



The City of Seattle

International Special Review District

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ISRD 113/20

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, September 22, 2020

Time: 4:30pm
Place: Hirabayashi Place
Donnie Chin Community Room
442 S. Main St.

Board Members Present

Matt Chan
Sergio Legon-Talamoni, Chair
Russ Williams
Andy Yip

Staff

Rebecca Frestedt
Melinda Bloom

Absent

Faye Hong

Chair Sergio Legon-Talamoni called the meeting to order at 4:45 pm.

In-person attendance is currently prohibited per Washington State Governor's Proclamation No. 20-28.5. Meeting participation is limited to access by the WebEx meeting link or the telephone call-in line provided below.

092220.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 28, 2020		
MM/SC/MC/RW	3:0:0	Minutes approved, as amended.
February 11, 2020		
MM/SC/MC/RW	3:0:0	Minutes approved, as amended.
February 25, 2020		
MM/SC/MC/RW	3:0:0	Minutes approved as amended.

Ms. Frestedt explained she'd spoken with Mr. Hong who said he was comfortable with what was reflected in the draft minutes.

**Administered by The Historic Preservation Program
The Seattle Department of Neighborhoods**

"Printed on Recycled Paper"

092220.2 PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

092220.3 STAFF REPORT

092220.31 Ms. Frestedt provided an update on the confirmation of two new Board members. She said Tanya Woo and Matt Fujimoto were supposed to have been on City Council agenda yesterday, but she was notified they were not included in that agenda. She anticipated that they would be appointed at the September 29, 2020 meeting. She said Ms. Woo and Mr. Fujimoto are in attendance at this meeting to listen in.

Ms. Frestedt said that each year board member election is held the third Tuesday in November per procedures. She noted the inability to hold in-person election this year due to COVID restrictions. She said she didn't know when we would enter Stage 4, when it would be legal to congregate. She noted the high voter turnout the last couple years and said last year it was over 200. She requested feedback on postponing the election until a recommended time frame and on amending procedures to address it.

She said under the Administrative Code 102228 there is the ability to amend procedures that would allow postponement of election. She said a clause could be included that would allow postponement of election to Phase 4, including time for staff to do outreach and public notification.

Mr. Chan asked what this would mean for terms that are expiring.

Ms. Frestedt said that two seats that would be on ballot are positions 3 (Ms. Woo), and 5 (Mr. Yip). She said under the administrative code they would continue to serve until an election is held.

Mr. Legon Talamoni said he echoed Mr. Chan's questions and said he had no concern about vacancies.

Ms. Frestedt said that if an individual did not want to continue the board would end up with a vacancy.

Mr. Legon-Talamoni supported postponement of election in alignment with Governor and Mayor's guidance regarding COVID. He said his only concern was that enough time be allowed for prospective candidates and public to know about election.

Ms. Frestedt said she has an election plan that she works from, with specified timelines. She said she would execute a work plan adhering to the same dates.

Mr. Chan said since there will be a delay, the board should look at procedures and revise them to avoid what happened at last election.

Ms. Frestedt said that had been her intention prior to COVID and she has been hearing from the community that it is needed.

Mr. Williams wanted to clarify that community as a whole would have input or consideration in how things move forward. He said more descriptive language may be needed with City Attorney's Office help. He said it should be consistent across all boards.

Ms. Frestedt said only one other board, Ballard Avenue Landmark District, has elections; that election is postponed as well.

Mr. Yip joined the meeting at 5:12 pm.

Ms. Frestedt briefed Mr. Yip on discussion, election postponement. She explained that board member term limits would be extended until an election could be held.

Mr. Legon-Talamoni invited board input.

Mr. Yip said he supported postponement. He noted other boards are doing extensions until safe elections can be held in Phase 4.

Ms. Frestedt suggested if postponement is supported, waiting until after Phase 4 and execute work plan as with any other year. She said she usually starts in late August getting documents and materials together. She said that ideally the election will be held next year as planned based on what happens.

Mr. Legon-Talamoni asked if voting by mail has been explored.

Mr. Frestedt said alternate ways of casting ballots has been suggested but would need discussion with community. She said consultation with the City Attorney's Office would have to occur before we could determine that.

Ms. Woo asked if community will be notified if election postponed.

Ms. Frestedt said yes, via media release.

Mr. Legon-Talamoni supported postponement of election. He said there is not enough information on current procedures to give a timeline after entering Phase 4.

Mr. Chan said to maintain the structure of the election work plan and timeline once Phase 4 is reached. He said the priority should be to secure the process for voting especially given the number of high-profile projects. He said to be diligent that community as a whole is represented fairly.

Ms. Frestedt appreciated board input.

Mr. Williams said he echoed what others have said thus far and it is important for the community to have an opportunity to voice opinion and concerns.

Mr. Fujimoto provided public comment, as an attendee. He said he supported the proposal to extend duration of board positions per process noted.

Ms. Woo commented as an attendee. She noted the demographics of the CID and said any other alternative is not as safe. She noted intent to run for board seat; this is the best course of action.

Ms. Frestedt noted public comment and said that seated Board members could take action. She said Mr. Hong had a conflicting appointment and that she would follow up with him so he could provide input.

Discussion ensued about motion wording.

Action: I move to delay the election until Phase 4 and it is deemed safe to conduct elections in person; once that happens all the standard timelines in place to conduct election would begin at that point.

MM/SC/MC/AY 4:0:0 Motion carried.

Ms. Frestedt asked if there was a motion to direct staff and the Departments of Neighborhoods Director to amend election procedures to include clause that postpone election in event of emergency declaration or natural disaster.

Action: I move to direct Staff and the Departments of Neighborhoods Director to amend election procedures to include a clause that postpones an election in event of force majeure, Act of God, emergency declaration.

MM/SC/SLT/MC

Mr. Legon Talamoni amended his motion to include Staff amend procedures on ISRD election to include a clause that allows postponement given government or municipal recommendation about emergency health hazards as we are currently in.

Mr. Chan seconded.

MM/SC/SLT/MC 4:0:0 Motion carried.

Ms. Frestedt said that in terms of wording she will work with City Attorney office, Staff and DON Director to make sure to address natural disaster or emergency declaration as we have now to make sure it is fair and comprehensive to the community as well.

Mr. Chan asked if it is possible to get briefing on how the City's Mandatory Housing Affordability (MHA) policy is being applied in the CID. He said that some information presented by applicants to the Board is ambiguous and asked if one requirement overrides the other. He said he would like information on how MHA impacts mass and scale.

Ms. Frestedt said she will get information on zoning allowance and how MHA affects that and will share with board. She said that MHA does not override ISRD standards and rules. She said where there is development of high rise projects, the Board considers how the proposal relates to surrounding context and how new construction is integrated into the district, based on the code and standards for the district.

Mr. Williams asked for an update on adoption of Guidelines.

Ms. Frestedt said the Guidelines are part of that and will provide the board more additional tools to help. She said this highlights the importance of picking that up again. She said

that things have not slowed down regarding administrative reviews. She said City Council is looking to extend administrative review beyond October 25, 2020.

Mr. Legon-Talamoni welcomed Ms. Woo back to the board, pending confirmation, and he welcomed Mr. Fujimoto to the board.

Ms. Frestedt said their confirmation should happen September 29, 2020.

092220.4 BOARD BUSINESS

Adjourn 5:45 pm.

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