



## International Special Review District

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ISRD 134/16

### MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, May 24, 2016

Time: 4:30pm  
Place: Bush Asia Center  
409 Maynard Avenue S.  
Basement meeting room

#### **Board Members Present**

Stephanie Hsie  
Carol Leong  
Tiernan Martin, Vice Chair  
Miye Moriguchi, Chair  
Herman Setijono  
Marie Wong

#### **Staff**

Rebecca Frestedt  
Melinda Bloom

#### **Absent**

Valerie Tran

#### **052416.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

April 12, 2016

MM/SC/CL/TM 4:0:2 Minutes approved. Mmes. Moriguchi and Hsie abstained.

April 26, 2016

MM/SC/TM/HS 4:0:2 Minutes approved. Mmes. Leong and Hsie abstained.

#### **052416.2 CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL**

052416.21 401 S. Jackson St.

*Applicant:* Kevin MacFarlane, Sound Transit

Ms. Frestedt explained the proposed revision to Union Station sign plan to improve station wayfinding. Exhibits included photographs, plans and samples. This site is co-located within the Pioneer Square Historical District. The Pioneer Square Historic Review Board reviewed and recommended approval for the application on Wed., May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Applicant Comment:

Candace Toth, Sound Transit, provided background of the project to update graphics and signage standards. She said they looked at three stations that received the most complaints from users: Sea-Tac, International District/Chinatown and Westlake. She said new signage at this station will help pedestrians understand the two circulation paths – Jackson Street and Weller Street – and how to transfer between stations. She provided material samples and said there will be no format changes but graphics and colors will be updated. Using renderings she showed mockups to help board members understand the locations. She said the station ID sign ‘the braid’ will be discontinued and replaced with standard station identification. It will be pole mounted, rectilinear, navy and white. She said at the south end of the plaza at the southwest corner of the entrance atrium universal icons will be perpendicular to flow as you exit Weller Street Bridge. It will be fascia mounted on steel beam, perpendicular to path so it is visible.

Ms. Toth explained that directional signage will be added or updated; transit modes will be referenced on signage, rather than buildings (e.g. Amtrak vs. King Street Station), and the First Hill Streetcar will be added. She provided locations of the signs: at the north ticket vending machine, 4<sup>th</sup> and Jackson on concrete pillar, within station at stairs and escalators, and signs at Amtrak and or stadium exiting and north and south exits will be a little different. She said that two new overhead directional signs will be added. She said the signage will help to leave bread crumbs for new users. She provided material samples.

Mr. Martin asked about feedback they received from the Pioneer Square Preservation Board.

Ms. Toth said the PS Board had questions about attachment and confirmation of approval from King County Metro (property owner).

Ms. Moriguchi asked if plants would obscure views of the signs.

Ms. Toth said they will talk to facilities to make sure they trim the plants.

Ms. Wong asked why the district is represented two different ways – International District – Chinatown and Chinatown International District.

Ms. Toth said that Chong Wa told them that the district is Chinatown International District but she noted that the official station name is International District Chinatown Station.

Ms. Leong asked if that could be corrected.

Ms. Toth said it was outside the scope of this project. She said they have to stick to the name on their policy documents. She said that is not to say the station name couldn’t change; that conversation would have to take place at a higher level involving the system-wide alignment.

Kevin MacFarlane said that the Sound Transit Board of Director meeting always includes public comment period where that could take place.

Ms. Leong said they could say that the ISRD approved this. She said she likes the materials but the content is confusing.

Ms. Toth said that there was a community process associated with the selection of the station name when the tunnel was constructed. She said it was an in-depth process.

Ms. Frestedt interjected that it is a broader alignment issue for Sound Transit that is beyond the scope of this board. She said there have been many conversations about the name of the station and the community center and library over time.

Discussion ensued about the name of the neighborhood. Ms. Frestedt said the name of the neighborhood and the name of the station are beyond the scope of this application. She said there is a long history of documentation regarding the name of the neighborhood which she can distribute to the board. She said the direction of late and the commonly accepted name is Chinatown International District.

Ms. Toth said International District – Chinatown is the name of the station. She said they were able to change the name of the neighborhood on the signs, but that they can't change the station name.

Ms. Leong said it adds to the confusion and it should be addressed.

Ms. Toth said that it is noted. She said they are using mode signage and the station names are only on the porcelain signage; the map has the station name on it.

Ms. Hsie asked about Pioneer Square signs.

Ms. Toth said that there is a sign on the Weller Street Bridge that points to this neighborhood.

Ms. Moriguchi said she understands the confusion. She said that going to directional, mode-oriented signage would help in wayfinding.

There was discussion about the use of punctuation in the name of the neighborhood, whether a dash or slash is more common. There was a recommendation to eliminate the punctuation entirely.

Ms. Hsie asked if the color is standard.

Ms. Toth said it is. They will bold transit mode if it is a specific name.

Public Comment:

Brien Chow, community member, provided a handout and read it to board (document in DON file). He said the signage would increase confusion.

Betty Lau, community member, said in 2004 there was no community process and she spoke about the neighborhood name. She said she likes the idea of referring to modes. She said the name in the tunnel is wrong.

Mr. MacFarlane said changing the station name is above and beyond the purview of this project and should be presented to their full board.

Board Discussion:

Ms. Moriguchi suggested eliminating the dash in “Chinatown-International District” from the signage.

Mr. Martin said that the community’s response and comments made confusing that this is a situation. Appreciated the applicants’ effort to distinguish station and neighborhood. He said that any desire to change the name of the station is outside the board’s jurisdiction. He said they did a good job to increase clarity.

Mr. Martin made a motion to recommend approval for the application, without punctuation. It was not seconded.

Ms. Frestedt said according to Robert’s Rules there could be an open discussion regarding the motion; the motion could be withdrawn; or someone could second it and the board could vote.

Ms. Hsie said that the graphics were fine. She said that the issues surrounding the name of the station amounts to a Band-Aid approach. She said approving the application would be approving the inconsistent use of name.

Ms. Moriguchi said the name of the station is correctly listed and the graphics improve upon the current signs.

Mr. Martin said that if there is a greater effort to change the name of the station it should be part of a public process and that cannot be accomplished here.

Ms. Hsie said if you take the name of the station as it is, it meets the rules for the District.

Ms. Leong said the goal is to create wayfinding and help transit users find their way – that is not accomplished. She said that she supports the signage, materials and intent.

Ms. Moriguchi said the bigger question is the name of the station.

The original motion was restated.

Action: I move that the International Special Review District Board recommend approval of a Certificate of Approval for signs, with a recommendation to eliminate the punctuation between “Chinatown” and “International District”.

The Board directs staff to prepare a written recommendation of approval based on considering the application submittal and Board discussion at the May 24, 2016 public meeting, and forward this written recommendation to the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

The proposed signs meet the following sections of the **International Special Review District Ordinance and applicable Design Guidelines:**

**SMC 23.66.030 – Certificates of approval – Application, review and appeals**  
**SMC 23.66.338 – Signs**

**Secretary of the Interior Standards**

**#9.** New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.

**#10.** New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

MM/SC/TM/MW      4:1:1      Motion carried. Ms. Leong opposed. Ms. Hsie abstained.

052416.22

Yesler Bridge

Right of Way at 4<sup>th</sup> & Yesler

*Applicant:* Amanda Tse, SDOT

Ms. Frestedt explained the proposed location of a telecommunications conduit on the south-facing embankment wall of Yesler Bridge. This is a revision from the plans associated with the Yesler Bridge project that were originally approved by the Board in November 2015. Exhibits included plans and photographs. Yesler Bridge is a contributing structure located outside of the Asian Character Design District. The majority of the bridge is located within the Pioneer Square Historical District. The portion of the site where work is proposed is located exclusively within the ISRD. A Certificate of Approval (ISRD 248/15) for Street Use and Design for repairs, restoration and partial replacement of the bridge was issued in December 2015.

*Applicant Comment:*

Amanda Tse, SDOT, explained they received a Certificate of Approval for temporary condition of the conduit and they want to change to permanent condition with slight adjustments. She said that in lieu of going over pedestrian railing conduit will go through a drilled opening in retaining wall. She said the rest is similar – they are still going underground – through hole to junction box mounted on sidewall in fenced area – then underground into existing junction box in 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue roadway.

*Public Comment:* There was no public comment.

Responding to questions Ms. Tse said the conduit and junction box are galvanized.

Ms. Moriguchi said it is nice to reduce the amount of conduit.

*Action:* I move that the International Special Review District Board recommend approval of a Certificate of Approval for exterior alterations.

The Board directs staff to prepare a written recommendation of approval based on considering the application submittal and Board discussion at the May 24, 2016 public meeting, and forward this written recommendation to the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

The proposed exterior alterations meet the following sections of the **International Special Review District Ordinance and applicable Design Guidelines**:

**SMC 23.66.030 – Certificates of approval – Application, review and appeals**

**SMC 23.66.302 – International Special Review District goals and objectives**

**Secretary of the Interior Standard**

**#2.** The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.

**#9.** New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.

MM/SC/HS/CL            6:0:0    Motion carried.

**052416.3            BOARD BUSINESS**

Ms. Leong proposed a discussion about the pros and cons and how to deal with massage spas coming into the neighborhood and how to address concerns about proliferation. She proposed a dialog about the naming of neighborhoods – the history, pros and cons – have a dialog.

Ms. Frestedt said she was working on scheduling a retreat that would also include discussion about how to address social and environmental justice – air quality and livability elements – issues and business uses when considering applications for Certificates of Approval. She said the Board should discuss the issue of transparency.

Ms. Leong noted that issues come up during review of an application and that is not the time to ask some of those questions.

Ms. Frestedt reminded the board to cite Guidelines or Code sections and to ground decisions in the code/guidelines. She said they could discuss some examples of past applications during the retreat. This led to a discussion of retreat topics and tying discussion to the design guideline revisions. She said a lot will change in this neighborhood in the next 10 years and this board will be instrumental in what happens. She said she will set up a walking tour for new board members and anyone who is interested. She said the City has an “onboarding” program for new board and commission members about ethics, race and social justice – attendance is encouraged but not required.

**Adjourn**

Rebecca Frestedt, Board Coordinator

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