



The City of Seattle

# International Special Review District

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

ISR D 272/19

## MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, June 25, 2019

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

### **Board Members Present**

Stephanie Hsie, Chair  
Yuko Kunugi  
Sergio Legon-Talamoni  
Russ Williams  
Tanya Woo  
Andy Yip

### **Staff**

Rebecca Frestedt  
Melinda Bloom

### **Absent**

Chair Stephanie Hsie called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

### **062519.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

January 8, 2019  
MM/SC/SLT/TL 3:0:2 Minutes approved. Ms. Woo and Mr. Yip abstained.

January 22, 2019  
MM/SC/TL/SLT 3:0:2 Minutes approved. Ms. Woo and Mr. Yip abstained.

### **062519.2 CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL**

062519.21 Canton Alley / 719 S. King St. – Wing Luke Museum  
*Applicant: An Huynh, SCIDPDA*

Ms. Frestedt explained the proposed signage and artwork for northeast entrance of Canton Alley at S., to be installed on the west-facing façade of the Wing Luke Museum, consisting of the following:

- Metal panel sign (dimensions: 60” h x 24” w)

- Bronze Art Panel with iconography (dimensions: 42” h x 72” w)
- Text plaque explaining iconography (dimensions: 42” h x 16” w)

Exhibits included photographs, plans and renderings. The building was constructed in 1910. It is a contributing building located within the Asian Design Character District and Retail Core. A Certificate of Approval was issued in July 2016 for alley improvements, including the installation of colored concrete pavers.

Applicant Comment:

An Huynh, SCIDPDA proposed installation of signage. She said there was public engagement around how to revitalize the alley from 2012-2015; community helped to narrow down to key elements. She said the alley was repaved in 2017 and lighting and signage were next; she noted challenge with the property owners prompted them to regroup to add signage and all elements.

Artist Frances Nelson said the community outreach begin in 2014 to hear what the community wanted to see in the alley. She said it is a storied alley where residents lived and worked. She said looking at it in a historical context they plan to represent the alley past, present and future. She described an earlier plan to attach signage across the alley, but there were challenges with attachment to West Kong Yick so they moved to a simpler signage option. She said the sign will read ‘Canton Alley’ in Chinese characters. Colors are similar to Wing Luke colors. The sign will be hand painted in an aluminum frame and will align with header of the door. She said the body of the sign matches the Wing Luke trim; lettering is metallic gold and will be hand painted. She went over attachment details in drawing.

She said a bronze panel with iconography based on research will be installed. Icons collected include hammer to represent carpenter shop; twine-wrapped rocks to represent children; pigeon to represent temporal elements; salmon to represent the immigrants who used the building as a base on way to Alaska; Chinese drill team headdress; needle and thread to represent women who sew garments; mahjong tile, dragon, and a hot dog on white bread to honor Donnie Chin. She provided a layout showing the siting on the building and said explanatory verbiage will be included about icons and who worked on them.

*Mr. Williams arrived at 4:45 pm.*

Ms. Nelson said that bronze holds memory and shows wear. She said the panel will be placed under light fixture on Wing Luke.

Public Comment:

Cassie Chinn said Wing Luke appreciated the efforts of those who participated in CID alley project. It has been a long journey and it is good to see fruit; the paving is amazing. It is a tribute to the pioneers and families in alley. It integrates well with neighborhood tours.

Board Discussion:

Mr. Legon-Talamoni called it a ‘great proposal’ and said it is a tribute to the historic significance of the alley. He said it would have been good to see the sign between the buildings, but this is a great resolution.

Ms. Kunugi appreciated the proposal and said it is good to hear stories and also how they got to this point. She said it is one of her favorite gems of the neighborhood and this is great to see.

Ms. Hsie said it is a great project. She said attachment should be in mortar joints.

Ms. Nelson said it will.

Ms. Hsie said the art is lovely. She asked if there have been any comments about the vision of people at specific periods, including mention of Native heritage. She said the symbols are nice. She asked about future plans for the alley.

Ms. Nelson said hopefully there will be lighting at some point; it hinges on approval from other building, which they may never get. She said they plan on planters, and lighting.

Ms. Huynh said they how to create a network of alleys with Pioneer Square. She hoped there would be a future opportunity for lighting.

Mr. Lee appreciated sharing the history and said this is a model for other alleys. He said Donnie Chin was a hero.

Action: I move that the International Special Review District Board recommend approval of a Certificate of Approval for signage and design at 719 S. King St., as proposed.

The Board directs staff to prepare a written recommendation of approval, based on consideration of the application submittal and Board discussion at the June 25, 2019 public meeting, and forward this written recommendation to the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

This action meets the following sections of the **International Special Review District Ordinance and applicable Design Guidelines:**

**SMC 23.66.338 – Signs**  
**Secretary of the Interior’s Standard #10**

MM/SC/SLT/YK 5:0:1 Motion carried. Mr. Williams abstained.

**062519.3 BOARD BRIEFINGS**

062519.31 10<sup>th</sup> Ave S. & S. Dearborn St.

*Presenters:* Robert Stowers, Parks Department and Tom Van Bronkhorst, Dept. of Neighborhoods

Briefing on 10th & Dearborn cleanup and activation options for the undeveloped parcels  
Briefing will also include discussion of proposed fencing for the footing under the José Rizal Bridge.

Presentation by Robert Stowers, Tom Van Bronkhorst, Augusta Erickson, HSD, Patrick Merriam, SPAR, Darren Morgan and Matt Donahue, SDOT, and a representative from SPD.

Mr. Stowers said there have been problems at this site over the years. He explained SPAR, SDOT, SPU, and HSD are working together to clean up the site and improve CPTED. He said tents have been moved out and vegetation cleaned up; Human Services has done outreach to the homeless there. He said temporary fencing was installed following the removal of unsanctioned encampments from the property and to prevent re-encampment of the area. He proposed frequent maintenance, three times a week. He said that SPAR and private landowner will renew a prior verbal agreement to jointly coordinate the cleaning of the property with slope mowing, trimming hand mowing, and on-going cleanings and litter pickups as much as three times a week. SPD will monitor daily to complement the increased maintenance being done. He said it is a complicated site. There are environmentally critical areas due to slope, there are two owners and the right-of-way would need to be vacated. The topography makes it difficult to maintain.

Mr. Morgan provided existing conditions and challenges of the Jose Rizal Bridge. He said SDOT manages the land under the dripline of the bridge. Experts have access for federally mandated inspection. The fence is in disrepair and a new one is proposed that will have a tighter mesh; it will still be transparent and allow light through. The fence will be moved further up the slope to reduce the visibility from Dearborn. It will be taller than existing fence and will prevent re-encampment of the area. He said that unsanctioned homeless encampments increase the likelihood of fires. In the event of fires, especially containing propane, the bridge could suffer damage/failure to the paint system that protects the steel. In a worst-case scenario, a fire can get hot enough to weaken the steel causing complete failure of the bridge infrastructure.

Mr. Donahue said that in 2017 damage to the Jose Rizal bridge cost \$300,000 to repair both damaged steel and paint. Another smaller fire occurred at a different location on the bridge in 2018 resulting in paint damage that will cost \$34,000 to repair. He said that steel starts to lose strength at only 300°.

Mr. Stowers said they are working with the private property owner on a land swap or switching parcel so this site can be used for community gardens or other horticultural use for SPAR.

Mr. Van Bronkhorst said outreach was done: CPTED, Homeless Coordination Committee, Chinatown International District, Public Safety Council, Friends of Little Saigon. He said they will meet with any and all groups regarding activation of the area.

Public Comment:

Josh Brevoort, Friends of Little Saigon, suggestion improving Lane Street right of way; he said it is neglected. He said it would help to activate the area.

Board Discussion:

There was a discussion about the bridge and conditions along the stairs on the East side, adjacent to storage company. Mr. Stowers talked about potential future safety improvements, including extending a fence at the stairs, modification of fencing under the bridge and parcel activation.

Ms. Hsie said safety is #1. She asked how they arrived at the fencing solution and whether it would be short term.

Mr. Donahue said this treatment was used successfully at Ballard.

Mr. Stowers said in West Seattle, where there is fencing, there are no encampments.

Mr. Williams noted other cities where natural environments, boulders, and structures were used to prevent camps under bridges.

Mr. Donahue said they have done that on smaller installations here; it is not as effective as fencing.

Mr. Mor went over detail of fence material. He said it is difficult to cut and scale; there are metal features at the top rail that are a significant deterrent.

Mr. Lee said it is on outer side of freeway and SPD has worked to clean up the area. He was glad the team was working on it.

Ms. Hsie said safety is #1 priority. She said a goal of the board is to make sure it is still a welcoming place that celebrates history. She noted that due diligence had been done. She asked if any aesthetic possibilities had been explored.

Mr. Donahue said a tight galvanized mesh was priced but they could look at black. He said he's sensitive to public safety. He noted that the mesh is difficult to cut.

Ms. Kunugi asked what maintenance will be done with the area from street to fence and when returning to present for Certificate of Approval to provide ideas for that.

Mr. Lee asked about lighting.

Mr. Donahue said it is City Light responsibility.

Ms. Ebinger said it will be monitored daily. She said if they didn't the activity would come back. She said lighting might help but it is very expensive. She said they will continue to monitor fencing to the bridge. Activation is important.

Mr. Legon-Talamoni asked about interface with homeless. A fence is a deterrent, but it also communicates 'we don't want you'. He asked about resources for the homeless.

August Erickson, a member of the Navigation Team, said the fencing is just replacing fencing that is there now. He noted that the Team offers shelter and a gateway to housing and they do regular outreach. Once sheltered, the team works to help get people housing. The navigation center is next to the staircase; it is a low barrier facility.

Mr. Stowers said the parcel could get some landscaping or garden or horticultural area for SPAR. He said they would invite community input on use and activation. He reiterated the potential to do a land swap with adjacent property owner and vacate the right of way.

Mr. Williams said even with a land swap there would be the same challenges with the homeless.

Mr. Stowers said it is more feasible with a contiguous lot.

Mr. Williams said the Code requires maintenance and asked if the City is enforcing that.

Mr. Stowers said it is the landowner's responsibility to keep the property up; there aren't resources for enforcement.

Mr. Van Bronkhorst said the process can be long. Vacation of property must go through City Council and be a public benefit.

Ms. Hsie said that a land swap is out of board purview. She suggested engaging with the Friends of Little Saigon on programming.

Ms. Kunugi asked if there are significant trees there.

Mr. Morgan said the largest concentration of trees is at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Many are Elm; most are young volunteers. He said Dutch Elm disease took a lot of them. He doubted any were significant. He said there is a large Cedar on the other side.

Mr. Legon-Talamoni said there are examples in the district; he noted Yesler Terrace, Danny Woo Gardens and said the community would welcome more green space.

062519.32

Pedestrian Wayfinding Project – Jackson Hub

*Presenter:* Aditi Kambuj, SDOT

Briefing on Jackson Hub Pilot Design updates associated with the Pedestrian Wayfinding Project. This is a continuation of the Nov. 13, 2018 Board briefing. "Jackson Hub" refers to the area around the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> & Jackson between the Chinatown International District and Pioneer Square.

Aditi Kambuj, SDOT, provided an overview of the Citywide Wayfinding Strategy to date and noted what exists now is disconnected, adds to visual clutter, and has gaps in information. She said walking is essential to health, business, and to reducing congestion. She said the wayfinding strategy will connect pedestrians to transit as part of a multi-modal system. Five areas have been funded: 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Westlake, and the transit hub. She said they are ¾ of the way through concept design planning and are moving into standards. She said they have done a lot of engagement and talked with a lot of elders. She said there are so many systems of

information that don't connect. She said there are four pillars of the strategy: modal integration, systemization, design for all, and local distinctiveness. She said conceptually they are looking for modularity, ease of maintenance and updating, and iconic colors.

Ms. Kambuj walked through proposed sign family: overview sign at key locations; area sign; nudge / journey confirmation; braille and tactile; sidewalk medallion; and through-building routes that integrate with bus stops.

Gabriel Seo, SDOT, said they have taken a user-oriented design approach and are looking for feedback on product design.

Ms. Kambuj said a digital map is a place where they could provide a more nimble product that could alert to construction closures, provide accessibility in Braille support and allows integration with accessibility apps. She said they want to do the basics right.

Ms. Hsie said it is a great strategy and she looks forward to seeing the feedback in general but also on color. She noted there are sub-districts: Little Saigon, Japantown, Chinatown International District, and she suggested adding Filipino Town. She said it is a great pilot.

Ms. Frestedt said there has been lots of discussion about Filipino town, but the history is not in the same concentrated place; it is more scattered.

Ms. Kambuj said they have an open call for community open house. She said they did extensive naming reflecting boundaries that are already reinforced. She said the typical update to for wayfinding context is every two years. There was exploration of incorporating digital content.

Ms. Hsie said she wished more signs could be taken away and noted in one photo she saw five signs.

Ms. Kambuj said for agencies that have responsibility for different jurisdictions, a pilot is important. She said they are looking for a way to do it in a more streamline manner. She said integration of Sound Transit, Metro, and Link is good. Ms. Kambuj said they have looked at other cities and will test to see how it performs in the Seattle context. She said police, hospital, and fire are all mapped.

#### **062519.4 BOARD BUSINESS**

Ms. Frestedt spoke about the upcoming Board retreat and Executive Session. She said the Executive Session portion will focus on new construction projects that have potential for appeals and making defensible decisions. She said ethics and navigation of conflicts of interest will be discussed as well.

**Adjourn 7:00 pm.**

Rebecca Frestedt, Board Coordinator  
206-684-0226  
rebecca.frestedt@seattle.gov