



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 49/07

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, March 13, 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

Absent:

Austen Chan

031307.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 27, 2007

Mr. Chihara noted corrections to the minutes.
Moved to approve the minutes as amended.
MM/SC/JC/HT 6:0:0 Minutes adopted.

031307.2 CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL

031307.21 Wing Luke Asian Museum 725 S King Street

Application: Proposed canopy on King Street (main) entrance. Ms. Frestedt said the applicant is seeking approval to add a fan-shaped canopy, designed by artist Gerry Tsutakawa, to the King Street entry of the new Wing Luke Asian Museum. The canopy will be made of steel with an acrylic Polyurethane "satin gloss" finish. The canopy will be attached by two (2) structured steel plates, mounted with five bolts per plate, onto a tube steel frame inserted into the door frame. See drawings. The canopy will have street frontage of 17' 8". The maximum width over the sidewalk is 5' 2".

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

"Printed on Recycled Paper"

Staff Report: Ms. Frestedt stated that the width of the proposed design does *not* meet the five foot (5') minimum requirement of the Design Guidelines for Awnings and Canopies. She noted that the canopy has been designed to be removable. She said the applicable guidelines are the *ISR District Design Guidelines for Awnings and Canopies* and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, #3, #9, and #10*.

Ms. Frestedt introduced designer Gerry Tsutakawa, Matt Martell of Homesight and Martha Rogers of Olsen Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects.

Applicant Comment: Ms. Rogers said the previous rectangular canopy was approved by the Board. The Museum asked Mr. Tsutakawa to create a design that reflects the character of the community and the organization. Mr. Tsutakawa said he chose the fan design because it is indicative of Asian culture, it picks up rhythm, and movement through light and dark contrasts. He said the decision to use steel was made for economic and structural reasons.

Mr. Tsutakawa confirmed the awning's dimensions and described the method of attachment. He also described the rain catchment tray on the back of the awning and said that it was designed to be inconspicuous. Ms. Rogers added that the tray will be covered and constructed of stainless steel, painted to match the décor. Mr. Tsutakawa said screens will be added to catch excess runoff debris.

Ms. Frestedt stated that the lighting fixtures mentioned in the proposal have been previously approved.

Board Questions:

Mr. Chihara asked if the 3' x 5' support beam is there for a structural reason or because of the shape and configuration of the canopy. He asked if it could be minimized. He said the small amount of overhang bothers him a bit.

Mr. Tsutakawa said the beam is a structural code requirement in order to handle snow and wind loads. He said they want to preserve the shape but the beam on the back is required. Ms. Rogers said there are two attachment points and the engineer was concerned about torque. Mr. Tsutakawa said his design concept was to create something distinctive without being obtrusive.

Mr. Chihara said although the shape of the canopy stands on its own, he is concerned that it doesn't seem to register with the elements of the building behind it and the cantilever portions extend beyond the frame, especially on the right side. Ms. Tsutakawa said he looked at the proportion of the mullions and where the canopy would end. The decision was to make a signature piece that would "float" and not "die off" at the ends. Mr. Chihara asked if he would consider moving the steel beam so it registers with the storefront behind and reduce the length of the fan. Mr. Tsutakawa said he intended to retain the current length.

Mr. Fong asked why it was squared off instead of extending to the frame. Mr. Tsutakawa said he left this intentionally long for extra proportion; the shape is distinctive enough to be noticed by pedestrians and add a wayfinding element to the

district, which is a focus of the design. Mr. Fong said he doesn't mind that it doesn't line up with the mullion.

Board Discussion:

Mr. Chihara said the artist and architect collaboration is a good tool. He noted the requirement that a canopy must extend 5' from the base of the building. He said this proposal does not have a 5' overhang and asked the applicant's comment.

Ms. Rogers said the canopy extends 5' over the doorway, but since it is fan shaped it would not be possible to have a consistent 5' extension. Mr. Tsutakawa added that he looked at a lot of awnings, all of which were rectangular, but said he was trying to create something interesting and distinct.

Ms. Frestedt said that the project should be judged on its own merits and the Board could consider the artistic elements to this canopy. She added that the applicants have been working with Tom Quackenbush, in the Department of Neighborhoods, to examine whether or not Section 106 review will be required for the addition of the canopy, since it is a departure from past proposals.

Mr. Chihara noted that the proposal is consistent with Secretary of the Interior Standards for new additions. Ms. Frestedt said it would be up to Steve Mathison, of the State of Washington Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, to determine if and how the proposed canopy would affect the overall structure.

Mr. Chihara asked if there was a canopy on the original structure. Ms. Rogers said no, not that she was aware of.

Mr. Fong pointed out that curved elements are prohibited in the District Guidelines. Ms. Frestedt clarified that the guidelines are intended to address bubble shaped awnings that curve from top to bottom. They guidelines to not address the type of design proposed. It is up to the Board's interpretation whether or not the canopy could also be considered an architectural or artistic feature.

Ms. Gonzalez-Kahn expressed concern about elements that don't fit well within the guidelines. She favored the design, but had reservations due to design elements that are not supported by the guidelines. There was a discussion about Board parameters in response to proposals that feature artistic design. Mr. Chihara questioned whether or not approval of the design would set a precedent for future awning departures. Mr. Fong noted that the people who wrote the code probably weren't anticipating artistic elements.

Ms. Johnson said she understood Ms. Gonzalez-Kahn's reservations but noted that these kinds of artistic elements are exactly what should be encouraged in the District: elements that reflect the unique artistry and cultural references. Also, she said it might help with way-finding in the District.

Mr. Tang said that the curve of the awning looks odd on a square building, but he would still support the application.

Mr. Ha said the design brings out the character of the building and he supports the application, although it "walks a fine line" in regards to the District rules.

Public Comment: Stella Chao, Department of Neighborhoods Director, expressed concern about the arched edges contributing to pigeon problem. Ms. Rogers said the edges would be 1” wide. Mr. Tsutakawa said he has done other sculptures where pigeons were a concern. In that case he said he attached recessed spikes to ward off the pigeons.

Cassie Chin, of the Wing Luke Asian Museum, noted that the birds often tend to perch up higher on the building.

Beth Takakawa, also of the Wing Luke Asian Museum, said she has appreciated working with the Board and said it is unusual for a museum to be in a city neighborhood and therefore needs to balance urban issues with this unique location. She noted that they have passed the Section 106 review with the previous modern canopy and she hopes that will happen in this case as well.

Action

Moved to approve the application as presented:
MM/SC/FF/AG 6:0:0 Motion carried.

031307.3

BOARD BUSINESS

Ms. Frestedt said the today’s canopy proposal is good example of the type of discussion that the Board and the community should have regarding future revision of the guidelines. Community members have expressed interest in revisiting the guidelines. She asked the Board to refer any community comments on changes to the guidelines to her. Ms. Johnson said artistic elements such as the one presented today should be encouraged. Ms. Gonzalez-Kahn said the guidelines should be more explicit so the Board so doesn’t have to decide what features should follow the guidelines and which features deserve special consideration due to their artistic features.

Ms. Frestedt said that she would like to schedule a Board retreat this spring to discuss the guidelines, Board procedure, and respond to questions that Board members may have about process and decision-making. Mr. Chihara noted that if the guidelines get too prescriptive, it might take away the judgment of the Board to review projects on a specific basis. Ms. Frestedt will contact the Board regarding scheduling.

Issued: April 6, 2007

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