



APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Mike McGinn
Mayor

Diane Sugimura
Director, DPD

Marshall Foster
Planning Director, DPD

Mary Johnston
Chair

Andrew Barash

Julie Bassuk

Graham Black

Brendan Connolly

Lauren Hauck

Laurel Kunkler

Julie Parrett

Norie Sato

Donald Vehige

Guillermo Romano
Executive Director

Valerie Kinast
Coordinator

Tom Iurino
Senior Staff

May 6, 2010

Convened 8:30am
Adjourned 5:00pm

Projects Reviewed

South Transfer Station
Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement
Fire Station 6
Maple Leaf Reservoir Park
Rainier Beach Community Center

Commissioners Present

Mary Johnston, Chair
Andrew Barash
Julie Bassuk
Graham Black
Lauren Hauck
Laurel Kunkler
Julie Parrett
Norie Sato
Donald Vehige

Staff Present

Guillermo Romano
Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino
Jenny Hampton



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May 6, 2010

Project: Fire Station 6 Central District
Phase: Design Development
Last Reviewed: July 2, 2009; Oct 15, 2009
Presenters: Ed Weinstein, Weinstein AU
Mark Tilbe, Murase Associates

Attendees: Larry Wick, Fire Department
David Kunselman, FFD
David Jackson, FFD
Jon Mikhels, Weinstein AU
Jason Huff, Arts and Cultural Affairs
Matthew Long, Arts and Design Development

Time: 1:15pm-2:00pm

(000/RS0000)

ACTION

The Design Commission thanks the project team of Fire Station 6 and approves the design development phase with a vote of eight to one with the following comments:

- **Maintain where possible a minimum width of six feet in sidewalks. (The sidewalks should be at least six feet in width to accommodate foot traffic).**
- **The Commission strongly recommends to consider two curb ramps at the corner of the intersection instead of one right at the corner. Understands the limitations created by the utility pole, but considers that the design should address the pedestrian safety and find a solution.**
- **There is concern that the art does not read strongly enough. Rethink how the art and elements of the building and site design interplay.**
- **The color and shape of the pipe benches as designed may compete with the art, the Commission recommends either artist participation into the benches' design, a change of color (red) or a less symbolic bench design.**
- **Recommends more transparency at the gate. Reconsider using the proposed perforated aluminum for it (the gate) because it is nearly opaque. Celebrate the gate more, or extend the signage.**
- **The detailing of the storage box needs very careful attention in its execution. Consider lighting, brick finish material or a different pattern.**

The dissenting vote was based on remaining conflicts in how the art is integrated with the building design, and the composition of many of the smaller elements.

Project Presentation

We wanted to talk briefly about some of the challenges and address your concerns from our last presentation. The site is about 15,000 sq. ft. Our building is around 25% of the allowable bulk and scale for the zoning of the site.

In our analysis, we needed to develop circulation that allows for optimal access. This constraint set the agenda for the building. Its activity can be seen by the community. We also had to optimize the circulation for the community. We recognized the sidewalk constraints and the Design Commission's concerns for this area and the entry.

The current site plan includes a sidewalk that will feature a vine wall. We have also tried to dedicate the corner area for public open space and encourage pedestrians to look inside the building.

The project's elements include parking, a plaza, green screen, artwork, transparency, privacy for the workers and quiet sleeping rooms facing the alley. In the later afternoons and evenings, the station will be lit and transparent. There will be three vertical modules around the fire red doors.



Corner of S. Jackson St and MLK Way S.

The main floor plan includes an apparatus bay for trucks and support facilities and maintenance, station offices and sleeping areas, and storage. At the second level, we refined the plan interconnecting the spaces together. We worked very hard to make art out of the steel framing so that it is correlated to the outside character. We used Norman brick for the solid building and also steel frame and transparency for the other side.

SDOT's decision not to bring out the parking bulb has dictated our species selection. At the corner, we proposed using very large gauge piping for seating to facilitate a view inside the apparatus bay. We used different paving patterns. We have to keep the plantings low under power lines in order to work with this constraint. The stair tower features vines grown on it. The plant palette consists of dogwood trees, smaller ash, boston ivy, clematis, low evergreen ground cover, evergreen beech strawberry, groundcover. On the green roof, there will be a mix of sedums.

The team went over some of the materials and finishings for the building.

Commissioners' Comments & Questions

I was curious about the two brick materials. Do you think the one that is more pitted might have a problem with graffiti removal?

We will look into that.

What is the length of the glass? What is the gate like?

It could be steel, perforated metal but we haven't completely developed it yet.

When does this go out to bid?

Middle of November.

What are the street improvements planned by SDOT?

Is the art a work in progress? What does that mean?

We have had a consistent dialog with the artist and this is his current idea for the space. We are trying to install the art into the framework of the design.

The sidewalk width along Jackson is 5 ft?

Yes, as part of our strategy we are trying to provide meaningful relief to the experience.

Can you describe the benches on the corner?

They range from 15 inches high to 30 inches. 8 inch diameter height and painted the same color as the red doors.

I think that the box along Jackson is working fine for me as it is, however, I am interested in the detailing to this back. It would be good to add some sort of interest to this. At night, the little box looks very dark. It would be good to try and light this area as well.

Could you make the box narrower? I think that you could take away the 2nd plaza so you can see the side of the truck. I think that the little cove might work somewhere else.

The cove provides movement of the dumpsters.

I am wondering about the artwork. It seems like it doesn't have enough presence, I might encourage him taking over the corner. With the red pipes, I am kind of worried that the pipes might be mistaken for artwork and the artist should have a conversation about this with the bench designers.

The artwork gets a little lost in the building.

Overall the building is working, but I am still really concerned about the Jackson street side, I think that a 5 ft. sidewalk is not efficient. I think that you need to assume the task of making it better. I think that achieving a minimum of 6 foot sidewalk.

I think that there needs to be two curb cuts for the sidewalk. This is a busy intersection and this needs to be integrated.