

# **KING COUNTY LANDMARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES\***

*Thursday, November 30, 2017  
Council Chambers, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Renton City Hall, 1055 S. Grady Way  
Renton, Washington  
(Approved 12/21/2017)*

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Poppi Handy, Chair; Lorelea Hudson, Cristy Lake, Ella Moore, Rebecca Ossa, David Pilgrim

**COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:** Caroline Lemay, Vice Chair

**COMMISSIONERS UNEXCUSED:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jennifer Meisner, Todd Scott

**CALL TO ORDER:** Handy called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Introductions of commissioners were made, including the newly appointed special commissioner from Renton, Elizabeth Stewart.

## **Convene RENTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

**SPECIAL COMMISSIONER PRESENT:** Elizabeth Stewart

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:** None

**GUESTS:** Dave Brethauer, Nick Hill

**ADOPTION OF RULES & REGULATIONS:** Staff gave a brief overview of the draft rules and regulations for the Renton Landmarks Commission. Hudson asked if these rules also applied to archaeological resources, and Scott replied that they did.

Lake/Stewart moved to approve the rules and regulations of the Renton Landmarks Commission as presented, and to file them with the Renton city clerk. The motion passed 7-0.

## **PUBLIC HEARING: F.W. Woolworth Co. Store Landmark Nomination**

Scott indicated that several commissioners and staff had toured the building just prior to the hearing. He provided the commission with a brief history of Renton and an overview of the subject building, including various modifications to it over the years, including the removal of all the interior walls and finishes. The building has recently been rehabilitated and the primary change from the original condition was the addition of windows and doors on the east elevation. He also indicated the building had been listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and that it was an active federal rehabilitation tax credit project. Scott then described the process for designation of county landmarks.

\*May include minutes for cities who have interlocal historic preservation agreements with King County.

Scott indicated the building met Criterion A1 for its direct association with the growth and development of downtown Renton, and for its connection to the national retail chain, F.W. Woolworth Company. He indicated it also met Criterion A3 as both a representative example of a Woolworth store from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, and a commercial building designed in the waning years of the International style. Scott also confirmed the landmark nomination had been reviewed and approved by the mayor and the owners had consented to designation.

Scott then recommended the commission designate the building as a City of Renton landmark. He recommended the features of significance include the exterior of the building and all of the land area within the existing legal parcel. He said the interior of the building did not warrant designation as there was no integrity remaining. Handy asked if the existing canopy would be included in the designation as it extended out over the public right-of-way and was not contained within the boundaries. Scott said the boundaries could be amended to include the historic canopy. Pilgrim indicated that only the historic canopy should be included, not the new glass canopies on the east elevation.

Handy opened the public hearing and asked for testimony from the audience.

Public Testimony:

Dave Brethauer owns the property with his wife Monica, and he indicated they are thrilled to have the building designated as a landmark. It has been a much bigger project than they imagined, especially since they initially bought the building to move their business into. During the rehabilitation they got lots of positive feedback from passersby, including many who had memories of the building from years ago. He said he is very proud of what they've done with the building. He is committed to having a pedestrian active building, and is currently leasing one space to a plant store. Another tenant will be moving in in February, and one vacant space is currently being used for downtown holiday activities. The second floor may become a co-working space.

Nick Hill is a downtown business owner and he thanked Brethauer for everything he's done for downtown Renton. He also said Brethauer has hosted several events in the space and is on the board of the Renton Downtown Partnership. He feels the building is a good example of one that has evolved over time and is the best example of a mid-century modern building downtown. It identifies that period of Renton's history. He supports designation and thanked the Commission for their efforts to designate.

Handy asked for additional testimony. Hearing none she closed the public comment and opened the floor to commissioner deliberation. Stewart said that Brethauer and Hill are great examples of owners who can show that historic preservation is an important part of revitalizing downtowns. Handy said she thinks it is a great building and a good example of the type and style. She's also a fan of the Main Street organization and realizes that a big part of what is happening in downtown Renton is attributable to Brethauer's efforts.

Handy asked for a motion. Special Commissioner Stewart moved to designate the Cortona Building as a City of Renton landmark based on the staff recommendation, and including the features of significance and findings contained in that recommendation, with the suggested boundary adjustment for the historic canopy. Ossa seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Meisner thanked Brethauer for wanting to designate the Cortona Building and indicated that this project was the catalyst for the historic preservation program establishing an interlocal preservation agreement with Renton.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**ADJOURN:** Renton Landmarks Commission

### **Convene NORTH BEND LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

**SPECIAL COMMISSIONER ABSENT:** Cindy Walker

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:** None

**GUESTS:** Elizabeth Stewart

**CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS:** McGrath Building, 101 W. North Bend Way (COA #1717) request to install a projecting sign.

Scott briefly described the project indicating the DRC had recommended approval. He also indicated the sign met the district's signage guidelines. Lake asked if the sign were designed to withstand the strong winds prevalent in North Bend during the fall and winter. Scott said they would be using the same brackets from the previous sign and the sign was designed with small openings that would minimize the wind impact, so it should be sufficiently strong. Pilgrim asked whether signs that clearly met the downtown historic district sign guidelines couldn't be approved as a Type I COA. Scott said the Commission has discussed it previously, but it would require an official action by the Commission to authorize staff to approve them. He indicated he would work on that for a future meeting.

Lake/Moore moved to approve the Type II COA request to install signage on the McGrath Building as recommended by the DRC, and to ratify the agreement between DRC and the applicant. The motion passed 6-0.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**ADJOURN:** North Bend Landmarks Commission

### **Convene KING COUNTY LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Handy asked for any changes/corrections to the minutes. She indicated that Moore was shown as both present and excused on the October 11 minutes. Scott said she was excused so he will remove her from the list of commissioners present. There were no other corrections.

Pilgrim/Hudson moved to approve the October 11, 2017 minutes of the King County Landmarks Commission. The motion passed 5-0, with Moore abstaining as she was not present at that meeting. Pilgrim/Hudson moved to approve the October 26, 2017 minutes of the King County Landmarks Commission. The motion passed 5-0, with Handy abstaining as she was not present at that meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S REPORT:** Meisner reported that the owners of the Baker House in Sammamish had appealed the Commission's designation of it as a Sammamish landmark. It is a closed hearing appeal, and she does not yet know when a decision will be expected.

She indicated that she and Scott had attended PastForward 2017, the national preservation conference in Chicago a couple of weeks ago. She also encouraged commissioners to consider attending the National Alliance of Preservation Commission's biennial conference next summer, in Des Moines, Iowa. She indicated there may be some money in HPP's travel budget to offset some of the costs for commissioners who attended. She also indicated the City of Tacoma was putting in a proposal to host NAPC's conference in 2020.

Meisner said that the interlocal agreement with Federal Way had been completed, and that she expected to have one completed with Covington soon. She also said there may be some interest in developing an ILA with Bellevue as well.

Finally, she asked if Commissioners Handy, Ossa, and Pilgrim had received any notification that they had been reappointed to the Commission. They all indicated they had not received any correspondence. Meisner then said that she would need to check with county staff, as she had submitted their reappointment paperwork back in the spring, and didn't know why they hadn't yet been reappointed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Scott informed the Commission that there would be a meeting in December as there are two special tax valuation projects that require approval. He also indicated they would likely be meeting in Snoqualmie in January, as he is expecting a landmark nomination for that jurisdiction.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.