

KING COUNTY LANDMARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

*Thursday, July 23, 2015
Tipping Floor Conference Room (#7255)
King Street Center, 201 S. Jackson Street
Seattle, Washington
(Approved 8/27/15)*

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Poppi Handy, Chair; Lorelea Hudson, Vice Chair; Tom Hitzroth; Kji Kelly; Caroline Lemay (arrived at 4:40); Ella Moore; David Pilgrim (arrived at 4:50)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Rebecca Ossa

STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Meisner, Todd Scott

GUESTS: Flo Lentz

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Handy called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Handy asked for any changes/corrections to the minutes available for approval. No changes were made. Kelly/Hitzroth moved to approve the May 28, 2015 minutes of the King County Landmarks Commission as submitted. The motion passed 4-0 with Hudson abstaining as she was not present at that meeting and Lemay and Pilgrim were not yet in attendance.

Hitzroth reminded the commission that only four members could vote on the Tukwila minutes, as the newer members had not yet been officially confirmed. Hitzroth/Hudson moved to approve the November 13, 2014 minutes of the Tukwila Landmarks Commission as submitted, subject to any corrections made by Tukwila staff or special commissioner. The motion passed 4-0 with Lemay and Moore abstaining as they were present at that meeting but had not yet been officially confirmed as members, and Pilgrim was not yet in attendance.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Mukai Agricultural Complex (COA No. 1511) request to install a fence.

Handy provided an overview of this request. She stated the DRC had recommended a 90 day continuance, as they preferred not to review the proposed fence until the issue of who controls the property has been resolved by the courts. Handy had preferred to deny the application rather than offering another continuance, but she was not in the majority. Hitzroth stated the courts could take a long time to resolve the issue, as it had been going on for a couple of years now. Kelly felt having a public hearing on the fence would simply be “stirring the pot” around this controversial issue; he would prefer to continue it, primarily because the two groups who could control the property don’t agree on the need for a fence. It simply doesn’t make sense to add another layer to the complexity of the issue.

Kelly/Hitzroth moved to continue the Type II COA request to install a fence at the Mukai Agricultural Complex to October 22, 2015 at 4:30 pm as recommended by the DRC. The motion passed 6-0 (Pilgrim was not present for this vote).

Cooper Farm (COA No. 1514) request to install translucent roofing panels on the barn.

Scott provided an overview of this request, indicating that much of the roof structure and material had to be replaced due to fatigue and rot. He also indicated the new roofing material was considered a replacement in-kind, so a Type II COA was not required for that, just for the translucent panels. Pilgrim asked if the wholesale replacement of building material impacts the landmark designation; at what point is it no longer historic? Scott stated that was often a fine line, but many landmarks have had much of their material replaced when those materials have failed. Kelly stated there still is some historic fabric, primarily siding and interior material.

Hudson/Hitzroth moved to approve the Type II COA request to install translucent roofing panels on the barn at the Cooper Dairy Farm as recommended by the DRC and to ratify the agreement between the DRC and the applicant. The motion passed 7-0.

Burton Masonic Hall (COA No. 1518) request to construct a new porch railing.

Scott provided an overview of this request, and asked the commission for approval of two different types of railings. One is what was proposed by the applicant, the second is one that he has seen often, and which may last longer than what is proposed. Both have 2" balusters and a top and bottom rail. Kelly asked if they were planning to construct a railing on the steps leading up to the porch. Scott said he wasn't sure; no step railing had been proposed. Pilgrim asked whether the windows that are seen in the historic photograph are still there on the building's front elevation. Scott said the openings had been covered up on both the inside and outside, and he's not sure if the actual sash are still there. Kelly asked if there are any other historic railings on nearby buildings that might give a sense of what was there historically. Scott indicated he hadn't done a thorough search of existing buildings, but he had looked at numerous historic photos of Burton, and many of the buildings had no railings, or simple ones made of dimensional lumber that wouldn't meet current code. Lemay asked if the railings would be painted. Scott indicated they would be, and would match the current paint scheme of the building.

Lemay/Kelly moved to approve the Type II COA request to construct a porch and step railing on the Burton Masonic Hall as recommended by the DRC and to ratify the agreement between the DRC and the applicant. The motion passed 7-0.

OTHER BUSINESS: Flo Lentz gave an overview of 4Culture's funding programs and indicated there is a new one-time grant program, Building For Culture, funded through bonds. It will require a 1:1 cash match. A portion of this program is dedicated to historic preservation efforts, the Saving Landmarks grant. The deadline for grant applications is September 9, 2015.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S REPORT: Meisner told commissioners there is some money in our program budget to pay for registration for staff and a commissioner or two to attend the national preservation conference in Washington, D.C. in November. Early bird

registration must be done by July 31st. She encouraged anyone interested in attending to contact the office by mid-next week. She updated the commission on the activities at the Anderson House in Issaquah. The house is being offered to a non-profit or individual provided it can be moved to a new location. A site visit will be conducted on July 30th.

Meisner informed commissioners that a new interlocal agreement for preservation services with Skykomish is moving through county council. This agreement is just an updated version of one that was terminated a few years ago. The Town of Skykomish also received three proposals to rehabilitate the Skykomish Hotel. They accepted Keith Maehlum's offer and he will begin working on the building soon. The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation will also be conducting a one day Youth Heritage Project in Skykomish on August 25. to accomplish the goals of the program.

The commission vacancies have been advertised and Meisner has heard from two historians and one attorney who might be interested in serving. Several aspects of the program's strategic plan are also being implemented. Staff has been working with DAHP on coordinating database activities, and there will be some changes to WISAARD later in the year. A stakeholder survey will be going out soon on Survey Monkey; this will ultimately be used as a performance measure for the county's preservation program.

Finally, she indicated the county has made an offer to purchase the Mukai fruit barreling plant using state funds, combined with funds from the county's parks department.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.