



The City of Seattle

International Special Review District

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649 Seattle WA 98124-4649
Street Address: 700 5th Ave Suite 1700

ISR 122/15

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, July 28, 2015

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

Board Members Present

Stephanie Carrillo
Ben Grace
Carol Leong, Vice Chair
Miye Moriguchi
Martha Rogers, Chair
Joann Ware
Marie Wong

Staff

Rebecca Frestedt
Melinda Bloom

Absent

There was a moment of silence to honor community activist and responder Donnie Chin.

072815.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 9, 2015

MM/SC/CL/BG 5:0:1 Minutes approved. Ms. Moriguchi abstained.

0728.15.2 CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL

072815.21 DoubleDown Interactive

605 5th Ave. S. #300

Applicant: Jen Hengtgen, representative

Ms. Frestedt explained the proposed installation of a halo illuminated, reverse channel letter sign with illuminated logo. Dimensions: 8' 4 7/8" w x 5' 2" h. Exhibits included plans, photographs and samples. The building is a non-contributing building located outside the Asian Design Character District. The Board approved an illuminated sign for CDK Global in June 2015.

Applicant Comment:

Carole Alexander, Western Neon, explained they would use reverse pan channel letters. She said that only the aluminum letter painted white will be seen; letters will be mounted into grout. She said the building is not historic. She explained that DoubleDown is an interactive, social networking, gaming company. She said that the letters will be halo lit at night for a subtle pretty look on the brick; LED lamps will be 6500 Kelvin. She said the proposed sign is smaller than the Cobalt sign.

Ms. Rogers said that 6500 Kelvin looks very blue.

Ms. Alexander said that most are more yellow but the LEDs are being made warmer. She said that it will be a very white light and look less blue against the brick. She said that to make it visible, they need contrast. She said that 6500 Kelvin is the norm for lighted signs. She said it will have a paper white appearance.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Board members did not express any concerns about lighting and they determined they had enough information to make a decision.

Action: I move that the International Special Review District Board recommend approval of a Certificate of Approval for signage, as proposed.

This action is based on the following:

The proposed work meets the applicable sections of the International Special Review District Ordinance and District Design Guidelines:

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

ISRD Design Guidelines for Awnings and Canopies, Façade Alterations, Security & Signs
II. Design Guidelines for Signs
A. Buildings with Multiple Tenants
C. Internally light signs in all locations.

Secretary of the Interior Standard #10

MM/SC/BG/MM 6:0:0 Motion carried.

072815.22

Hing Hay Co-Works
409B Maynard Ave. S. – Bush Hotel
Applicant: Ching Chan, SCIDPDA

Ms. Carrillo arrived at 4:50 pm.

Ms. Frestedt explained the proposed installation of a wooden blade sign, attached to a metal stanchion. Dimensions: 24” w x 27” h. Exhibits included plans, photographs and samples. She said the building is a contributing building located within the Asian Design Character District. A Certificate of Approval was issued for use in July 2014.

Applicant Comment:

Quang Nguyen, SCIDPDA, provided an overview of the collaborative workspace; he noted the 3800 sq ft space can accommodate 30 – 40 people. He provided a photo showing where the sign will be located. He said the sign will be 8’ above grade and will protrude 30” from the building. He said that two metal tubes will hold the sign; he said the signs will be held up by two 6” plates. He said the material will be wood, with a burned logo to create a natural look to match the design of the interior. There will be no paint or illumination. He said that a protective coating will be applied. He said there is precedence for blade sign on building and noted the Dim Sum King blade sign. He said that if they have funding they may add lights but they would be as low profile as possible.

Ms. Rogers asked if they had considered installing it higher.

Mr. Nguyen said that they did but architectural elements are in the way so they sited it lower.

Ms. Ware asked how the wood will touch the pipes.

Mr. Nguyen said it will be screwed in; they will cover screws. He said they have a lot of people come in thinking they are the post office.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Board members determined they had enough information to make a decision.

Action: I move that the International Special Review District Board recommend approval of a Certificate of Approval for signage, as proposed.

This action is based on the following:

The proposed work meets the applicable sections of the International Special Review District Ordinance and District Design Guidelines:

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

SMC 23.66.338 – Signs

ISRD Design Guidelines for Awnings and Canopies, Façade Alterations, Security & Signs

II. Design Guidelines for Signs

B. Buildings with Multiple Tenants

C. Internally light signs in all locations.

Secretary of the Interior Standard #10

MM/SC/CL/BG 7:0:0 Motion carried.

072815.23

Hirabayashi Place

424 S. Main St.

Applicant: Joann Ware, InterimCDA

Mmes. Ware and Wong recused themselves. Ms. Ware is employed by InterimCDA and Ms. Wong is a member of the Legacy of Justice committee, which is helping to inform the artwork.

Ms. Frestedt explained the proposed revision to exterior paint colors, to include a design by artist Jonathan Wakuda Fischer. Exhibits included plans, photographs and samples. She reported that the building is currently under construction. It is located outside the Asian Design Character District. She said the Board recommended approval for a Certificate of Approval for Final Design in March 2014.

Applicant Comment:

Ms. Ware noted that the address had been changed from 424 to 442 to honor the 442 Regiment.

Leslie Morishita, Interim ICDA, presented the application. She reviewed the exterior paint colors and the proposed public art. She said the art is part of the Legacy of Justice project. She said they wanted something on the building that would be a readily recognizable expression of Japanese people and culture as well as honor the history of the neighborhood and Japantown (Nihonmachi). She said that orange accent panels – except for those on the top row – will be replaced with indigo blue with a design inspired by traditional Japanese indigo pattern. She said that the golden color will become lighter and the creamy white stays the same. She said that the artist of the large scale pattern works in a melding of Japanese and Western cultures; she said he did the Cherry tree murals in Little Saigon.

Ms. Rogers asked how the panels will be created and if they'll be hand-stenciled.

Ms. Morishita said they would. She said the base panel will be blue and the artist will stencil over that. She said that the stencil will fade in and out; all panels will be different. She said the blue will wrap the panel but the painting will not.

Mr. Grace asked why they had decided not to include the new panels on the top row.

Ms. Ware said they did a rendering and the blue got lost, appeared to float up into the sky. They wanted the panels to frame the building.

Ms. Leong asked about durability.

Ms. Ware said the exterior paint will fade over time with all the colors.

Ms. Morishita said they are looking in to a UV mix into the paint.

Ms. Ware said that if the building is repainted the stenciled design can be replicated.

There was no public comment or further discussion.

Action: I move that the International Special Review District Board recommend approval of a Certificate of Approval for paint colors, as proposed.

This action is based on the following:

The proposed work meets the applicable sections of the International Special Review District Ordinance and District Design Guidelines:

SMC 23.66.030 – Certificates of approval – Application, review and appeals
SMC 23.66.336 – Exterior building finishes

A. General Requirements

C. Exterior Building Design Outside of the Asian Design Character District

Secretary of the Interior Standard #9 & #10

MM/SC/BG/MM 5:0:0 Motion carried. Mmes. Ware and Wong recused themselves.

Following the application, there was an informational briefing on other Legacy of Justice design elements.

See PowerPoint in DON file.

Ms. Morishita said that there has been a lot of involvement by community members as well as Hirabayashi family members. She provided an overview of elements planned to educate about and honor Gordon Hirabayashi. She provided context of the neighborhood and site. She said that they will work with and get the blessing of the Nissei Veterans Committee. She explained that the 442 Regimental Combat Team was a segregated unit and the most decorated unit in history. She said that most elements will be on the exterior of the building. Proposed elements are:

- “Man from White River”, a poem by Larry Matsuda, who was born in Minidoka. It will have three panels made of glass – two with narratives, one with poem;
- “American Patriot”, a painting by Roger Shimomura– the poem is a companion to the painting, 10’ tall, 2 panels each 4’ wide;
- Illuminating History, glass panels with themes around local Japanese-American history;
- In Gordon’s Words, quotes inscribed in stone. Pavers path will have quotes, selected through a community process;
- On the interior, there will be a mobile of bow ties and cranes (origami). She said the interior exhibit will be more in depth and will tell the current day relevance of his story. She said it will be in the lobby on the backside of the painting.

Mr. Grace asked about potential vandalism to glass panels.

Ms. Morishita said that they will use tempered glass which is very inexpensive; if damaged they would just replace a panel. She said the building will be completed at the end of the year and then they will add art elements.

Ms. Ware said they plan a soft opening in the spring.

Ms. Rogers said she likes the mix of styles – hand renderings, old pictures, a couple who live in the neighborhood.

Ms. Frestedt said it is elegant and shows what. She said it is nice to see a modern building and form relate to the culture and character of the neighborhood.

Ms. Ware explained that the logo was derived from the Hirabayashi family crest, Presidential Medal of Honor, cherry blossom flower and cranes.

072815.3 BOARD BUSINESS

There was discussion about board member terms. Ms. Frestedt gave an update about the search for Ms. Carrillo's position. There was discussion about process for filling a vacancy. Ms. Frestedt announced that three members' positions are up for election – Ms. Ware, Mr. Grace and Ms. Leong. Notices will be out in September and the election is in November. Ms. Carrillo said she could stay until a replacement is found.

Adjourn

Rebecca Frestedt, Board Coordinator
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