

Historic South Downtown Board Meeting
Hing Hay Coworks
February 25, 2020
Minutes

Board members present: Ken Takahashi, Jessica Rubenacker, Derek Lum, Dana Phelan, Jamie Lee, Shave Lawson, Stephanie Pure, Julie Fonseca de Borges, Carl Seip, Karen True, Maria Batayola (by phone)

Board absent: Azar Koulibaly, HyeEun Park

Staff: James King, Jr, Kathleen Johnson

Guests: Quynh Pham

5:05 pm

Quynh Pham reported to board members on activities and programs supported by HSD grant to Friends of Little Saigon.

Karen True reported on work by the Alliance for Pioneer Square with Valerie Tran at BDS Planning on community outreach and the development of a steering committee for direct investments in Pioneer Square.

5:16 pm – Meeting was called to order by Dana Phelan.

- Kathleen introduced the consent agenda, including approval of treasurer’s report, minutes from Jan 2019, and grant tracking report. Shava Lawson moved to approve the consent agenda, Karen True seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Kathleen described an oversight in the slate that was up for election to the board in November 2019. Jamie Lee, whose term on the board was up for renewal, was not included in this slate. The board can correct this error by voting to appoint her to the board for her next term. Maria moved to appoint Jamie Lee to the HSD Board in seat #6, Carl seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- Derek moved to confirm the board’s previous election of Jamie Lee as President, Ken seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- Kathleen reported that the Management Discussion and Analysis section of our financial audit needs additional time for review and incorporation into the final audit, so approval of the audit is being tabled until next month.
- Kathleen has sent the board a request to hold March 28 for board retreat. Focus of meeting will be sustainability of HSD. Stephanie will do a Legislature 101 presentation to the board. Kathleen has reached out to potential facilitators including Cindy Chen and Kenny Pittman. Cindy will not be available for next legislative session. Orlando Cano, who worked for Frank Chopp, may be available as a consultant, and helped write enabling legislation for HSD.
- There may be limits on lobbying activity by HSD – Carl suggested making sure that we are in compliance and whether there are limits in terms of staff time and expenditures on professional lobbyists. Current source of funding may be restricted in terms of our ability to use funds to lobby legislature. Kathleen will follow up with these issues. MRSC has good information on lobbying restrictions for state agencies.

- Kenny Pittman has worked with all PDAs in area and knows HSD very well. He advised Kathleen and Ken regarding pursuing future funding, and Kenny also offered to help find facilitator and to attend retreat and be a part of conversation.
- Possible retreat locations: OAC, Klondike, SPL. General consensus was that Klondike would work. Julie shared that there would be a film, Bearing the Unbearable, about Japanese-American incarceration from Bainbridge Island, following the retreat. Earlier start better – 8:30 am, maybe 9. Kathleen will confirm and follow up with agenda planning. Maria, Stephanie, and Julie will help plan agenda.
- Maria, Wren, and Kathleen met with Sharon Tomiko Santos morning of 2/25, discussing Cultural Access legislation. Executive Committee of Housing, Community Development, and Veterans Committee pulled the legislation out of committee. Prior legislation would allocate part of Cultural Access funding to HSD. Rep. Santos is trying to ensure HSD still gets a part of funding. Inspire Washington has said they will work to ensure HSD's eligibility for Cultural Access funding. Rep. Santos stated she has made this a top priority, but right now bill is on the floor with language that does not allocate funding directly to HSD. Kathleen is drafting an email to HSD board and to grantees, encouraging contacting key legislators to support floor amendment to Cultural Access legislation. Cindy Ryu has stated she will not kill the bill. Maria encouraged making the case for HSD as a model for other neighborhoods working for cultural preservation. Kathleen will share links to maps showing legislative districts. Carl raised the question of whether encouraging grantees to advocate to legislature is legal as a form of grassroots lobbying. Kathleen will look into this before directly encouraging advocacy by grantees.
- Discussion with Rep. Santos did not include discussion of other possible funding sources, focused just on Cultural Access legislation.
- Kathleen has been working to set up meeting with Peter Steinbrueck, but Port of Seattle staff have said he's not able to meet with HSD. Kathleen stated that Pier 48 discussions will continue with others.
- Kathleen met with Grace Norman to discuss cruise terminal, and will continue to assist Pioneer Square Residents Council with how to approach elected officials and advocate for mitigation of negative effects of terminal. Kathleen described differences and similarities in public process with different public agencies. Port of Seattle has new waterfront government liaison, and meeting with her may be next step. Shava asked how HSD had been engaged in the cruise ship terminal thus far. Kathleen stated that because our mission is to mitigate large scale public projects on the neighborhoods, it is important that we help channel and elevate voices of residents and stakeholders in neighborhoods. Karen noted that there are competing interests: residents who are concerned about impacts for good reasons, and businesses that are excited about the opportunities for good reasons. Perhaps HSD can help ensure that benefits really do go to local businesses and that cruise ship passengers don't just get shuttled to airport. Maria described her experience in navigating NEPA and suggested that there may be ways to support community through training. Kathleen described NEPA training that HSD board members and community members participated in. Maria will share other resources related to NEPA and training.
- Kathleen noted that Port has issued scoping report, which includes letters they received during scoping period.

- For the good of the order: Jamie shared Washington Trust for Historic Preservation advocacy alert regarding changes to NEPA that would limit scope of community involvement, including consideration of impact on cultural resources. Board members may wish to weigh in on individually, or HSD may wish to weigh in. Carl suggested that federal level advocacy may not be best use of HSD's time. James offered connection with EPA staff and Maria shares this connection. Maria moved for a letter regarding changes to NEPA from HSD but there was no second.

Jamie Lee adjourned the meeting at 6:08 pm.