COMMISSIONERS
Bob Hale
Michael Hammond
Rachael Kitagawa
John Ogliore, Vice Chair
Christine Vaughan, Chair
Anais Winant

Absent
Sam Farrazaino
Lauren Rudeck

Chair Christine Vaughan determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm. She acknowledged that we are on Native land.

She reminded Commission members to announce any conflict of interest or ex parte communication prior to review of applications.

052219.1 APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF USE APPROVAL

052219.11 PDA – temporary street use applications
Zack Cook, John Turnbull

Staff Report: Ms. McAuliffe explained the application for temporary street use/right-of-way approval for farm and crafts overflow through May 21, 2019 and for installation of a holiday tree from November 18, 2019 through January 9, 2020. She said it is an annual street use application from PDA. Exhibits reviewed include site plans and written descriptions. Guidelines that applied to this application included 2.11.
URC Report: Ms. McAuliffe said the Committee cited 2.11.1 and 2.11.1 and recommended to approve.

Applicant Comment:

Zach Cook, PDA, said it is the same application every year to provide extra selling spaces for farm and craft overflow. He said that they offer extra space to farmers with food.

Landlord: PDA is landlord.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Commission Discussion:

Mr. Ogliore said it has been done before so the URC recommended approval.

Responding to questions, Mr. Cook said the new Market front is too far for farmers.

Action: Mr. Ogliore made a motion to adopt a resolution approve the application as presented.

MM/SC/JO/MH 6:0:0 Motion carried.

052219.2 APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF DESIGN APPROVAL

052219.21 Pike & Virginia Homeowner Association
87 Virginia Street
William Franklin

Staff Report: Ms. McAuliffe explained the application to install window system on upper story adjacent to parking garage. Exhibits reviewed included photos and plans. Guidelines that applied to this application included 3.1, 3.2.

DRC Report: Ms. McAuliffe said the Committee cited 3.1.2, 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 and recommended to approve.

Applicant Comment:

The applicant explained the proposal to install glass window adjacent to main entry to address security concerns and prevent unwanted visitors from slipping in to building. The look will remain the same; it is just one window.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.
Commission Discussion:

Mr. Hale said it will maintain the character of the market and the building; it is barely noticeable. They will extend the same storefront material and setback.

Action: Mr. Hammond made a motion to adopt a resolution approve the application as presented.

MM/SC/MH/AW 6:0:0 Motion carried.

052219.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
May 8, 2019
MM/SC/MH/RK 5:0:1 Minutes approved. Mr. Ogliore abstained.

052219.4 REPORT OF THE CHAIR

052219.5 REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

052219.6 STAFF REPORT
Ms. McAuliffe noted a UW Alumni magazine has an article about Marvin Oliver. She said she led a bike tour for Historic Seattle, stopping by Gas Works and Victor Steinbrueck parks, sharing the works of Rich Haag. She said the next meeting is June 12; June 26 is cancelled.

Ms. McAuliffe said she spoke with David Graves about Victor Steinbrueck Park application. She said she wanted to be sure to be there for both if there is an application to remove the totem poles. She wants adequate public notice. She said the totem poles will be removed for restoration and noted that the Commission has to approve it first. She wasn’t sure where they will go after restoration and said the Commission can condition the motion that any future changes come back with three-month notice to public and that the Commission can condition that the totem poles are restored and reinstalled prior to reopening of the park. She said the Commission will remain open and transparent at all times. She wondered if a survey had been done of all totem poles in the City.

She said the Guidelines have been forwarded to the City Attorney. Changes are highlighted in Track Changes. She said not all changes have been added and noted that she has had a busy schedule.

Ms. Vaughan said emails from the spring indicate that the soundscape was approved by law. She said the commitment to racial equity is essentially done and can just be cross checked and done in an hour.

Ms. McAuliffe said it is not a good time.
Ms. Vaughan asked if there had been any movement on new commissioners.

Ms. McAuliffe said five reappointments have been approved but need to go for confirmation; appointments will be through December 1, 2020. She explained that she had met with Allied Arts and interviewed two people; the Mayor’s office asked for a more diverse pool of candidates. She said that Resident and Merchant candidates have been chosen. She said one position was abrogated. She said Ms. Winant is currently in At-Large position and she suggested moving her to a Property Owner position, which is harder to fill.

Ms. Vaughan said that would open up At-Large to a larger pool of candidates as well as retain experience on Commission. She raised concern about politicizing the Commission and there should be distance between the two. She expressed frustration with Mayor’s request for a more diverse pool. She said she had a conversation with DON director, Andrés Mantilla. She said she explained the desire to see the Commission create precedent that positions be nominated by the Commission.

Mr. Ogliore asked how the Mayor knew the race of the submitted candidates.

Ms. McAuliffe said she didn’t know.

Ms. Vaughan asked if race was part of the report.

Ms. McAuliffe said no, that she prepared bios and sends to Mayor liaison. She said people were interviewed in July of last year.

Ms. Vaughan said she had talked with Sabrina Bolieu. Ms. Bolieu said that the Mayor wants to bring new people onto Boards and Commissions.

Ms. McAuliffe said she explained why reappointment was so important but the Mayor didn’t want to reappoint to second terms.

Mr. Ogliore said there are many meanings of diversity: age, LBGTQ, etc.

Mr. Hale supported Ms. Winant remaining on the Commission.

Ms. Vaughan asked if the Commission knew the At-Large position would be open.

Ms. Winant said already two people were turned down because of diversity.

Ms. Vaughan said the next action needs to come from the Commission, not staff.

Ms. McAuliffe said her supervisor needs to see anything first.

Ms. Vaughan said she can’t speak without Commission support.
Mr. Hale said he can’t argue with needing a more diverse Commission but it shouldn’t be at the expense of institutional memory; it takes a while to get on board.

Mr. Hammond asked why not just write up an ad.

Mr. Ogliore said only with At-Large position.

Ms. Kitagawa said diversity is beneficial, but it seems not helpful to lose institutional memory. She said denying two candidates is coming at the expense of the Commission. Ms. Kitagawa said that being on a board or commission is historically racially skewed toward white or financially well off; you have to have the time and financial ability to volunteer.

Ms. Winant said it is awkward to be the subject of discussion. She said staff is in an impossible situation. She said the position should be the subject of Commission to nominate. She said she is enlivened by work on the Commission and loves the diversity of spirit, character and thinking. She said all Commissioners are acting in good faith. She said if there is a graceful way to stay, then she will.

Laine Ross, Allied Arts, said it feels political, but she doesn’t know the outcome. A letter might be timely; diversity has been a longtime issue with DON and the City. She said Allied Arts put forth 2-3 nominees and they lost the last round. She said they are striving to understand and meet the diversity demand. She said it is like the City Neighbor Councils that were decommissioned in 2016. She said they hope to have 3 or 4 nominees soon.

Ms. McAuliffe reviewed language in the Ordinance for makeup of Commission.

Ms. Kitagawa said that being on a board or commission is racially skewed toward white or wealthy; you have to have the time and financial ability to volunteer.

Mr. Ogliore agreed and said between childcare and transportation, it is a lot.

Ms. Kitagawa wonders what the Mayor meant by saying they want a more diverse pool.

Ms. Vaughan said the first step is to write a letter requesting definition of diversity as related to the Allied Arts candidates. She while they are in full support of diversity, they don’t want to sacrifice institutional memory for sake of diversity. Commissioners concurred.

Ms. McAuliffe said a letter must have permission from her supervisor to send to the Mayor.

Ms. Vaughan said she hears that and will talk to Mr. Mantilla.
Ms. McAuliffe recommended it be addressed to Mr. Mantilla, and copy Sarah Sodt and herself.

Ms. Vaughan said that next steps will be decided on response.

Ms. McAuliffe said that the liaison in interviews in no longer with the City.

052219.7  NEW BUSINESS

Heather McAuliffe
Commission Coordinator