



The City of Seattle

## Pioneer Square Preservation Board

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649  
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PSB 189/26

### PIONEER SQUARE PRESERVATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m.

#### Hybrid Meeting Via Webex Or Room L2-80 Boards And Commission

##### Board Members

Maureen Elenga, Chair, (ME)  
Jose Lorenzo Torres, Vice-Chair, (JLT)  
Sage Kim (SK)  
Maya Spotted Bear (MSB)

##### Staff

Genna Nashem (GN)  
Nelson Pesigan (NP)

##### Absent:

Sean O'Brien (SOB)  
Katrina Plewinski (KP)  
Catherine Walker (CW)  
Henry Watson (HW)

##### Key:

BM: Board Member  
SM: Staff Member  
AP: Applicant

Chair Maureen Elenga called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

#### **070126.1 ROLL CALL**

#### **070126.2 PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no in-person and virtual public comments.

**070126.3 MEETING MINUTES**

Approval of April 29 and May 6 minutes was deferred.

**070126.4 CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL**

070126.41 None

**070126.5 BRIEFING**

070126.51 FB and P Building  
521 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S

Proposed alteration of the fire escape to add steel mesh panels to enclose the lower level.

Presenter Jamie North proposed modifications to the second-story exterior fire escape of the historic FB & P Building on Occidental Avenue South. The intent is to preserve the primary steel framework, masonry façade, windows, and overall architectural integrity while enhancing safety and security.

The proposal includes enclosing the fire escape on three sides with painted expanded metal mesh panels designed with approximately 70% open area and adding a secured ladder-access hatch at the lower landing. All new steel components (mesh panels, welded frame, bar-grating supporting a 100 psf live load, hinges, and a non-locking latch) will be integrated into or attached to the existing structure.

These improvements are a response to unauthorized public access and climbing from the adjacent right-of-way, yet they maintain mandated life-safety functionality.

Chair Maureen Elenga requested clarification on whether the proposed mesh enclosure would be removable without damaging the original fire-escape structure or if it would constitute a permanent alteration.

BM José Lorenzo Torres noted that, although the mesh would be welded in place, the intervention should still be considered reversible because it could be removed without causing additional harm to the underlying structure.

BM Sage Kim stated that the proposed work represents a minor modification to the façade, intended primarily to improve security and prevent unauthorized access, and expressed no architectural concerns regarding the proposal.

**070126.6 BOARD BUSINESS**

SM Genna Nashem noted that, due to the lack of a quorum, the board was unable to approve the minutes needed for an upcoming appeal hearing and would follow up with board members to explore scheduling an additional meeting on Wednesday and inquired about members' availability.

**070126.7 REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

**070126.8 STAFF REPORT**

SM Nashem reported recent administrative approvals, including sidewalk café permits for Lady Yum and Gardo's, signage installations for Death & Co. and a "For Sale" sign at 211 First Avenue South, and new signage for a business called Doris at 309 Third Avenue.

SM Nashem also noted approval of a decorative gate at the Frye Hotel, new safety railings for mechanical equipment at the fire station, and signage for a new bakery.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.