

**ACTION MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DESIGN COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2013**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Moldafsky called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.
- II. **ROLL:** Present were Commissioners Hoopes, Roberts, Tobias, Vavoulis, Director of Community Development Stanley, Planners Gjolme and Clarke.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Flag Salute was recited.
- IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** None.
- V. **CONSENT CALENDAR:** Minutes - 9/5/2013 DC meeting. Approved 4-0-1. Vavoulis.
- VI. **CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS:** There were none.
- VII. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

A. **Design Review 13-13;** 4529 Angeles Crest Hwy.; AT&T; expansion of existing antennae panels and screening.

Planner Clarke gave an overview of the request to expand and consolidate screened antennae panels on the Lund building and add new equipment cabinets on the roof.

Commissioner Tobias stated his main issue is the change on the rooftop and profile of building. He had no issue with the sides of the building.

Thomas Mundl - representing ATT - stated the screened boxes on the facades are slightly bigger than the panels currently in place. The existing rooftop equipment is owned by other carriers as well and he has no authority to modify it. He noted that only the top 18" of the new cabinets would be visible from street.

Chairman Moldafsky asked how wide the new cabinets were.

Mr. Mundl responded that the cabinets are approx. 30" wide by 72" in height.

Commissioner Tobias felt stealth screening on the entire building might be needed considering the proliferation of roof-top equipment over the years.

Commissioner Hoopes noted that this was an incremental build-up over time and was not sure how to put a screen on the roof to solve this problem.

Commissioner Roberts questioned whether there is a solution to appropriately screen the considerable amount of rooftop equipment.

Commissioner Tobias asked the applicant if he was aware of, or had seen a more comprehensive screening element to stealth an entire rooftop.

Commissioner Hoopes noted that a screening structure could be more of a problem than the minor equipment request at hand.

Chairman Moldafsky and Commissioner Tobias thought the issue (rooftop telecom equipment) needed to be agendaized for discussion at a future meeting.

Commissioner Roberts thought the solution was to devise a screening component for this particular application so it doesn't look like a basic metal cabinet from below along Foothill Blvd.

Commissioner Hoopes suggested that the new cabinets be treated with a textured material that looks like stucco.

Commissioner Tobias mentioned the possibility of installing a screen wall to buffer the new cabinets.

Commissioner Hoopes commented that the goal is to unify the appearance and reduce the visual impact of the new equipment.

Commissioner Hoopes noted that the new antennae panels appeared tacked-on without thoughtful integration into the building's design.

A discussion ensued to clarify the size and location of the existing wall panels and the extent of the proposed changes. It was confirmed that the existing panels are being expanded and that two panels would be removed.

M/S/C Tobias/Hoopes to approve the request as submitted subject to the roof equipment cabinets to be screened with textured material that simulates the building subject to staff review and approval and the expanded wall panels coated to match the color and texture of building. Unanimous 5-0.

B. Design Review 13-12; Foothill Blvd. at SR-2; City of La Canada Flintridge; new City monument sign.

Planner Gjolme gave a brief overview of request, which involved concept ideas for a new City monument sign adjacent to Cal Trans property along the 2 Freeway terminus at Foothill Blvd.

Commissioner Roberts asked if there had been discussion with Cal Trans about possible landscape improvements in conjunction with the sign.

City Traffic Engineer Erik Zandvliet responded that no specific approvals from Cal Trans about landscaping had been obtained at this point. He noted that the City can work with Cal Trans and that new landscaping is certainly a possibility, provided the City maintains the landscaping.

Chairman Moldafsky asked about the motivation behind the sign and its location.

Mr. Zandvliet responded that the City Council wants an identity marker at each City entry-point.

Commissioner Roberts liked the median sign on Angeles Crest Hwy. and felt a larger version would work.

Commissioner Tobias thought an alternate location further south and/or west might improve the sign's visibility. He did not think it necessarily needed to be adjacent to Foothill Blvd.

Commissioner Tobias mentioned that the property in question could be better utilized by the City if Cal Trans were to sell it at a later date.

Mr. Zandvliet agreed and noted that the monument sign shouldn't preclude future use of this area for other purposes.

Commissioner Roberts felt that a mockup of the sign was needed to confirm its visibility.

Commissioner Hoopes noted that several mockups in different positions might be needed to confirm the optimal location for the sign.

The Commission concurred that two issues needed to be addressed - what should the new sign look like and where should it be positioned.

The Commission's consensus was for sign design #2 - stone base with end pillars to house elongated wood panel with central arch and routed/painted copy. Pursue possibilities of acquiring property and erect mockups in 3 different locations to determine optimal siting.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS:

Chairman Moldafsky reiterated the desire to agendize a discussion of roof-mounted telecom equipment on commercial buildings.

Commissioner Roberts mentioned landscaping issues at the Unocal 76 station at Angeles Crest Hwy./Foothill Blvd.

X. COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

Director Stanley mentioned that the LED reader board issue and associated zone change was on the Planning Commission's agenda for next week's meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.