

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DESIGN COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2011**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Vavoulis called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.
- II. ROLL:** Present were Commissioners Hoopes, Roberts, Tobias, Planners Gjolme and Clarke, and Assistant Planner Parinas. Commissioner Moldafsky arrived at 7:36 a.m.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Flag Salute was recited.
- IV. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** There were no comments.
- V. CONSENT CALENDAR:**
- A.** Minutes - July 21st and 28th meetings. The minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.
- VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

A. Design Review 11-16; H20 Nails Spa; 653 Foothill Blvd.; new suspended sign.

Planner Clarke outlined the request which involved installation of a new suspended sign in the Vons center, matching the material, color and style of other signs utilized by neighboring tenants.

Chairman Vavoulis confirmed that white letters matching other signs in the center would be used.

Commissioner Tobias questioned the proposed field color and noted that it was different from other nearby signs.

Commissioner Hoopes responded that there is variation in the field color of the other signs and that the proposal didn't seem too discordant.

Commissioner Tobias' preference was to have the field color of the subject sign match the background color of the adjacent "Books & Toys" sign.

M/S/C Tobias/Roberts KT/JR to approve the sign as submitted subject to use of white letters and field color matching the background color of the adjacent "Books & Toys" sign. Unanimous 5-0.

B. Design Review 11-15; Anthony's Fine Food & Wine; 714 Foothill Blvd.; new awning and ledge sign.

Assistant Planner Parinas described the request for a new awning valance with copy and a 3-dimensional "ledge" sign atop the existing overhang fronting Foothill Blvd.

Commissioner Tobias question if the projecting sign would still be centered given that the copy on the valance has been shifted to the right to improve visibility.

Chairman Vavoulis shared the same concern.

Commissioner Hoopes felt it was important that the sign be centered above the shifted valance copy; otherwise view of the sign would be impaired by a light pole and crape myrtle tree.

Commissioner Moldafsky did not like the projecting sign as submitted.

Commissioner Hoopes liked the sign but felt in need to be increased in size.

Commissioner Tobias felt the sign was more of a "prop" and that it looked cluttered.

Commissioner Roberts regarded the sign as very creative and whimsical and vastly superior to most channel-letter submittals that the Commission typically sees. He was, however, concerned with the materials and colors proposed, and their potential to fade and/or deteriorate over time. He felt strongly that a mock-up was necessary to better demonstrate the appearance and effect of the sign.

Commissioner Tobias regarded the 'sign' as more of a prop and continued to question its appropriateness.

Commissioner Vavoulis agreed that a continuance to allow for installation of a mockup was a good solution at this point, but acknowledged that he liked the general concept.

Commissioner Tobias cautioned that approval of this type of sign could be shortsighted given the potential precedent set. Other businesses could propose similar props which could lead to a comical and cluttered look along the Blvd.

Planner Gjolme inquired the valance and copy was approvable at this point.

Commissioner Tobias noted his displeasure with it being installed without first obtaining approval from the Commission.

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M/S/C Moldafsky/Hoopes to approve the valance and copy as submitted. 4-1.
No - Commissioner Tobias.

M/S/C Roberts/Hoopes to continue the projecting/ledge sign to allow for installation of a mockup in the field. 4-1. No- Commissioner Tobias.

C. Design Review 11-14; Los Gringos Locos; 631 Foothill Blvd.; new patio trellis & canopy and building awnings.

Planner Gjolme outlined the request to install new awnings and add a trellis canopy to the building previously occupied by Conrad's, which is now the new home of Los Gringos Locos.

Commissioner Roberts confirmed that the entire trellis and supports would be composed of wood.

Commissioner Hoopes confirmed that the wooden edge atop the lexan screen along the patio's perimeter would be removed.

Bent Hansen - Los Gringos Locos - wanted appropriate colors that don't make the building look like a circus and clarified the colors proposed for the various sections of the canopy. His intention was to convey a festive and colorful atmosphere. His intention was to remove the entire screen along the patio and replace it with something more contemporary.

Commissioner Roberts inquired why the trellis and supports utilized a greenish stain as opposed to wood-like color.

JK Lim - project architect - explained that he was trying to distinguish the trellis as a new component and that the olive stain served to blend the colorful awnings with the earth tones of the building.

Commissioner Tobias liked the proposal and noted that the building gets lost along Foothill Blvd. He believed proper color selection was the only issue with the proposal.

Mr. Hansen noted that Vons will be updating the sign program for the center and a final design and color selection for his sign would follow a review of the forthcoming sign program.

Commissioner Roberts confirmed that the awning's color(s) will be incorporated into the signage.

Commissioner Hoopes confirmed that the business could have two signs.

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Chairman Vavoulis cautioned that the sign's colors could be restricted by approval of the awnings as proposed.

Commissioner Hoopes agreed and noted the Commission's preference to visualize the totality of a project.

Commissioner Roberts favored approval of the project's concept at this stage, but not colors until a signage proposal was also submitted for review. He restated his concern for the olive color of the wood and felt better options were available.

Mr. Hansen noted that the awning on the west side of the building had been toned down and that he had other more colorful ideas. .

Commissioner Roberts encouraged Mr. Hansen to be as creative as possible and to submit multiple schemes for the Commission's review.

Pat Anderson - Chamber of Commerce - thanked the commissioners for their time and input on the projects, and noted the favorable response to Remedy Liquor. She noted that the Safeway Corporation, owner of the Vons property, can be difficult to work with, and often tenants are stuck between the demands of the property owner and City.

Chairman Vavoulis confirmed with the Commission that the lone issue with the project was color selection for the awnings, trellis and canopy.

M/S/C Tobias/Moldafsky to approve the project concept and continue review of colors until a sign proposal has been developed and submitted in order to review the project's colors in their totality.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

Pat Anderson commented on the upcoming zip code celebration and the availability of 91011 T-shirts.

VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Hoopes commented that a palm tree at the southeast corner of the Vons property was overlooked during discussion of the previous project. The tree is indicated as "to be removed" on the plans for the Los Gringos Locos project. He felt the tree was a significant specimen and questioned if the tree could be discussed when the project returned for final review. He also noted a large inflatable sign in the parking lot of Hello Pizza at the corner of Foothill Blvd. and Ocean View Blvd.

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Planner Gjolme responded that a Tree Removal Permit would be required to remove the tree but the Commission's input would be taken into account.

Chairman Vavoulis shared Commissioner Hoopes concern.

Planner Gjolme noted that the tree removal request, if submitted, could be delayed and that the tree would be included as part of the project's final review.

IX. COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

Planner Gjolme updated the Commission on enforcement actions at the Alta Dena Dairy and training center at 814 Foothill Blvd. He also informed the Commission that dead trees at Ralph's had been replaced.

Commissioner Roberts thanked staff and stated that several trees at the Vons property were also dead and needed to be replaced.

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