



The City of Seattle

International Special Review District

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

ISRD 09/07

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, January 9, 2007

Time: 4:30 p.m.
Place: Bush Asia Center
409 Maynard Avenue S.
Basement conference room

Board Members Present

Jerry Chihara
Robert Ha
Jan Johnson
Hoa Tang
Freeman Fong
Amalia Gonzalez-Kahn

Staff

Rebecca Frestedt
Joanne Walby

Board Member Absent

Austen Chan

Mr. Fong called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

010907.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 12, 2006

010907.2 CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL

010907.21 Chinese Information Service Center Cindy Maki
611 S Lane St.

Application: Installation of new business signage. The two (2) signs (2'-9" x 9" x 1/2") will be rod-mounted to the upper north and east corners of the building. The proposed colors are burgundy letters with white vinyl characters in the logo.

Staff Comments: The street frontage is 220 linear feet. Since the organization is located above the first story, they are allowed 86 square feet of signage. The total signage proposed is approximately 52 square feet, well within the limit set forth in the guidelines.

Applicant Comment: Cindy Maki, Popich Sign Company, said the signs will be on two corners of the building, but will not be too conspicuous. She said the vinyl sign on the window will have the business name and hours of operation.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Jan Johnson arrived at 4:40pm.

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

"Printed on Recycled Paper"

Board Questions/Discussion:

Mr. Chihara asked how the sign would be attached to the brick. Ms. Maki said the sign is made of a light material (sintra) and will be mounted on rods with a silicone adhesive and flush with the building. She said drainage isn't a problem because the material is not large so it already drains easily. She said there would be no illumination.

Action:

I move that the International Special Review District Board approve a Certificate of Approval for the signage as proposed. This action is based on the following:

The proposed new signage meets the following sections of the SMC Chapter 23.66:

SMC 23.66.338 – Business identification signs

MM/SC/JJ/JC 6:0:0 Motion carried.

010907.22

Chinatown Gate

King Street at 5th Ave. S.

Application: Proposed Final Design of the Western segment of the Chinatown Gate.

Staff Comment: Ms. Frestedt said the applicant received a Certificate of Approval for Street Use and Preliminary Design in December 2003. She said the board should review the exterior final design based on:

- General Requirements of SMC 23.66.336: Board reviews proposed design for compatibility of scale, bulk, height, color, materials, and style of buildings in the immediate area and surrounding structures. This application is for final design.
- This project is located within the Asian Design Character District. Specific requirements of SMC 23.66.336(B) apply.

Applicant Comment: Paul Wu said this ceremonial gate would have no moveable parts and would be made of custom-made components from China. The gate will be mounted on four (4) piles, 80' deep on an underground steel structure designed by a company in California. He said the gate has received general community support, although the construction activity may disrupt traffic into surrounding businesses. Mr. Wu said the materials consist of fired clay tile with Chinese ornamentation set in a high performing grout and held in place with stainless steel screws. The columns will be made of painted steel beams two (2) feet in diameter.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Board Questions/Discussion:

Mr. Chihara asked if the ornamentation and symbols had specific meaning or were associated with a particular region or family association.

Mr. Wu said the gate design relates to a Northern Chinese style, but is not associated with a particular group and should have broad cultural acceptance.

Ms. Johnson asked how the gate will be lit. Mr. Wu said the gate would have lighting under the soffits and the low roof but the attachment hardware will be recessed and hidden. He said Roberston Engineering will donate their services. He explained that because there was a problem with the fiber optics underground they do not yet have a final electrical system design. Ms. Frestedt noted that lighting was not part of this application.

Ms. Johnson asked if the street cars would have clearance. Mr. Wu said that the normal height clearance would be 14', but DPD increased height requirement in order to accommodate potential streetcar clearance in the future.

Vi Mar, member of the Historic Chinatown Gate Foundation, said they have reached out to the community extensively to get support. Mr Wu added that seeking adjacent property owner approval is part of the SDOT permit process.

Ms. Gonzalez-Kahn asked how wide the sidewalk is near the base. Mr. Wu said it will be 10 ft.

Public Comment:

Angela Steel from SDOT said they have concerns about liability issues, especially future maintenance and ownership. She said SDOT was hoping that a neighborhood organization would take ownership. [Liability and ownership have not been determined. – staff addition].

Action:

I move that the International Special Review District Board approve a Certificate of Approval for Final Design as per the applicant's submittal. This approval is conditional on separate Board review and approval of color selection, signage and lighting.

This action is based on the following:

The application meets the following sections of the SMC Chapter 23.66:

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

SMC 23.66.336(A) – Exterior building finishes - General Requirements.

SMC 23.66.336(B) – Asian Design Character District

MM/SC/FF/JC 6:0:0 Motion Carried

010907.3

BOARD BUSINESS

Ms. Johnson had questions about street level uses and requirements for redevelopment of old buildings. She asked whether old buildings would be required to maintain current street level use. Ms. Sordt said that since there is an ISRD regulation overlay, there are two sets of rules that dictate zoning in the District, including rigorous restrictions in the Asian Design Character Area. Ms. Johnson said she would like to see the guidelines and zoning expanded to address street level uses. Ms. Frestedt suggested a briefing by DPD to explain the philosophy behind zoning and the process for making changes.

Ms. Frestedt welcomed new Board members, Amalia Gonzalez-Kahn and Robert Ha. She said that Board will vote on a new chair and vice chair at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Frestedt said she would send out an announcement about the Maynard Avenue Green Street Project Open House, scheduled for Thursday, January 25th, 2007 from 5-8 PM. The open house will take place in the Bush Asia Hotel cafeteria, 409 Maynard Ave. S., basement level.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Issued: January 18, 2007

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