



The City of Seattle

International Special Review District

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ISRD 46/22

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, April 12, 2022

Time: 4:30pm
Place: Remote Meeting

Board Members Present

Lizzy Baskerville, Vice Chair
Matt Fujimoto
Ryan Gilbert
Nella Kwan
Michael Le
Ming Zhang

Staff

Rebecca Frestedt
Melinda Bloom

Absent

Andy Yip, Chair

Vice Chair Lizzy Baskerville called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

041222.1 PUBLIC COMMENT
There was no public comment.

041222.2 CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL

041222.21 714 S. King St. – Uncle Bob’s Place
Applicant: Leslie Morishita, InterimCDA

Ms. Baskerville recused herself. Mr. Fujimoto assumed role of chair during this application.

Design: Proposed design of perforations for metal balconies approved as part of the application for Final Design.

Ms. Frestedt explained the site is located within the Asian Design Character District. A Certificate of Approval for Final Design of the building was issued in January 2020. Approval included the location, color and material for the balconies; however, the specific design of the perforations was deferred by the applicant to be submitted as a separate

application. Building signage, artwork and the perforation design for a gate along S. King Street will be submitted under a separate application. Exhibits included plans.

Rachtha Danh, InterimCDA said the material and color were previously approved, just the railing design is being reviewed. Balconies are on the east and south sides of the building. He said there was an open call for community participation and for artists. He went through the railing designs.

He said each of the 12 balconies is designed by a different artist, selected by the Uncle Bob's Place Art and Aesthetic Integration Committee, a group of community volunteers including artists and creative people, charged with guiding the public art and interpretive elements at Uncle Bob's Place in a way that integrates with and complements the building design. Each artist selected a theme from a list drafted by the Uncle Bob's Place Steering Committee, a group made up of people who were close to Uncle Bob and are trusted by his family. The themes represent human rights issues and needs Uncle Bob cared about and are meant to serve as a jumping off point for design. The themes include: Workers' Rights, International Struggles, Children, Youth, and Families, Intergenerational Relationship Building, Cross-Community Relationship Building, Culture, Health & Well-being, Community Building & Preservation. The Art and Aesthetic Integration Committee intentionally selected artists from diverse backgrounds to reflect the diversity of people who have and do inhabit the neighborhood. The balconies will all be made of perforated powdercoated aluminum in Red, the color previously approved by ISRD. The aesthetic variety of the balconies is unified by their common material and color. An interpretive panel about the balconies will be installed at the pedestrian level on the building's service gate facing S King St. All opening sizes will be compliant with building code (no more than 4" in diameter) and designs have been adjusted for safety and durability.

Artists and Theme:

Juan Alonso-Rodriguez, Theme: Health & Well-being
Dozfy (Patrick Nguyen), Theme: Worker's Rights

Maria Batayola explained that Uncle Bob was Filipino and she noted the organizing to ensure workers had rights.

Creative Lou (Damon Brown), Theme: Cross Community Relationship Building
Lauren Iida, Theme: Culture: Heritage
Monyee Chau, Theme: Community Building & Preservation

Mr. Danh explained the Filipino migrant workers who worked in Alaska canneries. He noted Monyee Chau is a prominent artist here.

Ms. Batayola noted the theme of preservation of community but also pickling and canning, as shown in images.

Carina del Rosario, Theme: Intergenerational Relationships
Tommy Segundo, Theme: Cross Community Relationship Building

Mr. Danh said Uncle Bob met with community members of all ages at Bush Garden, singing karaoke as indicated on Carina del Rosario work. He noted the indigenous motif and Filipino flag on Tommy Segundo work.

Ms. Batayola noted the work of the Gang of Four: Roberto Maestos, Bernie Whitebear, Larry Gosset, and Uncle Bob.

Lisa Bulmash, Theme: Activism

Beija Flor, Theme: Intergenerational Relationships/Mentoring Younger Activists & Caring for Elders

Mr. Danh explained Humbows not Hotdogs and formation of the historic district was in response to construction of the Kingdome.

Ms. Batayola explained mano po as the greeting initiates the gesture of touching the back of the hand of an elder lightly on one's forehead as a blessing, or sign of respect.

Jasmine Brown, Theme: Children, Youth, & Families

Vaeomatoka Valu, Theme: Expression

Scott Méxcal, Theme: International Struggles

Mr. Gilbert appreciated mention of Bernie Whitebear, who was the first Executive Director of the Seattle Indian Health Board and still revered. He said the Coast Salish design is appropriate noting that Mr. Whitebear was a Colville tribal member.

Mr. Fujimoto said Monyee Chau designed the Yellow Peril Supports Black Power poster. He noted the intricate detail to each design.

Mr. Zhang said the design and cultural representation sets a high standard for other projects. He noted the integrated art representing diversity of Asian art in district. He said each piece was carefully, thoughtfully designed.

Mr. Le appreciated the stories behind the artwork. He asked how the stories would be shared so viewers could understand the meaning behind the artwork.

Leslie Morishita, InterimCDA said there will be an interpretive panel at the sidewalk level that will provide artist, theme, and artist statement. She said one bank of balconies will be across from Wing Luke Museum; it would be nice to have one there.

Ms. Kwan said she is not familiar with Uncle Bob as many younger generations may not be. She said it's good to share that history.

Mr. Fujimoto noted the continued educational experience to learn about the community here.

Ms. Frestedt said if there are no further questions a motion could be entertained. She said interpretive elements and plaques on building should be submitted to staff for final review.

Action: I move that the International Special Review District Board recommend approval of a Certificate of Approval for design at 714 S. King St.

The Board directs staff to prepare a written recommendation of approval, based on consideration of the application submittal and Board discussion at the April 12, 2022 public meeting, and forward this written recommendation to the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

This action is based on the **following applicable sections of the International Special Review District Ordinance:**

SMC 23.66.336 – Exterior Building Finishes

- A. General Requirements**
- B. Asian Design Character District**

Secretary of the Interior Standard #9

MM/SC/RG/MZ 5:0:1 Motion carried. Ms. Baskerville recused herself.

041222.3 DESIGN GUIDELINE WORK SESSION

041222.31 Board Coordinator provided a briefing on the background of the development of draft Design Guidelines. Briefing documents in DON file.

Board Questions and Comments:

Ms. Baskerville asked why there was a pause on this work in 2019.

Ms. Frestedt said Schemata finished their work. She noted that the original format of the document (InDesign) created a logistical challenge for updates, and the document had to be recreated in a new program (Word). There was capacity issue for staff and then application and development activity picked up.

Ms. Baskerville asked if community involvement part was finished.

Ms. Frestedt said it was. The work of the Guideline Work Group had come to a natural pause with the majority of work left to be done by staff and communications team. She said the next step is to publish for SEPA and public comment prior to scheduling a public meeting for potential adoption.

In response to a comment about balcony design, Ms. Frestedt said there isn't a section for balconies, specifically, but there is a section on art which gives the Board tools to review artistic approaches to design. She explained that a table of contents would be included so the document is easy to navigate. The document includes a discussion of what types of changes require a Certificate of Approval and what the Board's role is. She said the draft includes a Reader's Guide that explains how the guidelines are organized and how to navigate them. She asked Board members to review document and to alert her if

something important is missing. She said there are three distinct areas of the district, each with its own qualities and characteristics that should be addressed.

Mr. Gilbert noted the challenge of approaching items not in Board purview – affordability and safety.

Ms. Frestedt said the draft provides a set of guiding principles for review. She said in putting together guidelines, the underlying Code is the basis of decision-making. Guidelines provide clarity and help remind applicants of some of those elements that exist within the Code. She said the district is not one-size-fits-all so guidelines are mindful of areas east and west of I-5. She said there are so many different components and noted inclusion of a boundary map that shows underlying zoning.

Ms. Baskerville asked how the draft guidelines presented by Friends of Little Saigon interacts with these.

Ms. Frestedt said they will come back to that as they are still working to navigate the Asian Design Character District and National Register District. She said they will create language to provide better understanding and the map helps with that. She explained that the guiding principles sets the stage to help form the foundation for more incremental elements. She said that a discussion of CPTED (Crime Prevention for Environmental Design) Principles is included.

Mr. Gilbert asked what it means to respond to cultural character. He said it is open for interpretation what it takes to maintain cultural identity.

Ms. Frestedt said true and noted it is up to a design team to be responsive. She said it gives the Board the ability to ask ‘how are you responding to the guidelines, principles...’ She hoped that will make more sense once you go through the draft.

Mr. Gilbert asked Mr. Fujimoto and Ms. Baskerville how they have navigated that chasm – what the community wants and Board purview.

Mr. Fujimoto said it is a difficult question and said he grounds his comments in Code provisions and Guidelines.

Ms. Baskerville said affordability comes up often. She asked how the new guidelines approach that. She said it is not something the board has jurisdiction over, and she said she reminds people in meetings what the board has jurisdiction over.

Ms. Frestedt said the guidelines can’t address everything and there are certain things the Board doesn’t have jurisdiction over, based on the Code. She said to be honest about what board can and can’t do. She said the ISRD was created out of concern over encroachment of stadium. She said next steps included seeing what Board recommendations are and cleaning up and finalizing the draft. She said the draft will be published, presented in public meeting that has been noticed, public comment taken, and then reviewed / adopted at future public board meeting.

Ms. Baskerville appreciated Ms. Frestedt going through the timelines and asked how the Board could help move things along.

Ms. Frestedt noted the pandemic-related interruption. She asked Board members to provide feedback and key things that need to be addressed by the end of the month. She noted the intention to keep the momentum going and to clean up draft, insert page numbers in table of contents and then send out for public weigh-in.

Ms. Baskerville asked how long SEPA review would take.

Ms. Frestedt said the time frame from publishing to comments to final publishing is roughly 2-3 weeks and then it will be scheduled for a public meeting.

Ms. Baskerville asked if incorporating items after publishing would be a long process.

Ms. Frestedt talked about sequencing and inviting comments on draft. She noted the volume of projects and said it depends on when things fall together. She said community members have raised other issues beyond the Guidelines that they want to see addressed. She said there are different processes in place for some of those topics. She said when the boundaries were expanded in 2018 it created sections of Land Use Code that prohibits uses that are underway now in Little Saigon, so some clean up needs to be done. Little Saigon Vision group will further advance and articulate what they want.

Ms. Baskerville asked if Friends of Little Saigon have their own guidelines, process, board.

Ms. Frestedt said they will provide recommendations of what they want to see. It could be folded into ISRD Guidelines. She said their document would likely be a set of recommendations rather than implementable guidelines. She said she would invite them back to the board to share their progress.

Mr. Zhang noted the desire to improve product quality but not to limit creativity. He questioned how to encourage projects to create more public space and provide gathering space.

Ms. Frestedt said to look at what qualities are wanted, such as permeability of space.

Mr. Zhang said ISRD has rich diverse Asian culture, how a project design team understands this and how to respect cultural heritage is difficult to interpret that.

Ms. Frestedt said the introduction references that early outreach to community is valuable and encouraged.

Mr. Zhang noted the material, artwork, and color reviewed earlier and noted the guidelines gives more room to ask applicants, 'have you thought about this?'

Ms. Frestedt said the guidelines document is a tool for Board members and encouraged Board members to think about how revised draft would help in the review process.

041222.4 BOARD BUSINESS

Ms. Frestedt thanked Mr. Fujimoto for his service on the board. She said the Mayoral appointee for the position Mr. Fujimoto vacates will go before council the end of the month.

She said Sound Transit DEIS is being studied on various alternatives which will impact the district. Historic South Downtown has done an exceptional job in making it more digestible with good newsletters, links.

Adjourn 6:31 pm

Mr. Fujimoto thanked Ms. Frestedt and said he was happy to have been part of the Board.

Mr. Gilbert thanked Mr. Fujimoto for his service.

Rebecca Frestedt, Board Coordinator
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