



The City of Seattle

International Special Review District

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649 Seattle WA 98124-4649
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ISRD 199/07

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, September 11, 2007

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

Board Members Present

Jerry Chihara
Hoa Tang
Dr. Austen Chan
Misun Chung
Robert Ha
Amalia Gonzalez-Kahn

Staff

Rebecca Frestedt

Absent: Jan Johnson

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

091107.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES August 28, 2007
Mr. Tang noted that he was not present at the last meeting.
Move to approve the minutes as corrected
MM/SC/JC/MC 5:0:1 Minutes adopted. Tang abstained.

091107.2 CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

091107.21 Mar Hotel Building
507 Maynard Ave. S.

Robert Ha arrived at 4:40pm

Ms. Frestedt introduced the applicants, Chris and James Koh, property owners. She gave a summary of the application. She explained that the applicants are requesting retroactive approval for two courtyard covers constructed without Board approval. The covers extend 8'9" above the roof of the 5th floor penthouse and are set back approximately 14' from the roofline. They are covered with plywood sheathing and hardiplank siding to match the walls of the 5th floor addition. The covers which are not clearly visible from the street will be painted the previously approved colors to match the penthouse.

Applicant Comment: Mr. Chris Koh said the existing building previously had two 4-story courtyards, each covered with a glass roof. When they added the penthouse, they had to remove the glass skylights. The skylights have been raised above the fifth floor penthouse so the water doesn't come into the light well. Mr. Koh said the skylights were raised in response to Fire Department concerns regarding adequate air ventilation.

There was a discussion about the material that would be used to cover the skylights. The applicants initially proposed a glass cover; however, Mr. Chris Koh said that they were now proposing polycarbonate instead, since it is stronger than glass and has a 10 year life cycle. He presented the photographs of the view from the street, and noted that the covers would not be visible from the street.

Board Questions:

Dr. Chan asked for clarification on the location of the building and asked if the building height would increase.

Chris Koh said the penthouse height would not change; only the covers will be taller than proposed in the final design application.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Board Discussion:

Ms. Chung said regarding visibility, the impact is minimal. She stated that she thought glass would last longer.

Chris Koh said the proposed material has a 10 year warranty. He said they thought plastic polycarbonate would be easier to maintain or if replacement became necessary.

Mr. Chihara said the Board has considered other similar applications and the main consideration has been sightlines and visibility. He said the element would not be visible from Maynard Ave. He added that maintenance costs are outside of the Board's purview.

Action:

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

The proposed alterations and additions meet the following sections of the SMC Chapter 23.66:

23.66.336 - Exterior Building finishes

B. Asian Design Character District

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, #9.

MM/SC/JC/HT

6:0:0 Motion carried.

091107.22

Kaname Restaurant
610 S Jackson St.

Ms. Frestedt introduced Todd Kuniyuki, business owner. She explained that the proposal is a revision to the signage application that was initially reviewed at the meeting of August 28, 2007.

Mr. Kuniyuki said that the font change and size increase were proposed to make the signage more legible and distinctive.

Board Questions:

Dr. Chan asked what the name of the restaurant means. He added that the red is a good color.

Mr. Kuniyuki said “*kaname*” is the center point of a traditional Japanese fan. It also happens to be his middle name.

Ms. Gonzalez-Kahn liked the changes. She asked if the light from the interior cabinet would show through the red background. Mr. Kuniyuki said that it would.

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:

SMC 23.66.338 – Business identification signs

ISRD Design Guidelines for Signs

Section II Design Guidelines

MM/SC/HT/JC

6:0:0 Motion carried.

091107.3

BOARD BUSINESS

Ms. Frestedt discussed an outstanding question regarding proposed colors for a SDOT signage application. The application was originally presented by Christine Alar, from the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), on August 28, 2007. During that meeting, the Board requested additional information about the proposed colors. Ms. Alar could not attend today’s meeting, but provided a set of photographs that represented the proposed colors for the International District directional posts. Ms. Frestedt presented the photographs to the Board on behalf of Ms. Alar.

Mr. Chihara asked if the proposed red color for the directional signs was going to be a separate shade than the red used as the base color for the signs. Ms. Frestedt said that SDOT was only proposing one shade of red.

Mr. Ha was concerned that the signs would be difficult to use for non-English speakers if the color used for the base and the neighborhood-specific directional signs was the same. Mr. Chan agreed and stated that they colors should be differentiated, with a distinct shade used for the neighborhood directional signs.

Ms. Frestedt agreed to share this information with the applicant and request a revised set of proposed colors for the Board’s review.

2007 Board elections:

Ms. Frestedt made an announcement about the coming ISRD Board elections, which will be held November 20th. She stated that three positions that will expire at the end of 2007. The expiring positions are: Position #1 (Austen Chan), Position #2 (Hoa Tang) and Position #4 (Jan Johnson). She said that Ms. Johnson is in her second term and, therefore, will not be eligible to run again. She said that Mr. Tang and Mr. Chan are eligible to run for a second term, if they so choose. She added that Mr. Chihara will be reappointed through 2008, this fall.

Ms. Frestedt notified the Board that they will select a new Vice-Chair during Board Business at the next meeting. The Vice Chair position was vacated following Freeman Fong's departure.

Ms. Frestedt then distributed materials for the Board handbooks. She said that the Board will discuss some of the information during the upcoming Board retreat. The Board then discussed possible dates for the retreat and considered tentative agenda items for the retreat. Dr. Chan suggested including a discussion of compliance issues during the retreat. Board members agreed to hold the retreat on the afternoon of October 30th.

ADJOURN at 5:45pm

Issued: October 3, 2007

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