



The City of Seattle

Pike Place Market Historical Commission

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649
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MINUTES

MHC 59/18

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

4:30 p.m.

PDA Meeting Room, 93 Pike Street, Room 317

COMMISSIONERS

Sam Farrazaino

Bob Hale

Michael Hammond

John Ogliore, Vice Chair

Christine Vaughan, Chair

Anais Winant

Staff

Heather McAuliffe

Melinda Bloom

Absent

Frank Albanese

Rachael Kitagawa

Lauren Rudeck

Chair Christine Vaughan determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

She reminded Commission members to announce any conflict of interest or ex parte communication prior to review of applications.

050918.1 APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF USE APPROVAL

050918.11 Pike Place Fish

86 Pike Street, LaSalle

Karl Anders Miller, Ryan Reese, Sam Samson & Jaison Scott

Staff Report: Ms. McAuliffe explained the change of ownership to an LLC owned 25% each by Karl Anders Miller, Ryan Reese, Sam Samson and Jaison Scott. No change in use is proposed. She said the space is in Zone 1, street level, Food a-b and Retail b uses permitted. Existing use approval, per MHC 111/90 – Food a & b: Retail and wholesale fish (fresh, frozen, smoked, canned seafood), packing and

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shipping of fish for 48-hour travel. No change in use is approved. Space is 1,000 square feet. Proposed ownership structure: LLC. Owner financial affiliations: None. Owner operator: All four applicants are owner operators. Business hours: Monday through Saturday, 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Sunday 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Exhibits reviewed included a site plan, written description of ownership interest and role in the business operation; applicant bios, LLC paperwork. Guidelines that applied to this application included 2.10, 2.1, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, and 2.7.

URC Report: Ms. McAuliffe said the Committee cited 2.10.3, 2.10.4, 2.1, 2.1.4, 2.4, 2.5.1 a & b, 2.6.9, 2.7.1 a and recommended to approve, with discussion of noise and congestion per 2.6.9 and 2.7.1 a.

Applicant Comment:

Sam Samson, Jaison Scott, Anders Miller, and Ryan Reese introduced themselves and provided biographical information on their years in the Market. They said the Market is a big part of the community and what makes Seattle special. With all the changes in the City, it is nice to have continuity here.

Landlord Comment:

John Turnbull, PDA, said it is a rare and special opportunity to watch a business transfer hands, for people working for a business to take it over and keep traditions alive. He said Pike Place Fish is known internationally and it the centerpiece of Seattle and Pike Place Market.

Johnny Yokoyama said he has been in the Market longer than John Turnbull. He said they started with a little fish market and built it. He noted there were rocky roads. He said that 25-30 years ago they brought in theater and crowd activity work and have perfected it to make it work. He said that thousands of people come to the Market. He said it is an anchor business and a premier business and shows what an entrepreneur can do. Hard copies of letters of support were provided to Commissioners.

Public Comment:

Barbara Elza supported the Pike Place Fish and said she is glad the guys bought it. She said they are good neighbors who you can count on for anything. She said she feels safe with them. She said people call out their wares at all markets.

Linda Best, Simply the Best, said the fish guys are friends, partners, neighbors who always have your back. They are always the first ones there to help. She said losing them would be like taking Mickey and Minnie out of Disneyland.

Kira Harvey said she has 18 years of experience in every season and corner of the Market. She said people always ask, "Where do they throw the fish?"

Jean Liddell said the fish guys bring people in from all over the world. She said she chose to live here and is greeted with a big hug. She said if you are concerned about decibels to look at the Hahn building. She said the Market, Chihuly, Pioneer Square are Seattle.

Kael Perejda said the fish guys are a welcoming group. They are ambassadors to the City. Any concerns brought to them are addressed at morning or evening meetings. He said no matter rich or poor, they treat everyone the same.

Bea Kumasaka said she is a third generation Seattleite and now her family has six generations living here. She said before the war they had two farms in north Seattle. In the 1920s – 30s they used to deliver produce to the Market via the Fremont Bridge. She said the Market is an integral part of her life. She said the fish guys are so important to the health of the Market. She said this isn't Bellevue Square. She said it is the soul of Seattle; it is not quiet or polite, but it is welcoming, loving and serves the community. She said not to penalize them for their success. She said they provide 100% sustainable seafood. She said if the noise is a problem to adjacent areas they should rethink adjacent stall areas.

Chad Trichler owns a neighboring business. He supports the fish guys and said they are a good neighbor and provide a fun environment. He said he enjoys working at the Market.

Gezai Habtemabian said they are brothers, great guys. He supported Pike Place Fish.

Angela Dewitt, Market Spice, supported Pike Place Market. She said the guys transcend the Market – they are the Market. She said noise and congestion issues are BS. She said it is what the Market it about. She said it gets busier each year. She said they are diligent in crowd management and they are the go-to guys for any problem – they will have your back.

Nancy Dewitt, Market Spice, said they kept it in the family – the guys are family and the Market is a family. She said the schtick and crowds started when they were almost bankrupt; they started throwing fish and people responded. She said the maintain the history of the Market.

Ruby Francisco said she has been in the Market for 40 years – these guys are her kids. She said the tourists ask where the fish guys are. She said it is unique branding. She said it is one of the must-see attractions in the Market, in Seattle. She said they give tourists great energy and good vibes to keep shopping. She said to keep this experience for visitors. She said they are always highlighted on National TV and football games. She said to let them scream.

Nick Setton said the fish guys are a staple of his food tour. He said they are about people, about the heart. He said they have been mentors. He said they are proactive in managing crowds and noise. He congratulated them.

Olga Sagan said the fish guys are here at 4:00 am and they are here late cleaning up. She said they do better line management than she does. She said they bring customers in.

Mike Osborne, Sosio's Produce, said there has always been congestion in the Market. He said the Market is facing other problems now – demolition of the Viaduct, closing of Battery, closing of First; this is not the time to do something that deters anyone from the Market. He said the focus is on a locals' market. He said that sustainability is important; there is a sense of community that can be shared. He said that there are 500 businesses that work as a community.

Joy Mori said they are great guys. She said congestion will always be there. She said the guys have your back and are family.

Matthew Steinbrueck cited lease documents and Commission Guidelines and noted noise and disruption to other businesses downstream. He noted the inability for customers to get to his shop. He said the fish guys are good guys and the wonderful owner has given his employees an opportunity to buy the business. He wants free flow of traffic with defined aisle and a less disruptive cacophony.

Commission Discussion:

Mr. Ogliore said the URC reviewed the application. He said there is a misconception - the application is not recommended to be denied. He said there are two minor things that are out of compliance and they are working on those. He said they have provided a price list and will come back with signage. He read 2.7.1 and said they had a good discussion at URC. He said the URC made a site visit to the business and recommended active management. He said the applicants agreed to concentrate on that. He said they went over crowd management ideas – stanchions, markers, tape – and noted that perhaps signage that says “Keep Area Open” might help. He said the URC requested a report back on how active management has worked. He said it is a perfect storm of noise; there are three buskers there and perhaps the buskers could face the other way.

Ms. McAuliffe said they have provided info on approved products and price list and asked for the URC's input per Guideline 2.1.3.

Mr. Ogliore said the goods are affordable. He said they need to provide info on apparel, aprons and hats. He asked what percentage of gross sales is local versus out of town.

Mr. Reese said they ship about 15% of gross sales out of Seattle.

Mr. Ogliore said that locals are preferred over tourists and he noted that they will come back for signage and additional items being sold.

Mr. Hale said he was moved by statement of new owners and the public. He said the business is a big part of the character of the Market.

Action: Mr. Ogliore made a motion to adopt a resolution to approve the application as presented. He requested a report-back in September on active management.

MM/SC/JO/SF 6:0:0 Motion carried.

050918.2 APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF DESIGN APPROVAL

050918.21 PDA – Comfort Station #1 plaque
John Turnbull

Staff Report: Ms. McAuliffe explained the application to install historic plaque for the restrooms built for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (AYP), Comfort Station #1. Exhibits reviewed included site plan and photos. Guidelines reviewed included 3.1, 3.2, 3.6, and 3.9.

DRC Report: Ms. McAuliffe said the Committee cited 3.1, 3.2.1, 3.6.1, 3.6.2, 3.6.3, 3.9.2 and recommended to approve.

Applicant Comment:

John Turnbull, PDA, explained the old comfort station is below the fish market. He said a memorial plaque built into cast iron column was obscured when clock sign went in. He said the proposed plaque is a way to re-identify the comfort station. He said they will install the plaque facing the Senior Center, 4' above grade. He said the comfort station is an interesting piece of public architecture.

Public Comment:

Nick Setton said that if this is the longest running public market, perhaps that makes this the longest consecutively used public restroom on the west coast.

Mr. Hale said it is an interesting piece of history and the DRC recommended approval. He noted the preference that the architect name wouldn't have been included.

Mr. Ogliore cited 3.9.2 and said the plaque is an add-on, not a replacement. He said the original is on a continuous piece of cast iron and can't be pulled out.

Ms. Winant said it is intended to memorialize the comfort station and said there is something charming about that.

Action: Mr. Ogliore made a motion to adopt a resolution to approve the application as presented.

MM/SC/JO/MIH 6:0:0 Motion carried.

Ms. Vaughan noted that quarterly reports were requested from the PDA.

050918.22 PDA - alterations to Leland/Flower Row structure
John Turnbull

Staff Report: Ms. McAuliffe explained the application to install new guardrails at west end of Level 3 and Level 4 of Leland/Flower Row structure, to match existing adjacent railings. Exhibits reviewed included plans, photos, and PDA resolution. Guidelines that applied to this application included 3.1, 3.2, 3.8 and 3.9.

DRC Report: Ms. McAuliffe said the Committee cited 3.1, 3.2.4, 3.8.6, 3.8.8, and 3.9.2 and recommended to approve.

Applicant Comment:

John Turnbull, PDA, explained they are sorting out the financial responsibility for demolition of the skybridge. He said there are not drawings and at this point the demolition costs have exceeded the approved budget. He said it will come down at some point and he would like to get other things in line before that happens. He said they need to put up guard rails when the bridge comes down. He said they will be replaced in kind. Earlier approval will allow them to get bids and be prepared for when the bridge does come down.

Ms. McAuliffe said the Certificate of Approval is good for 1 ½ years.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Commission Discussion:

Mr. Hale said they are matching existing, so the DRC had no issue.

Mr. Turnbull said they just want to get it done before all the discussions about bridge coming down.

Action: Mr. Farrazaino made a motion to adopt a resolution to approve the application as presented.

MM/SC/SF/BH 6:0:0 Motion carried.

050918.3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

April 25, 2018

MM/SC/JO/SF 5:0:1 Minutes approved. Mr. Hale abstained.

050918.4 REPORT OF THE CHAIR No report.

050918.5 REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

No URC or DRC reports.

Ms. Winant said that GRC met and discussed guidelines up for consideration. She wanted to table Commission review of the guidelines until the GRC can review what staff has drafted in response to the GRC discussion.

050918.6 STAFF REPORT

Ms. McAuliffe complimented the URC for their work. She reminded Commissioners that there will be a briefing at the May 23 meeting on proposed design changes at Victor Steinbrueck Park. She said that on June 13 John Turnbull will provide a briefing on his visit to Melbourne, Australia market.

050918.7 NEW BUSINESS

5:45 pm Mr. Farrazaino made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Hale seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather McAuliffe
Commission Coordinator