



The City of Seattle

Pioneer Square Preservation Board

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649
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PSB 11/25

MINUTES for Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Board Members

Maureen Elenga
Sage Kim
Karl Mueller
Jose Lorenzo-Torres
Henry Watson

Staff

Genna Nashem

Absent

Steven Sparks

Chair Maureen Elenga called the meeting to order at

Key:

BM: Board Member

SM: Staff Member

AP: Applicant

Agenda order

Roll Call

011525.1 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

011525.2 Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2024

MM/SC/KM/SK

4:0:0

Minutes approved.

October 23, 2024

MM/SC/KM/SK

4:0:0

Minutes approved.

November 6, 2024

MM/SC/KM/SK

3:0:1

Minutes approved. Henry Walters abstained.

November 20, 2024

MM/SC/KM/SK

4:0:0

Minutes approved.

011525.3 Certificates of Approval

011525.31 Fortson Square

108 2nd Ave S

Joshua Gawne, SDOT

Proposed: Redesign of Fortson Square including removal of existing vegetation and trees, lighting, paving, and installation of new trees, vegetation, lighting, paving and artwork.

Joshua Gawne, SDOT provided context of the site and provided an overview of the proposed project to create public space that reflects indigenous history. They provided the historic context of the area and the intent to reconnect it to its roots. Exhibits included renderings and photos. Fortson Square will be redesigned to optimize its usability as a public space for neighbors in Pioneer Square, including the Chief Seattle Club. The design provides safe and accessible circulation routes while fostering a compelling environment for cultural engagement and meaningful visitor experiences. As the first native-focused public space in Pioneer Square, the design centers the Indigenous presence, embracing the diversity of Native cultures, languages, and traditions of American Indians and Alaska Natives. By honoring the original inhabitants of this land, the space becomes a source of pride for both the Native community and the broader public. Inspiration for the redesign draws on Salish cultural elements such as art, music, storytelling, food, plants, and animals, bringing these traditions into the heart of Pioneer Square.

Duane Gates, Jones and Jones said the park's design it to uplift the Grandmother Frog piece. They provided detail of the gathering circle, railing around the art, banding, circulation through site and plantings to highlight seasonality. ADA access is provided via the ramp. AP Gawne said lighting is limited to the 3- single globe fixtures that are strategically placed. He said much of the design was limited by areaways and utilities and slope.

Joshua Gawne said they would go out for bid in the spring and hoped the project would be completed in time for the 2026 World Cup.

Staff report: Genna Nashem reported the Board last saw this project in September of 2023. Most Board members supported the proposal. The Alliance for Pioneer Square and the Chief Seattle Club were stakeholders in the project planning. The Board has received several briefings about the project. The Board supported the design, tree removal, which also allowed for rat remediation and because cumulatively there will be more vegetation. They recognized that the design goals for making this a more usable space could not be achieved without the tree removal. They determined that Fortson Square had no historic resources and supported the decommissioning of the art installation. The Board recognized that the light fixtures were remakes of early gas lights used in area, did not supply sufficient light, and some did not function therefore the Board supported the idea of using the same light fixture in Occidental Park. The Board appreciated the ADA access and to welcome and celebrate Salish peoples and cultures and the history of the Pioneer Square area as a gathering place since time immemorial. The Grandmother Frog Welcome Figure by artist Andrea Wilbur-Sigo to be located at the corner of Yesler and 2nd Ave Ext was approved and is a separate but coordinated project.

BM Mueller had concerns about the design, loitering and negatively affecting access for light rail users as well as the potential for it amplified sound and vehicular traffic noise.

BM Elenga said the design was dynamic, seasonal, and allowed movement through the space and would keep it activated.

Action: I move to recommend granting a Certificate of Approval for redesign of Fortson Square including removing of existing vegetation and trees lighting and paving installing new trees vegetation lighting and paving and artwork

All per the applicant's submittal.

The Board directs staff to prepare a written recommendation of approval based on considering the application submittal and Board discussion at the January 15, 2025, public meeting and forward this written recommendation to the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

Code Citations:

Seattle Municipal Code

23.66.030 Certificates of Approval required

Certificate of approval required. No person shall alter, demolish, construct, reconstruct, restore, remodel, make any visible change to the exterior appearance of any structure, or to the public rights-of-way or other public spaces in a special review district, and no one shall remove or substantially alter any existing sign or erect or place any new sign or change the principal use of any building, or any portion of a building, structure or lot in a special review district, and no permit for

such activity shall be issued unless a certificate of approval has been issued by the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

Rules for the Pioneer Square Preservation District

III. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR REHABILITATION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation 9 and 10.

MM/SC/SK/HW

4:0:0

Motion carried. BM Mueller abstained.

011525.4 Project Briefings

None

011525.5 Board Business

011525.6 Report of the Chair

011525.7 Staff Report: Genna Nashem

Administrative Review report

Genna Nashem

Pioneer Square Preservation Board Coordinator

206.684.0227