APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

May 19, 2011
Convened 10:00 am
Adjourned 3:30 pm

Projects Reviewed
Fire Station 36
Grange Insurance Association Skybridge
Yesler Terrace Redevelopment

Commissioners Present
Julie Bassuk, Chair
Graham Black (excused from 10:30am-11:30am)
Malika Kirkling (excused from 12:00pm-3:30pm)
Tom Nelson (excused from 10:00am-11:00am)
Julie Parrett
Osama Quotah
Norie Sato (excused from 10:00am-11:45am)

Commissioners Excused
Laurel Kunkler
Don Vehige

Incoming Commissioners Present
Debbie Wick-Harris

Staff Present
Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino
May 19, 2011

Project: Grange Insurance Association Skybridge
Phase: Skybridge
Last Reviewed: N/A
Presenters: Jennifer Stachowiak, Grange Insurance Association
Attendees: David Suver, Grange Insurance Association
Todd Merkley, Grange Insurance Association

Time: 11:30am – 12:30pm

Presentation
Grange Insurance Association presented its plans to re-permit a skybridge that it built in 1981. Grange’s employees move between offices across the skybridge, and network cables connect the offices through it. Grange offered as a public benefit the plaza they built in 1981, when its second building was added and the skybridge was constructed. Grange has maintained this plaza and allowed the public use of it for over thirty years. Anyone walking past the site would assume it was a public park. The plaza has mature vegetation, benches, trash cans, and a small area of lawn.

The city’s Skybridge Review Committee approved the public benefit package in an unprecedented decision to accept existing improvements as public benefit.

ACTION
The Design Commission thanked Grange Insurance Association for its presentation of the skybridge and plaza. The commission applauded the association for providing an outdoor plaza for public use and believed the plaza functioned well. By a vote of 6-0, the Design Commission recommended the SDOT Director approve the skybridge permit as well as the public benefit package which consisted of the existing 7,500 sq ft plaza and the amenities that supported it: flowering cherry trees and other mature landscaping; colorful annuals; a curved lawn; professional maintenance of the plaza; tree-lined sidewalks along Clay and 2nd Ave; alley lighting and cameras; plaza and wall lighting; security guards and night patrols; a parking area security camera; and permission for community groups to hold events. The commission made the following conditions:

- Retain the plaza’s paving, lighting and security patrols.