



The City of Seattle

Landmarks Preservation Board

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649
Street Address: 600 4th Avenue, 4th Floor

LPB 243/26

MINUTES

Landmarks Preservation Board Meeting

Hybrid Meeting via Webex Webinar or Room L2-80 Boards & Commissions

Seattle City Hall, 600 4th Avenue, Floor L2

Wednesday, September 2, 2026 – 3:30 p.m.

Board Members Present

VJ Kopacki (VK)

Ian Macleod, Chair, (IM)

Lora-Ellen McKinney (LEM)

Lawrence Norman (LN)

Katie Randall (KR)

Dan Sloat (DS)

Harriet Wasserman (HW)

Matt Zinski (MZ)

Board Members Absent

Becca Pheasant (BP)

Erica Thomas (ET)

Staff Present

Erin Doherty (ED)

Nelson Pesigan (NP)

Sarah Sodt (SS)

Key

BM Board Member

AP Applicant

SM Staff Member

Chair Ian Macleod called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

090226.1 ROLL CALL

090226.2 PUBLIC COMMENT

Colleen McAlleer, representing the Laurelhurst Community Council, reported that the community continues to monitor the Talaris site and appreciates the board's preservation efforts. She noted the visible improvements and sharing the community's optimism for continued progress.

090226.3 MEETING MINUTES

August 19, 2026

MM/SC/DS/HW

7:0:1

The motion passed. BM VJ Kopacki abstained.

090226.4 BRIEFING

090226.41 First African Methodist Episcopal Church

1522 14th Avenue

Briefing on additional history of Landmark; designated in 1980.

Michelle Bacca presented an overview of the First African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, a landmark recognized for its historic and cultural significance within Seattle and the city's Black community. The presentation outlined the church's architectural development from 1912 through 1988, major historical

eras including its establishment, involvement in the Civil Rights Movement, urban change, and ongoing community initiatives, as well First AME’s long record of civic engagement and leadership. The presentation also highlighted key founders, notable civic figures, and distinguished women leaders associated with the church’s legacy.

Rev. Dr. Carey Anderson expressed appreciation for Michelle’s multi-year research effort documenting the history of First AME Church. He noted that the larger report has not yet undergone full institutional review.

Pastor Anderson affirmed the church’s commitment to collaborating with Michelle to refine the document and acknowledged the significance of the work in preserving Seattle’s African American history. He also thanked the Preservation Board for its role in supporting this effort.

Rev. Dr. Margaret Spearmon stated that she appreciated the report and had recently discussed the research with Michelle. She noted that Michelle addressed her questions and identified opportunities to further enhance the work. She emphasized that the compiled document will be a valuable contribution to First AME Church’s historical record and thanked Michelle for the presentation.

Ms. LueRachelle Brim-Atkins said she appreciated the presentation and looks forward to reviewing Michelle’s report in more detail. She welcomed the Board members to attend Sunday services.

BM Lora-Ellen McKinney stated her appreciation for the extensive work presented and emphasized the importance of preserving the history of First AME Church and nearby Mount Zion Baptist Church, noting the recent loss of several historic Black churches in the Central Area to redevelopment for condominiums. She affirmed the necessity of maintaining and enhancing this historical record, specifically highlighting the stories of women, and expressed gratitude that this preservation effort is being undertaken. Dr. McKinney asked some clarifying questions and cited some aspects of history for them to consider adding.

BM Lawrence Norman thanked Michelle for the informative history shared. He noted that, as someone who grew up in the neighborhood and attended First AME Church with his family, the church has long served as a foundational institution in the community. He expressed appreciation for the presentation and its contribution to understanding the church’s historical significance.

Chair Ian Macleod thanked Michelle, and all involved for their work on the project, noting its significance and the value of seeing the church’s long community history actively continued. He expressed appreciation for the connections shared by board members to the site, and stated that he looks forward to the project’s further development and to future work from Michelle. He appreciated the additional history to supplement the content of the original nomination application.

BM Lora-Ellen McKinney said that is a testament to the strength of the institution and the story of First AME Church. Even with the brief history provided in the original nomination, its significance was and is clear.

090226.5 CONTROLS & INCENTIVES

090226.51 Knights of Columbus Building
700-722 E Union Street
Request for extension

Jessica Clawson of McCullough Hill noted that the previous extension period was four months and suggested continuing with the same four-month

extension, as there are currently no updates to provide. Jessica confirmed that the building is partially occupied and being properly maintained.

BM Katie Randall moved to grant a four-month extension as requested.

MM/SC/KR/LEM

8:0:0

The motion passed and was approved unanimously.

090226.52 Seattle Times Block
1120 John Street
Request for extension

Jessica Clawson stated that the team would again request a four-month extension, as there are no new updates to report. Jessica reiterated prior information that one of the office towers will eventually be converted into a residential tower, which increases the likelihood of future development, though no action is expected in the near term.

BM Harriet Wassermann moved to grant a four-month extension as requested.

MM/SC/HW/LEM

8:0:0

The motion passed and was approved unanimously.

090226.53 Battelle Memorial Research Institute / Talaris Conference Center
4000 NE 41st Street
Request for extension

Pam Emerson, of SPU, requested a one-year extension, following the previously approved six-month extension. Pam explained that a technical site-use study is being planned to assess the physical space needed for creek restoration work and potential underground infrastructure improvements.

Pam noted that the study is projected for completion in Q3 2028, and the requested one-year extension would allow the team to return with a substantial update on the study's progress and findings at that time.

Board member VJ Kopacki moved to grant a one-year extension as requested.

MM/SC/VK/KR

8:0:0

The motion passed and was approved unanimously.

090226.6 BOARD BUSINESS

SM Erin Doherty stated that the election for the vice-chair will be scheduled for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.