

Members

Kevin Bartoy, Chair
Roger Johnson, Vice Chair
Jonathan Hart
Sarah Hilsendeger
Jennifer Mortensen
Alex Morganroth
Lysa Schloesser
Holly Stewart
Carol Sundstrom
Jeff Williams

Deborah Cade, North Slope Ex-Officio
Leah Jaggars, Wedge Ex-Officio

Staff

Reuben McKnight, Historic Preservation Officer
Lauren Hoogkamer, Assistant Historic Preservation Officer
Aubrey Pike, Office Assistant
BT Doan, Office Assistant



MINUTES

Landmarks Preservation Commission Planning and Development Services Department

Date: August 12, 2020

Location: *Virtual Zoom Webinar*

Commission Members in Attendance:

Kevin Bartoy, Chair
Roger Johnson, Vice Chair
Jonathan Hart
Sarah Hilsendeger
Holly Stewart
Carol Sundstrom
Deborah Cade
Leah Jaggars

Commissioner Members Excused:

Alex Morganroth
Jennifer Mortensen
Lysa Schloesser

Staff Present:

Reuben McKnight
Lauren Hoogkamer
BT Doan

Others Present:

Celena Kathan & Robert Koehne
Ellen Mirro, *Studio TJP*
Aleksey Guyvoronsky
Kathleen Brooker
Marshall McClintock, *Historic Tacoma*
Amy McBride, *Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality*
Naomi Strom-Avila

Commission Members Absent:

Jeff Williams

Chair Kevin Bartoy called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

1. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS LANDS**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

a. **Approval of Minutes: Feb 26, 2020 & April 22, 2020**

The minutes of the meetings on 2/26/2020 (amended) and 4/22/2020 were approved as submitted.

4. **NOMINATIONS TO THE TACOMA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES – PUBLIC HEARING**

a. **3334 N Gove St (Sears House)**

Chair Bartoy called the public hearing to order at 5:38 p.m.

Mr. McKnight read the staff report as provided in the packet, noting that in addition to the public comment by Tim Bennecker included in the packet, another comment had been submitted via email from Angela Robinson.

Ms. Robinson's comment is as follows: *"Hello this is Angela Robinson. I wanted to comment on the Nomination of the house on 3334 N Gove Street. I agree and would love for this house to be on the Tacoma Register Of Historic*

Places. I grew up in this house for 30 + years. My dad Dick Page bought the house in the 70's. The house has amazing history to it. As a child my sisters and I had a blast in the home with sleepovers, holiday's, and celebrations. A favorite of ours was the balcony off what was our bedrooms. Amazing view! and would be out there all the time. I was there to watch it be on the Tacoma Historical Society Tour back in 1995. The woodwork in the home is awesome in the entryway, stairs, and dining room with old buffet. Sliding doors to divide the living area and dining room was very nice. I included some photos of the home. I will treasure the memories made in this house. I love history and this home has a lot of that."

The property owners, Celena Kathan and Robert Koehne, thanked and informed the Commission that they had started an exterior paint job on the house the day before the meeting.

Vice-Chair Johnson was happy about the nomination and commended the owners for restoring the house.

Chair Bartoy called for testimony from members of the public. The following citizens testified:

- Sarah Sutton – Ms. Sutton provided her background as a new resident in the neighborhood and a museum and history professional. She was delighted to have such a stunning and distinctive house in the neighborhood, and appreciated the owners' commitment to restoring it.
- Michael Fast – Mr. Fast was part of the house's restoration team. He called it "probably the best example of a house in Tacoma (...) with the original millwork and sense of detailing of that period." He also spoke to the owners' commitment and attention to details in the restoration process.
- Joshua Brown – As a neighboring resident, Mr. Brown praised the property owners for not only their commitment but also their curiosity to learn about the history of the house as they were restoring it. He was excited to see the house placed on the Tacoma Register.
- Susan (Last Name not provided) – Susan expressed her full support for the nomination.

Chair Bartoy closed the public hearing at 5:50 p.m.

Commissioner Hilsendeger, in reference to a **previous** comment **previously made by a citizen**, inquired about how the nomination would affect the owner's ability to subdivide the lot in the future. Mr. McKnight responded that the Landmarks Preservation Commission focused on the integrity of the property and would review any proposed structural alterations; however, lot subdivision was not typically within the Commission's purview.

Commissioner Stewart made a motion: *"I move that the Landmarks Preservation Commission recommend to the City Council that 3334 North Gove Street, Wells R. Sears House, be included on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places, including the following elements, the home itself, finding that it does meet Criteria C and F of TMC 13.07.040."*

Commissioner Hilsendeger seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

5. NOMINATIONS TO THE TACOMA REGISTER – PRELIMINARY REVIEW

a. 201-05 N Yakima

Mr. McKnight read the staff report as provided in the packet.

Marshall McClintock, Historic Tacoma, stated the objectives of his presentation. The presentation covered reasons for which Historic Tacoma nominated the buildings, discussion of their significance and integrity, as well as mention of previous decisions by the Landmarks Preservation Commission concerning other buildings illustrating the range of significance that the Commission had considered. As Mr. McClintock presented, he also cited Criteria under which the buildings were eligible for nomination.

Ellen Mirro, Studio TJP, representing the properties' owners, stated that the owners did not support the nomination and had plan to develop the sites for housing. Although Ms. Mirro and the owners recognized the significance of the Wahlgren family and the florist business associated with the buildings, they did not believe it was sufficient to meet the threshold criteria for nomination. Ms. Mirro also indicated that Fred Wahlgren did not consider the properties part of his family's legacy, and presented a letter from him stating his intention in the

decision to sell them. Further, she argued that the buildings had been altered, which in turn affected the ability of the building to convey their period as well as original designs.

Several Commissioners commented on the buildings and the significance of the Wahlgren family in the community. The family significance was seen and heard more prominently in stories by community members than in research or documents. The Commission also made a point that despite the alterations, the buildings still carried significance of their period and history.

Vice-Chair Johnson made a motion: *"I move that the Landmarks Preservation Commission move 201 & 205 North Yakima Ave, Wahlgren florist and house, based on Criteria A, B, C, and F to a public hearing on September 9 with the Commission."*

Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

6. PRESERVATION PLANNING/BOARD BUSINESS

a. Fireman's Park – Art Installation

Amy McBride, Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality, provided background information on the installation, and noted that the Puyallup Tribe would not be involved in the project as they did not want their stories being told by non-Native artists. Another work of art would be commissioned in the future to represent the Tribe.

Naomi Strom-Avila continued the presentation, stating that the art installation was commissioned by the Port of Tacoma in commemoration of their centennial (2018). The installation would be owned by the City and become part of the Municipal Art Collection. Ms. Strom-Avila went on explain the meaning of the project and the design (approved on June 19, 2020). She also presented visual renderings of the proposed artwork and other relevant information.

The Commission asked clarifying questions about the design and future plans for the park overall.

b. Events & Activities Update

Staff reported to the Commission of the following:

- FORUM 2020 was conducted virtually and was a great success with a record number of attendees.
- On September 4, there would be a virtual tour of the waterfront guided by Pretty Gritty Tours.
- On November 21, there would be a virtual tour of Tacoma Now and Then.
- Staff was also working with Historic Tacoma and Tacoma Historical Society on a virtual lecture series (details to be announced later).

7. CHAIR COMMENTS

Chair Bartoy welcomed back furloughed staff and commended staff's work on FORUM 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

**These minutes are not a direct transcription of the meeting, but rather a brief capture. For full-length audio recording of the meeting, please visit: <http://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=67980>*