July 5, 2012
Convened 8:00am
Adjourned 4:30pm

Projects Reviewed
Block 93 Alley Vacation
SR520 I-5 to Medina
Mapes Creek Restoration

Commissioners Present
Julie Parrett, Chair
Shannon Loew
Osama Quotah
Debbie Harris
Laurel Kunkler
Tom Nelson
Norie Sato
Mary Fialko
Don Vehige

Commissioners Excused
Julie Bassuk

Staff Present
Valerie Kinast
Summary of Project Presentation

The design team presented the updated design of the railings, lighting and signage for the SR520 floating bridge. The team chose the railing with the no wave option; they also tweaked the mounting and barriers to get 14 feet of clearance, despite a railing that raked and curved in. After studying other bridges’ lighting and the colors in the landscape surrounding the 520 bridge, the team chose a lighting design with the sentinel and a crowning element lit in a blue-green color, with white at the top and a strip up the middle of the sentinel. The team showed a mock-up of the crowning element, which would be constructed with the lighting between two layers of mesh. The team was studying how to design the mesh so it would look good in the daytime, and also how the color might be temporarily changed, during events or different seasons, for example. The team presented the design for interpretive signage along the bridge, both the concept for the sign structures, content themes, locations at the belvederes, and also layout and content of the panels. Finally, the team presented the west connection bridge, and the temporary bridge that will be built to connect to the existing west bridge.

SUMMARY (by Loew)

The Seattle Design Commission approved, by a vote of 6-1, the design of the railings, lighting and signage for SR520 floating bridge and landings, with the following recommendations:

- Bend the plane of interpretive signage into the radii of railings at the belvederes; don’t create queuing or block the path of bicycle movement; don’t block key views from seating.
- Hire an experienced interpretive signage / exhibit designer who knows Seattle’s history to further develop the concepts and create a detailed design. Come back for review when the design and content are more detailed. Consider developing content that covers environmental cleanup over time, climate, bathymetry and ecology; design the content so it sparks interest and encourages procession along the bridge.
- Refine the design to encourage safe travel along the paths at different speeds.
For the Beacon lighting, the Commission preferred the neutral to warm blue-green tones with the hue and saturation to be adjusted at installation; any seasonal changes should be part of an intentional programing and not one-off’s by sponsors; the frame should not be visible; and the use of an interior light to add “mystery”, the “banding” effect of the light to create a dynamic quality.

Commissioner Loew voted no because the lighting design was incongruent and not clear.