

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DESIGN COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE  
HELD ON NOVEMBER 19, 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 and Roberts. Commissioner King was absent.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** the Flag Salute was recited.
- IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** there were no comments.
- V. **CONSENT CALENDAR:** Minutes: 11-5-2015 DC Meeting Approved 4-0.
- VI. **CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS:**
  - A. **Design Review 15-17;** La Canada Union 76; 1540 Foothill Blvd.; pump island canopy and station remodeling.

Consulting architect Cantrell gave an overview of the project's last review and subsequent formation of a subcommittee consisting of Commissioners Balcazar and Roberts. The subcommittee and staff met with the applicant on one occasion. A follow-up meeting was held with staff only (Commissioner Roberts was unavailable), at which time a revised design was presented by staff and endorsed by the applicant. Consulting architect Cantrell detailed revisions to the canopy 'wraps' since the last meeting, which now employ a gable form that better matches the existing canopy roofs. There is no view issue from nearby vantage points - this lent toward a shorter wrap on the ends that alleviated the top-heavy visual effect that plagued the original submittal. The existing ridge would still be visible, but only from greater distances, which staff did not believe would yield an adverse aesthetic effect.

Mr. Cantrell felt the revised design worked well as a compromise between the standard corporate wrap and form of the existing canopy and station. He noted that the Unocal disc signs project above the wrap and would have depth, perhaps up to 8". The revised wraps could include rafter tails, but staff regarded this as too artificial and not nearly as clean. Mr. Cantrell stated that the revised station colors are subordinate to the canopy design and not an issue. Realizing that certain precise design details still needed to be pinned down, approval of the revised design was recommended.

Commissioner Hoopes stated he really liked Mr. Cantrell's revised design. Commissioner Balcazar asked if any thought had been given to the straight line along the bottom of the 'wraps'; perhaps angling them to match the gable above.

Mr. Cantrell responded that this had not been considered since the straight form works best. He felt repetition of the angle along the bottom edge was illogical from a design standpoint.

Commissioner Roberts had no questions.

Commissioner Hoopes asked if an alternate stone material had been explored.

Taleen Kamar - station owner - presented a sample of the proposed ledgestone. She commented that it would achieve an approximate height of 45" for the building wainscot and 6'-7' for the canopy columns.

Commissioner Balcazar noted that the stonework on the canopy columns would be below the dispensers, which appear to achieve an overall height of about 8 feet.

Commissioner Balcazar inquired about the proposed station colors.

Mrs. Kamar explained the color strategy for the station, citing selection of neutral earth tones with appropriate accent.

Mrs. Kamar appreciated Mr. Cantrell's work on the project to this point. She asked about the specifics of the design and lighting of the signs.

Mr. Cantrell responded that the basic concept involved a semi-circular flange around the top of the canopy to contain the lighting.

Commissioner Hoopes asked what plane the flange would be on.

Mr. Cantrell responded that the sign face would be basically flush with canopy. The flange would be recessed behind the face of the canopy and would conceal the lighting.

Commissioner Roberts felt more explanation was needed about how the sign discs would be lit. He was concerned that the signs might appear to be internally illuminated, which is not allowed in the Old Town district.

Mr. Cantrell met with the Commission and sketched the concept, which basically depicted the sign recessed into the canopy with halo lighting between the back of the sign and canopy face.

Further discussion about sign lighting ensued, with general consensus that individual halo lighting and containment of the light within the respective recess was possible.

Commissioner Balcazar stated she had some confusion about the overall concept based on the materials available at this point.

Mrs. Kamar responded that she was hopeful for a concept approval at this point, conceding that final drawings and details were needed and would be provided at a later date.

Commissioner Balcazar felt the canopies still looked too boxy and that further refinement was needed, in particular along the bottom of the 'wraps'. She was not convinced that incorporation of an angle along the bottom to match the gable above would not improve the overall appearance.

Commissioner Hoopes liked the basic concept, noting the marked improvement to the canopy design. He still had questions about the feasibility of the recessed signs and associated lighting. Mr. Hoopes strongly disagreed with the terra cotta color along the eaves, noting it competes with the orange/red color of the Unocal logo. He felt the project was coming along nicely, but various details still needed to be pinned down.

Commissioner Roberts stated that there was not enough direction at this point. He was very concerned about the unfinished appearance along the bottom inside edge of the 'wraps', noting that a molding or similar finishing element was critical. Signage/lighting also needed to be better specified. Mr. Roberts felt accenting the building with brighter colors was a mistake. The canopies should continue to be the focus. He also noted the uncertainty with the stone piers for the canopies. Better details for the stonework were needed, in particular details demonstrating the overall dimensions of the piers with the stonework applied and corner treatment; a fitted corner piece (as opposed to a rough cut) was critical to achieve a 'finished' look.

Charlie Kamar - station owner - responded that the column piers would be approximately 2'x2' with the stone applied. He too was aware of the potential thickness of the piers with the stone applied and sought to avoid a bulky appearance.

Taleen Kamar asked for specific direction from the Commission at this point. She stated her desire for some formal action to move the project along.

Commissioner Roberts preferred not to have the down-lighter on the canopies or halo lighting for the sign discs. He felt the corner location of the station had abundant ambient light at night and did not regard additional lighting as necessary or appropriate, again noting the desired character of the Old Town district.

The Commission suspended the meeting at 8:30 a.m. and reconvened in the conference room for further discussion.

Chairman Moldafsky informally polled the Commissioners and summarized that that further review of color, lighting, canopy shape and column stone was needed.

M/S/C Hoopes/Moldafsky to grant conceptual approval for the project subject to provision of the following design details/information in conjunction with final review: existing and proposed canopy lighting shall be specified, including location, type and wattage; a section/detail demonstrating the finishing treatment (molding) for the top and bottom of the canopy fascia, including the bottom inside edge; a section/detail demonstrating the composition and lighting of the Unocal signs (discs) on the canopies, including the circular backing panel; a detail for the stonework proposed for the canopy columns indicating height, corner treatment and end treatment; revised color palette for the station and canopies demonstrating greater cohesion between the monument sign base, stonework for the columns and station colors, and elimination of the terra cotta proposed for the canopy trim; a section perpendicular to the ridge showing the false beam(s) atop the existing pitched canopy roof.

**VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS:** there were none.

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:** there was none.

**IX. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS:** none

**X. COMMENTS FROM STAFF:**

Planner Gjolme informed the Commission that he was in discussion with site maintenance personnel for Ralph's about the dead street trees, replacement of which was anticipated shortly.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.