

KING COUNTY LANDMARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

*Thursday, February 26, 2015
Tipping Floor Conference Room (#7255)
King Street Center, 201 S. Jackson Street
Seattle, Washington
(Approved 3/26/15)*

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Lorelea Hudson, Vice Chair; Tom Hitzroth; Kji Kelly (at 4:50); Caroline Lemay; Rebecca Ossa; David Pilgrim

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Poppi Handy, Chair; Ella Moore

STAFF PRESENT: Todd Scott

GUESTS: None

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chair Hudson called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Hudson asked for any changes/corrections to the three sets of minutes available for approval. No changes were made. Hitzroth/Lemay moved to approve the January 22, 2015 minutes of the King County Landmarks Commission as submitted. The motion passed 5-0, as Kelly was not yet in attendance.

Hitzroth/Pilgrim moved to approve the December 18, 2014 minutes of the Kenmore Landmarks Commission as submitted. The motion passed 4-0 with Lemay abstaining as she was not at that meeting and Kelly was not yet in attendance.

Hitzroth/Lemay moved to approve the November 20, 2014 minutes of the Kent Landmarks Commission as submitted. The motion passed 5-0, as Kelly was not yet in attendance.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS BRIEFINGS: Scott informed the Commission that the two briefings scheduled for this meeting had cancelled. The Baima House (Newcastle) briefing will be done at the March meeting, and the Si View Park applicant will come to the next design review committee meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

White Center Fieldhouse (Steve Cox Memorial Park) NRHP nomination.

Scott informed the commission that a National Register of Historic Places nomination had been prepared for this WPA park. The nomination was originally written by an intern in the KC HPP office about six or seven years ago. But Michael Houser at the state had recommended changes to the nomination prior to submitting it to the Keeper of the Register. Due to a reduction in staffing at KC HPP, the changes were never made. Houser had temporary staff in his office and completed the changes to the nomination. As a CLG (Certified Local Government), the King County Landmarks Commission is asked to evaluate the nomination and make a recommendation whether the resource should be listed. Ossa asked why the resource is not considered a district, and why the handball court wasn't included as a mid-century modern contributing building. Scott indicated

he would consult with Houser on these issues. After some additional discussion about corrective spelling and grammar, Hudson/Hitzroth moved to recommend the White Center Fieldhouse be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The motion passed 5-0, with Kelly abstaining.

Code modification to address changes in appeals procedure.

Scott indicated that the county hearing examiner was working to change the county code to provide consistent appeal procedures across the various boards and commissions throughout the county. Scott provided information on how the landmarks section of the code would be changed, including any appeals being heard first by the hearing examiner rather than the County Council. The appeal period would also be reduced to 21 days from the current 35. Kelly asked if the Landmarks Commission would have standing to appeal a hearing examiner's decision if that office overturned a Commission decision. Scott indicated he thought the Commission would have standing, but would have to confirm that with the hearing examiner's office. HPP's prosecuting attorney has reviewed the proposed code changes and had no issue with them. Scott also indicated that prior to the changes being made HPP staff would need to work with our regional interlocal partners to make sure these changes are reflected in the local jurisdictions codes and their rules and procedures. Hitzroth/Kelly moved to approve the recommended code changes with the condition that the Commission have standing to appeal a hearing examiner's decision. The motion passed 6-0.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S REPORT: Scott updated the commission on various issues, including the recruitment for a permanent historic preservation officer. He indicated that there would be a hearing for summary judgment March 13th, on the ownership of the Mukai House and Garden. There will also be a sheriff's sale of the Skykomish Hotel on the same day. He asked which commissioners would like to be on the design review committee. They indicated that initially they'd all like to get the design review packet and an opportunity to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.