

KING COUNTY LANDMARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES*

*March 26, 2020
Skype Call-in Meeting
Seattle, Washington
(Approved 6/25/2020)*

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Poppi Handy, Chair, Caroline Lemay, Vice-Chair; Amber Earley, Cristy Lake, Ella Moore, Rebecca Ossa, David Pilgrim, Amy Blue

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: None

STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Meisner, Sarah Steen

GUESTS: Jason Anglin, Stephen Jiang, Jonathan Kesler

CALL TO ORDER: Handy called the Skype meeting to order at 4:35pm. Introductions of commissioners and staff were made.

Convene KENT LANDMARKS COMMISSION

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS: Bereiter House, Mill Creek Historic District, 855 E Smith Street, Kent (COA #20.04)

Steen gave a brief staff report, reviewing the location and history of the Bereiter House and detailing the current proposal to install a life-sized “Welcome Figure” on the grounds behind the museum building near the rear parking lot.

Handy asked if the applicant was available to speak about their project. Steen said the applicants were unable to attend the Commission meeting, but Michael Evans (a board member of the Kent Historical Society, Chair of the Snoqualmie Tribe, and the carver of the Welcome Figure) had spoken to the DRC about the proposed project. Lemay reported for the DRC, saying they initially had questions on the cultural relevance of the project, but had no objection after Michael noted that he was Chair of the Snoqualmie Tribe and would be following local tradition as well as ensuring tribal cultural representation as part of the museum’s interpretive mandate. Lemay said the DRC had suggested recording the carving for use as an exhibit after the figure was installed. If permanent interpretive signage is installed in the future, the applicants will review the location and design with the Commission beforehand.

Ossa concurred that the DRC had recommended approval, and noted their request to discuss potential archaeological issues with the Commission at the full hearing.

Handy opened the public comment period, and asked if the commissioners had any questions. No member of the public was in attendance. Pilgrim stated he had a concern with removing established landscaping on the site, as the project involved removing a large juniper tree to install the figure. Lemay agreed that it may be more appropriate to find a nearby location that did not involve removing landscaping elements. Earley noted that in terms of archaeology, placing the

*May include minutes for cities who have interlocal historic preservation agreements with King County.

figure where the juniper tam is now is a better choice than placing it in open space, since its less likely archaeological features will be disturbed by the installation. Moore was in favor of removing the juniper. Other commissioners had no opinion on the project's impact on the landscape.

Handy asked for additional questions or comments, hearing none, she closed the public comment period and requested a motion.

Blue/Pilgrim moved to approve the application as proposed and recommended by the DRC with the following conditions: that the final location for the figure be subject to staff approval. Motion passed 8-0.

Convene AUBURN LANDMARKS COMMISSION

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS: Auburn Pioneer Cemetery, 8th Street and Auburn Way North (COA # 20.05)

Steen gave a brief staff report, reviewing the location and history of the Auburn Pioneer cemetery. She detailed the proposal to clean historic gravemarkers and install granite nameplates at the base of (92) markers.

Handy asked if the applicant would like to speak about their project. Steen noted that the applicant was unable to attend the Commission hearing, but had presented to the DRC on the project. Lemay and Ossa reported on the DRC review, saying they had questions on the cleaner being used and on the experience of the contractor in working with historic masonry. Steen noted that the specified masonry cleaner was one preferred by experts in the preservation of historic masonry, and that the applicant had agreed to test patching before applying the cleaner widely to ensure it had no harmful effect. The applicant stated in a follow-up email that the contractor had experience working with historic gravemarker cleaning and restoration in Tacoma. The DRC also had questions regarding the installation method of the granite nameplates. In response, the applicant submitted the contractor's assurances that burying the granite nameplates flush with the ground in front of the markers was traditional practice and that disturbance was uncommon and unlikely.

Handy then opened the public comment period, and asked if the commissioners had any questions. No members of the public were in attendance. Pilgrim asked about grave identification to ensure the granite nameplates were accurate, especially given the deterioration of some of the historic markers. Steen said the applicant had documentary records on names and locations within the cemetery to reference for clarity and accuracy. Blue noted that installing the nameplates was consistent with the community function of the cemetery, and said she approved of the project.

Handy asked for additional questions or comments, hearing none, she closed the public comment period and requested a motion.

Blue/Lemay moved to approve the COA as proposed and recommended by the DRC. Motion passed 8-0.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS: Mary Olson Farm, 28728 Green River Road, Auburn (COA #20.06)

Steen gave a brief staff report, reviewing the location and history of the Mary Olson Farm and detailing the retroactive application to approve security lighting already installed on the farm's garage, as well as new proposed lighting at the end of the driveway leading out of the farm site.

Noting that the applicant was not present, Handy asked for the DRC report on the project. Lemay and Ossa said they had requested lighting specifications for the already installed lights on the garage, and asked for photos of the proposed driveway light location. The applicant was unable to find fixture specifications, but included additional photographs of the proposed lighting location at the end of the driveway as well as more photographs of existing lighting around the site. (Staff included specifications on the double-light installed on the garage in the presentation.) Photographs showed that most of the lights around the farm site are brown gooseneck fixtures, with a small caged jar light inside one of the sheds. The DRC raised compatibility issues with the new caged jar double-light fixture installed on the garage wall.

Handy opened the public comment period and asked if the commissioners had any questions. No members of the public were in attendance. Commissioners generally agreed the double-light fixture on the garage wall was not compatible with the historic rural character of the farmstead or with the other light fixtures on the farm. Discussion continued on types of appropriate fixtures and how they might work in that location on the side of the garage. Handy noted that the double-light fixture was a marine type of lighting, and not appropriate for a rural agricultural property. Moore suggested a farmhouse lighting online site for potential compatible options. Pilgrim and Handy said the fixture should match others on site in color and type, which was nearly all brown gooseneck style lighting.

Pilgrim inquired whether the security lighting to be installed at the end of the driveway was intended to be solar-powered, or if the applicant would need to trench for power installation at the entry gate. Commissioners approved of the gooseneck lighting design proposed for that location, but said the applicant needed to return to the commission with a trenching plan before it was installed to address potential archaeological issues.

Handy asked for additional questions or comments, hearing none, she closed the public comment period and requested a motion.

Blue/Earley moved to approve the retroactive COA application as recommended by the DRC with the following conditions: that the existing wall light on the garage be replaced with a fixture similar to those found elsewhere on the farm site; and that the applicant present the trenching plan to bring power for the security lighting on the gate prior to installation. Motion passed 8-0.

Convene KING COUNTY LANDMARKS COMMISSION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Handy asked for any changes/corrections to the November 21st and January 23rd meeting minutes. One correction: Ossa requested that the reference to the Washington State Heritage Grant in the Reard House review include the word “Program.”

Ossa/Moore moved to approve the November 21, 2019 and January 21, 2020 minutes of the King County Landmarks Commission. The motions passed 7-0 and 6-0, with Lemay abstaining from the November and January votes and Blue abstaining from the January vote.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS: Concert Venue Restroom, Willowmoor Historic District, Marymoor Park, 6046 W Lake Sammamish Pkwy NE (COA #20.03)

Steen gave a brief staff report, reviewing the location and history of Marymoor Park and detailed the proposed roofing project on a non-historic restroom serving the concert venue with the park boundaries.

Handy asked if the applicant would like to speak about their project. Jason Anglin, project manager for King County DNRP, said he was present and would be happy to answer any questions the commissioners had. Lemay and Ossa gave the DRC report, stating that no issues were raised regarding the proposed EcoStar roofing. They noted this type of synthetic roofing which mimics wood shingles in pattern had been used on other structures within the park, and on the Preston Activity Center (a landmark in Preston.) It was noted that the proposal also includes reuse of existing metal roof features.

Handy opened the public comment period and asked if the commissioners had any questions. No members of the public were in attendance. Pilgrim said he thought a “chestnut brown” color roofing was used elsewhere in the park, and asked if the color was going to match the nearby building. The applicant said he was unaware of a color difference on other buildings, but that the proposed grey roofing color would match that of nearby structures.

Handy closed the public comment period and asked for commission debate. Hearing none, she requested a motion on the proposal.

Blue/Lake moved to approve the application as proposed and recommended by the DRC. The motion passed 8-0.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS: Patton Bridge, SE Green Valley Road (COA #20.07)

Steen gave a brief staff report, reviewing the location and history of the Patton Bridge, noting it was designated for its engineering innovation. She then detailed the proposal to structurally retrofit deteriorated sections of the bridge to address safety concerns.

Handy asked if the applicant was present and would like to speak about their project. Stephen Jiang, engineer for King County Roads Services, said he was present and could answer questions on the project. Lemay and Ossa reported for the DRC, stating they had no issues with the proposal. The repairs and structural augmentations would be located underneath the bridge deck, and would not be visible to the travelling public. They thought the repairs necessary for the continued use of the bridge and that they would have a minimal impact on the bridge's character.

Handy opened the public comment period and asked if the commissioners had any questions. No members of the public were in attendance. Pilgrim asked if the structural repairs would impact the fundamental engineering system of the bridge, since that was the reason the bridge was designated. Jiang said no, the existing structural system would be repaired and supported, not altered. Pilgrim asked if interpretive signage could be installed on site, or perhaps information on the engineering and historic importance of the bridge could be included on the Roads department website. Blue noted that the changes proposed would be fairly indistinguishable visually.

Handy closed the public comment period and asked for commission debate. Hearing none, she requested a motion on the proposal.

Blue/Lemay moved to approve the COA application as proposed and recommended by the DRC. The motion passed 8-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S REPORT: Meisner briefly reported on staff and procedural changes implemented by State and County government in order to safely navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. HPP Staff will be telecommuting at least through April and perhaps into the months following, depending on guidance from the Governor Inslee and King County Executive Constantine. HPP received legal guidance that holding public hearings virtually until the pandemic subsides is allowable with clear public notice, so Design Review Committee meetings and Landmarks Commission hearings will continue to be held virtually until the situation is resolved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 pm.