

**ACTION MINUTES OF THE DESIGN COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE  
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2014**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Moldafsky called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.
- II. **ROLL:** Present were Commissioners Balcazar, Hoopes, King, Roberts, Director of Community Development Stanley, Planner Gjolme and consulting planner/architect Cantrell.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Flag Salute was recited.
- IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** There were none.
- V. **CONSENT CALENDAR:** Minutes - 9/4/2014 Design Commission meeting M/S/C Hoopes/Roberts to approve the minutes as submitted. Unanimous 5-0.
- VI. **CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

A. **Design Review 14-13;** Color Me Green Nail Lounge; 466 Foothill Blvd.; new wall sign.

Planner Gjolme updated the Commission on the revised design of the sign, which incorporated direction from the last meeting, including enlargement of the logo and font, and greater variation in the shape of the sign. Internal lighting of sign's copy and logo was again requested and staff regarded this as appropriate given the character of the center. Approval was again recommended.

There were no questions of staff.

Commissioner Hoopes applauded the changes to the sign and thought illumination as proposed would enhance the sign.

The Commission concurred and thanked the applicant for his responsiveness.

M/S/C Roberts/Hoopes to approve the revised sign as submitted. Unanimous 5-0.

**VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**A. Design Review 14-14; Partners Trust; 964 Foothill Blvd.; new wall signs.**

Consultant Cantrell gave an overview of the request to install two new wall signs consisting of black reverse channel letters. With minor size adjustments, the signs were favorably regarded and approval was recommended. He noted the slight distortion in the photos submitted, but this should not impact the sign given the modest 17" letter height which is easy to contain within the existing sign band area.

Commissioner Balcazar asked about setting the subordinate sign copy lower on the sign band to provide needed separation.

Commissioner Roberts asked if these were 'true' reverse channel letters and what the depth of the letters would be.

Consultant Cantrell was not sure, but felt setting a maximum letter depth was a good idea at this point.

Commissioner King noted that the sign looks too compressed relative to the ample size of the front façade.

Consultant Cantrell responded that the spacing and position of the sign aligns it with the entry.

Commissioner Hoopes commented that in the morning with the street tilted to the east, shadows could impact legibility. He felt spreading the letters a little more would improve legibility.

Consultant Cantrell was amenable to additional spacing of the letters but felt an advisory condition was appropriate since the applicant was not in attendance.

Commissioner Hoopes did not believe that the compression of the letters precluded an approval vote at this time.

Commissioner King believed that the letters could be spaced a bit more without an impact to the logo or corporate trademark.

Commissioner Roberts noted that this was a tricky building. He always wanted a cool and interesting sign given the building's history and location. He agreed that the lower copy should be shifted down as far as possible. He supported the rear sign as submitted and endorsed the idea of a less compressed sign to the front.

Director Stanley suggested a subcommittee to finalize the design details so conditional approval could be granted at this time. Commissioners Hoopes and King were appointed to the subcommittee.

M/S/C Roberts/Hoopes to approve the rear sign as submitted with size reduction as needed. Front sign - drop the lower text per staff's alternative with further confirmation of the location and design per the subcommittee; confirm the depth of the reverse channel letters and pinned depth from the façade, and whether the lower copy is to be illuminated. Unanimous 5-0.

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:** There was no other business.

**IX. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner King mentioned the recently approved way-finding sign at the Big Lots center. It looked like a light box and appeared much thicker than what was approved. She asked if staff would investigate.

**X. COMMENTS FROM STAFF:**

Director Stanley mentioned that the EMC Ordinance would be heard by the City Council at the October 6, 2014 meeting.

He confirmed that the Commission would be interested in a study session on outdoor dining facilities along Foothill Blvd.

Commissioner Roberts felt that a more expansive study/survey of the entire Blvd. would be beneficial.

Director Stanley also mentioned a future discussion of the Commission's purview and authority on matters that are not directly captured by the code, including changes to buildings, signs, etc. that do not require permits and therefore do not technically require review by the Commission.

Commissioner Roberts felt these issues could be itemized during the upcoming sign sweep.

Commissioner Hoopes asked if a specific project/issue had been identified.

Director Stanley mentioned Zena's as an example. The outdoor dining area has been enclosed and altered beyond what was originally approved. Absent a permit requirement, however, the nexus for additional review is questionable.

Director Stanley commented on a sign seminar in San Diego on October 10<sup>th</sup> that staff may attend and asked if any of the Commissioners were interested. Commissioner Balcazar expressed interest and asked staff for additional information.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:**

M/S/C Roberts/Balcazar to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 a.m. Unanimous 5-0.