

Minutes of the November 15, 2023, meeting of the Washington Historic Preservation Commission.

Members present: Dan Bagley, Denny Dingleline, Brent Goken, Dan Philips, Walter Ruppman, Nancy Silverthorn, and Leri Slonneger

Members absent: None

Also present: Jon Oliphant, Derek Schryer, and Jim Snider

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m.
2. Audience Comments: Jewel Ward, representing the Washington Historical Society, said that she objected to the reference on Page 3 of the March 30 minutes about the City's building inspector having been to each of the properties adjacent to the brewpub site.
3. Approval of Minutes: Mr. Goken mentioned three items that he wanted to have included in the March 30 minutes as follows: 1) Acknowledging the agreement by the brewpub to "be good neighbors" and to cover costs due to damage with the emphasis (to the developer and HPC) these statements be included in the official minutes of that meeting; 2) He mentioned that approved minutes for public meetings can be used in court, if needed, acknowledging the attorney in the room with a remark of "I'm not an attorney. My brother is, and we have one present today. I'm pretty sure by you publicly promising to work with your neighbors and resolve any conflicts, those statements are part of a public record."; and 3) Acknowledging the secretary taking minutes that "I'm assuming since notes from this meeting are being taken, my statements will be included in the minutes." Mr. Ruppman asked about having a motion for the approval of the minutes to be tabled. Mr. Goken said that he would like to listen to a recording of the prior meeting. Mr. Phillips said that the HPC is not charged with being involved between neighboring property owners.

Mr. Goken said that there should be a balance between supporting the developer and the rest of the residents. Audience member Kelly Pohl said that she thinks that any differences between the developer and neighbors have been addressed. Mr. Schryer said that the discussion this evening should be on the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Goken said that the developer should cover the cost of any damage done to the neighboring properties and to be a good neighbor. Mr. Ruppman said that what is modern today is historical tomorrow. Ms. Silverthorn asked if the COA included the demolition and the exterior design together or separately. Several people said that they were considered together.

Mr. Phillips made a motion to approve the March 30, 2023, minutes with the inclusion of the statements by Mr. Goken. Mr. Goken said that a review should be done of the HPC regulations, including the terms, powers and duties, ongoing surveying, guidelines for the creation for landmarks and districts, and to have HPC members serve in HPC roles, not staff serving in those roles. Mr. Oliphant said that he took over the chairperson role after the prior chairperson resigned and someone needed to run the meetings and said that he does not want to be the chairperson or to take minutes. Mr. Phillips agreed with having term limits. Mr. Goken said that the developer should be required to show proof of meeting with the neighboring property owners. Mr. Phillips said that the goal should be for all properties to be beautiful and successful.

Ms. Silverthorn said we should adhere to the City's regulations and to maintain the historical look of the Square. Mr. Goken said that the HPC should take a more active role in advance of

demolitions. Ms. Silverthorn said that the Denhart's building could be taken out of the National Historic Register due to its exterior modification. Ms. Slonneger said that any HPC approvals should be made before construction is completed. Mr. Goken said a retreat could be held to go over the regulations. Ms. Slonneger clarified that Marlene Miller inherited having vinyl siding on her building next to the brewpub property. Mr. Ruppman said that more frequent meetings should be held to approve minutes. Mr. Phillips, Mr. Bagley, Mr. Goken, and Mr. Ruppman offered their resignations pending others being appointed in their place.

Mr. Phillips's prior motion to approve the minutes that included the statements made by Mr. Goken. Second by Mr. Bagley. Motion approved 7-0.

4. New Business: None
5. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:24 pm. The next meeting date will be at a time and location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Oliphant