as up lighting and certain landscaping, and he'd like to discuss this further.

Mr. Enache agreed that he would speak with the owner about the existing requirements to be met.

Vice Chairman Hoopes said that this should be a condition for the owner, not the sign contractor.

Director Stanley said that staff can verify in the field whether there has been a violation of past conditions of approval for landscaping.

Chairman Moldafsky said that he is reluctant to attach the requirement of landscaping to the signage request. He believes staff should enforce the previous Conditions of Approval separately from the current sign request.

Director Stanley said that he can follow up on this and also mentioned that if the current sign proposal in any way affects the planter area, it could be conditioned for replacement planting as needed.

There have been modifications made since the approval, so it would be good to condition the project accordingly. Final approval of the current request would not be given until both past and present requirements are met.

M/S/C – King/Roberts to approve with the following conditions: The canopy does not incorporate any halo disks; The monument sign be designed according to the City's alternate design which includes a dark

silver frame and base and a larger 76 disk and logo; The field behind the 76 logo shall be darker; The north sign be designed according to the City alternate and contain slightly smaller font and 76 logo; No LED lighting be permitted; A condition be added that a landscape plan be brought for review and approval, including up-lighting of the Oak tree as previously required. Approved 5-0.

**B. Design Review 13-02;** Hill Street Café; 1004 Foothill Blvd.; continued review of signage, colors and landscaping in conjunction with approved restaurant expansion and remodeling.

Consultant, Roger Cantrell, presented a staff report to the Commission pertaining to proposed landscaping, signage, and building colors. He explained that the building's design was approved by the Commission on April 7, 2016. Mr. Cantrell indicated that staff finds the proposed signage font to be stylish and the rusting steel product to be distinctive, bold, and tasteful.

As to the proposed landscaping, Rosemary will be planted and will spill over the wall. Also proposed are Chinese Pistach trees and Western Red Bud which will provide a lot of fall color. There could be a conflict with the wall sign if the Western Red Bud canopy is too low, therefore, it might be better to choose another tree species.

Regarding proposed building colors, staff suggests that large samples be provided on-site for easier viewing.

Staff recommends approval of the proposed landscaping, signage, and building colors.

Commissioner Roberts asked the applicant if the Brisbane Box Trees would be relocated.

Vice Chairman Hoopes asked about the illustration of the actual sign, relative to the wall.

Mr. Cantrell clarified that the letters will be reverse channel which will provide a halo effect when illuminated.

Vice Chairman Hoopes expressed concern about the proposed steel leaving rust and stains below.

Applicant Binny Um explained that there will be two steel posts that will be placed on the signage that would allow for any rusting of the metal to be hidden behind the steel posts.

The Commission began discussing monument sign materials.

Commissioner King said that the outline of the letters was not prevalent.

Planner, Chris Gjolme, indicated that the letters are individual pinned letters with a brushed aluminum finish.

Vice Chairman Hoopes asked the applicant for more clarification of the signage proposal as he did not feel there was enough information on the plans that were provided.

Mr. Cantrell clarified that the wall sign material will be white acrylic. The monument sign material is proposed to be brushed aluminum.

Commissioner Roberts asked staff if the halo effect of the wall sign would be appealing considering the light building color.

Vice Chairman Hoopes asked if trees would be placed in front of the sign area as he was concerned about the trees.

Mr. Um showed plans to the Commission which depicted where the tree would be placed.

Commissioner Roberts mentioned that the Western Redbud is a shrub and that he believed the Commission had given positive feedback to the applicant regarding relocation of the Brisbane Box Trees.

Planner Gjolme provided clarification that the applicant spoke to the property owner about the trees and that the owner made the decision not to incorporate the Brisbane Box Trees into the patio landscape plan.

Mr. Um stated that the trees would not have adequate room.

Commissioner Roberts made reference to Sprouts and how the City Council required certain landscaping to be installed there. In this instance, the height of the building is being increased and he believed that the installation of a tree to screen the building should be required.

Mr. Cantrell asked if the Commission would like a tree to be placed in the view closest to the second story.

Commissioner Roberts said that a Redbud tree has the potential to grow to just under roofline height. He believed that there should be trees installed on each side of the north elevation and that they should be Brisbane Box Trees, not Redbud trees.

Mr. Um informed the Commission that a Brisbane Box Tree exists on the property and that it can be relocated on site.

Commissioner Hoopes stated that he believed that a new landscape plan should be prepared as the current plan does not adequately show the patio.

Commissioner Roberts said that he believes the sign will be blocked by the patio and that moving the sign to the east so that it is attached to the patio sign wall might be a solution.

Mr. Gjolme indicated that staff originally suggested this.

The Commission had a lengthy discussion with the applicant about landscape options during which time Commissioner Roberts suggested again that the Brisbane Box Trees be used.

At 9:05 a.m. Chairman Moldafsky left the meeting.

M/S/C – Roberts/King to continue the review of signage, colors, and landscaping and incorporate the existing Brisbane Box Trees (into the landscape plan), expand the western Foothill Boulevard planter and eliminate the walkway, and provide an enhanced/enlarged front patio plan. Continued 4-0.

- VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS:** There were none.
- VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:** There was none.
- IX. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS:** There were none.
- X. COMMENTS FROM STAFF:** There were none.
- XI. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.