

KING COUNTY LANDMARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

*Wednesday, May 4, 2016
King Street Center
201 S. Jackson Street
Seattle, Washington
(Approved 5/26/16)*

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Poppi Handy, Chair; Tom Hitzroth; Caroline Lemay; Ella Moore; David Pilgrim

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Lorelea Hudson, Vice Chair; Kji Kelly; Rebecca Ossa

STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Meisner, Todd Scott

GUESTS: None

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Handy called the meeting to order at 4:55 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There were no minutes available.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

Tahoma High School (COA No. 1613) request to install monument sign and a covered play area.

Lemay provided an overview of the projects, and described the discussion DRC had about the sign and font, noting the font was very similar to historic lettering on the building. She also described the play structure, stating the design was not derived from the adjacent buildings, but was a standard design for the school district. She also noted the play structure is not visible from the street because of other buildings and a grove of trees. She said there didn't seem to be any particular concern for archaeology associated with the foundation for the play structure, primarily because it's located on the athletic field and the field has been altered over the years. Hitzroth was curious why only three sides of the historic building are considered features of significance. Handy said it was probably because it was a non-primary side. Scott indicated the focus had been on what was visible from the streets, which left out much of the south side. The south elevation is also a less prominent material than the other three sides.

Pilgrim said he was not concerned with the play structure, but didn't think the location for the sign was appropriate, as they'd be tearing out the last remnant of the historic driveway. He would actually prefer the driveway be restored. He's also concerned about the size of the sign, as the DRC report indicates it is 7' tall. Lemay said the photos of the site make it look like the driveway has already been compromised; it disappears under a curb at the top of the rise. She also indicated it probably can't serve as a functional driveway again because it ends right at the intersection. If it remains and becomes a functional path or pedestrian access, bollards or some other protective barrier would need to be placed at the corner. Pilgrim says his children attended school here, and the driveway has always been a significant feature. He pointed out that the features of significance include "site features" in the section of land between the school façade and roadway.

Handy clarified that the drawings submitted with the application indicate the sign is 6' tall, not 7'. Scott indicated he could not find anything in the landmark files to indicate how long the driveway was there, or when the top portion of it was covered or removed. Pilgrim would prefer the sign be located elsewhere and the driveway be restored, or at least kept in place. He asked if approval of the sign could be continued for 60 days, to allow staff and the applicant time to research the driveway and consider alternative locations for the sign.

Hitzroth/Lemay moved to approve the Type II COA request to construct a play shed at Tahoma High School, to ratify the agreement between the DRC and the applicant for the play shed, and to continue the sign portion of the application to June 23, 2016. The motion passed 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS: Scott asked the commission for alternative dates for the July 28, 2016 meeting, since at least two commissioners and staff would be attending NAPC's FORUM conference in Alabama. August 4, 2016 was chosen as the alternate date. Scott also asked commissioners interested in being on the Policy & Planning Committee what days of the week and times would be acceptable to them. Pilgrim, Handy, and Hitzroth indicated they would like to be on the committee and would prefer to meet after 4 pm. Days of the week are somewhat flexible for all of them.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S REPORT: Meisner apologized for being late to the meeting, as she was in a budget meeting. She reported that we had received 39 applications for the preservation planner position. We will be scheduling interviews once the applicant pool has been reviewed. It is expected that interviews will occur before the end of the month. She also informed them that Charlie Sundberg's last official day was yesterday, May 3, 2016.

Meisner also informed the commission we had received 22 barn grant applications, and staff was starting to review them. A panel will be convened next week to make award recommendations.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.