

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DESIGN COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE
HELD ON DECEMBER 15, 2011**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Roberts called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.
- II. ROLL:** Present were Commissioners Tobias, Roberts, Hoopes, Moldafsky and Vavoulis, Community Development Director Stanley, Planners Gjolme and Clarke.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Flag Salute was recited.
- IV. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** There were no comments.
- V. CONSENT CALENDAR:**
A. Minutes - 12/1/2011 Meeting. M/S/C Hoopes/Tobias. Approved 5-0.
- VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**
A. **Design Review 11-30;** Zigabid; 744 Foothill Blvd.; new wall sign, upgraded awnings and monument sign copy.

Commissioner Tobias and Vavoulis recused themselves.

Planner Gjolme presented the case to the Commission.

Commissioner Roberts inquired about letter size.

Planner Gjolme confirmed that 14" letters were proposed, well within the 18" maximum allowed by code.

Commissioner Hoopes asked about penalties for work done without permission.

Planner Gjolme noted that there were double permit fees.

Director Stanley said that there was no penalty as of yet for the case. Code Enforcement would handle the case. A penalty could be considered by the Design Commission.

Commissioner Hoopes suggested that the monument sign would be okay with the existing light blue border.

Commissioner Roberts liked the dark border as it ties the monument sign in better with the building.

Chairman Moldafsky was ambivalent about the border color.

Commissioner Roberts suggested a sign border which is dark brown/bronze to match trim color and building.

M/S/C Roberts/Hoopes to approve the request with a dark border matching the fascia for the monument sign. Approved 3-0.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Sprouts Farmers Market - discussion/direction on building signage.

Planner Gjolme gave a brief overview of the history of the case which went to the City Council.

Commissioner Tobias asked how the City Council voted on the proposal.

Planner Gjolme said the vote was unanimous. The Council looked favorably on reverse channel letters. They did not require them but simply endorsed them. They allowed up to four secondary signs. They provided direction for Sprouts to pursue and come back with finished signs to the Design Commission.

Commissioner Tobias said one City Council member liked channel letters. He felt that they needed a study session with the City Council on this issue.

Commissioner Roberts said they needed written definition of where the community is on channel letters.

Director Stanley said that the City Council wanted a joint Design/Planning Commissions meeting to establish the rolls of both Commissions. This will likely happen in February as the January agendas are full.

Planner Gjolme was asking for consensus on the four secondary signs.

Commissioner Tobias said some of the City Council liked reverse channel signs but not necessarily all of them. The design of the sign is up to the Design Commission.

Director Stanley said that the maximum size was decided by the City Council but that the design was up to the Design Commission.

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Commissioner Roberts spoke about two different sized letters and asked if there will there be one or more halo boxes. He was concerned about the letters being small and hard to read.

Applicant Deborah Leong said that when signs are small they tend not to illuminate. 4' and 5' tall letters would be lighted. Smaller letters would not have lights.

Commissioner Hoopes asked which signs would be halo-lit and how they would be illuminated at night.

Planner Gjolme said that halo lights were more striking.

Commissioner Hoopes said that halo lights are stronger.

Commissioner Roberts said that they were on Foothill and would be visible.

Planner Gjolme showed an example of the Chico's sign at night. There is sharp definition for the sign.

Commissioner Roberts said that Chico's sign was a good example of halo lights.

Commissioner Hoopes said that he is fine with halo light, or at least the larger one. Both would be fine with him.

Commissioner Roberts said that having gooseneck lights located over halo lights makes no sense.

Director Stanley asked if there was consensus on halo lights for the main wall signs. The Commission agreed.

Commissioner Tobias thought that the sign was too small as approved by the City Council.

Planner Gjolme showed examples of routed signs.

Commissioner Roberts asked about signs on south side of building.

Planner Gjolme said that the idea was to discuss and finalize ideas so that they can come back and get swift approval in January.

Mrs. Leong said Sprouts was going back and forward on ideas and that she will get back to Planner Gjolme when a decision is made.

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Commissioner Hoopes thought that the Commission needed to come to a size decision first.

Commissioner Roberts said that white pin mounted letters would work.

Commissioner Tobias asked about number of secondary signs approved by the City Council.

Director Stanley said that the Design Commission could recommend back to the City Council that they amend the Variance for additional signs.

Commissioner Roberts asked if there was any warrant in asking for more signs.

Commissioner Tobias said that the number of signs approved by the City Council was more than adequate in his estimation.

Mrs. Leong said that signs will resemble wood but be made of foam core. She wanted signs that would last.

The Commission convened and discussed options.

Commissioner Tobias summarized the conclusions as follows: reverse channel/halo white letters; matte finish for main wall sign letters; 5' tall on east wall and 4' tall on north wall; two hanging signs on north side with fasteners; third secondary sign at southeast corner as shown on Commissioner Hoopes subcommittee drawings; constructed of simulated wood foam or resin to read like dark brown wood with simulated grain with white letters with a black border hanging with some space between sign and fascia; fourth secondary sign ('Sprouts') on the south gable with 3' tall non-illuminated white pin mounted letters, if the applicant decides to have a sign there (material type not required).

M/S/C Tobias/Roberts 5-0 for consensus.

VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Tobias spoke about new turning traffic signs at Angeles Crest/Foothill Blvd. They are loud, bright, and huge. Los Angeles County trucks put them up. There was no design consideration given to them. He understands that they are there for safety reasons. There are two next to each other and they are big. Need to speak to Public Works if something comes along that may need design review.

Director Stanley said that he has seen them elsewhere and that he would speak to Public Works.

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Commissioner Roberts asked about the 7-11 paint work.

Director Stanley said that the ordinance governing paint color needs to go to the City Council for approval. Color has not been changed and no physical changes were made to the building.

Director Roberts said that the white interior is very bright at night.

Commissioner Tobias said that there is no other place on Foothill like it.

Director Roberts suggested shutters or tinting to reduce brightness.

Director Stanley said there has not been a formal agreement yet on monument sign yet but will get formal agreement signed with 7/11.

Commissioner Hoopes said that they can put signs inside the building, 3' back from the store front.

Director Stanley said that they have not finished the interior work yet.

Commissioner Tobias said that all the windows were new.

Director Stanley said that windows would have had to come to the Commission. He spoke about applicants who jump the gun and possible impacts to applicants if the Commission makes changes - punitive.

Commissioner Roberts said that when a business moves from one location in the City to another location that they should know City requirements already.

Commissioner Hoopes spoke about bending his thinking when looking at these signs.

Commissioner Roberts said that the Commission can look like the bad guy.

Director Stanley said to treat them as mock-ups. The ordinance will go to the City Council in January with purview for furniture. He also said that in the future those cases will come to the Commission first for preliminary review.

Commissioner Tobias suggested Planning Commission members have Design Commission experience.

IX. COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

Planner Gjolme said that it was the busiest year for the Commission since 2006 and thanked the members for their work.

X. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.