



The City of Seattle

International Special Review District

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649 Seattle WA 98124-4649
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ISRD 224/07

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, October 9, 2007

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

Board Members Present

Jerry Chihara
Hoa Tang
Robert Ha
Misun Chung
Amalia Gonzalez-Kahn

Staff

Rebecca Frestedt

Absent:

Jan Johnson
Dr. Austen Chan

Meeting called to order by Amalia Gonzalez-Kahn 4:37 PM

100907.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved to approve the minutes of September 11, 2007
MM/SC/JC/HT 4:0:1 Minutes adopted

100907.2 CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

Robert Ha arrived at 4:43pm

100907.21 Minh Chau Gifts
653 S Jackson Street

Application: Exterior alterations: Signage.

Ms. Frestedt provided the staff report. She said that the applicant proposes to replace the face of the existing sign within the existing frame. The new face will be made of white Plexiglass material with multi-colored graphics. Proposed sign dimensions 30”h x 11’w. Ms. Frestedt distributed photographs and renderings. She noted that the sign was part of the Chinatown International District Business Improvement Area’s façade improvement program, and would be funded with remaining funds from the 2005 grant program.

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

“Printed on Recycled Paper”

Applicant Comment: Long Mai, sign contractor with Unique Signs, said the current sign is being replaced because it is approximately 30 years old and very dirty.

Board Questions:

Ms. Gonzalez-Kahn asked for clarification of the number of colors used. Mr. Mai said that there would be three colors incorporated into the graphics.

Mr. Ha felt that the new sign was similar to the current sign's design.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Board Discussion:

Mr. Chihara noted that he wished the District had standards about sign placement because the location of the existing sign and frame obscures the transom window mullions and is not in character with the district guidelines.

Ms. Frestedt said the current sign was approved in 1981.

Mr. Mai said there is a limitation on the size of Plexiglass signs, approximately 10" or less. He said he could use Lexan plastic instead since the sign is 11' long. He said he would like to amend the application to include this material.

The Board did not object to the change in materials.

Action:

I move that the International Special Review District Board approve a Certificate of Approval for the signage as amended.

MM/SC/RH/JC

5:0:0 Motion carried.

This action is based on the following ISRD Codes and Design Guidelines:

Exterior Design Review

SMC 23.66.338 – Business identification signs

ISRD Design Guidelines for Signs

Section II Design Guidelines

100907.3

BOARD BUSINESS

Christine Alar, from the Seattle Department of Transportation, came before the Board to present a proposed color for wayfinding signage that had been requested at the August 28, 2007 ISRD Board meeting.

Ms. Frestedt provided a summary of the discussion that occurred at the August meeting. She said that the Board had determined that the proposed color on the sign post had not been differentiated from the color used for the directional signs included on the post. The Board had requested that the colors be different in order to ensure clarity in the sign, especially for non-English speakers.

Ms. Alar showed samples of the two proposed red colors.

Mr. Ha wondered if the dark red would stand out enough. Ms. Gonzalez-Kahn asked if the bright red was already in use. Ms. Alar said yes.

Ms. Chung said the dark background with the light letters is clear and easy to read. Mr. Chihara said the differences are subtle in the sample pieces but he said it should be ok on the larger signs.

Mr. Tang asked if the color would fade over time. Ms. Alar said the signs are powder coated and should not fade.

Ms. Frestedt noted that the Board previously approved the application with the exception of color approval. Based on the Board's support for the proposed color, Ms. Frestedt will issue the pending Certificate of Approval.

Ms. Chung asked when the signage would be installed. Ms. Alar said they hoped to install it by end of year.

Vice Chair Nomination:

The Board voted on the selection of a new vice chair, since the position was vacated when Mr. Fong's term expired. Mr. Chihara nominated Ms. Gonzalez-Kahn. Mr. Tang seconded.

There was a discussion about the responsibilities of the position. Ms. Gonzalez-Kahn accepted the nomination.

Motion:

Moved to have Ms. Gonzalez-Kahn assume position of Vice Chair.

MM/SC/HC/HT 4:0:0 Motion carried.

ADJOURN 5:30pm

Issued: November 9, 2007

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