

**Building Excellence II Levy Oversight Committee
Meeting Notes, December 9, 2005
Stanford Center, Room 2765, 7:30a - 9:30a**

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Ron Jelaco
Ed Peters
Karin Nyrop

District Staff

Ron English
Don Gillmore
Julie Krick

Heery International Staff

Mike Finnegan
Roxann Robinson
Ralph Rohwer
Mitch Romero

Members Absent

David Hudd
Joey Ing
Mark Melroy

School Board Director

Sally Soriano

Bassetti Architects

Lorne McConachie
Jay Johnson

MINUTES APPROVAL FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2005 MEETINGS

Minutes not approved due to lack of quorum.

LANDMARKS BOARD, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STRATEGIES FOR HISTORIC BUILDINGS (PowerPoint)

Lorne McConachie, Bassetti Architects, was on the Landmarks Board for 8 years and was the chair for 5.

Discussion comments

- The District has been doing historic preservation. The main issue is whether or not it compromises the educational needs of a school. Staff has discussed with the School Board the cost implications of changing our focus on historic preservation.
- Each building is different and therefore costs of preservation are different. Historic preservation is another overlay of costs. The cost of preservation at Roosevelt is approximately 10% of the building. The factors added to planning costs are usually 10 – 20% in general.
- Seattle is a leader in the nation in educational and architectural revitalization of its historic schools.
- Ed specs are now criteria the Landmarks Board must consider. This was negotiated by City and District as part of Mayor's Task Force 10 years ago.
- Even a perfectly maintained building from another period does not meet the code or educational standards of today. Not all buildings are well built or even very functional when they are built.
- The architects we work with are experienced with historic projects.

The Committee was asked for an opinion on the following statement. This statement was recently revised. It is in the Facilities Master Plan; Chapter 3, Planning Assumptions, Principles, and Classifications; Planning Principles, Section 4, Increase Accountability, the fifth (last) bullet: The statement now reads: "Address responsibly the public interest in historic preservation and the retention of historic character, of both building exteriors and interiors, while acknowledging the paramount importance of meeting the educational needs of Seattle's children."

- This language may give too much balance to historic preservation and only "acknowledges" education needs.
- It appears that a good design balance has now been achieved in the levies between preservation and educational needs and this language may change the balance. What the District and the Landmarks Board have achieved has produced excellent results for educational flexibility and preserving some of the historic aspects. The educational value has to be first and must be emphasized. The district is in the business of education.
- Public interest in preservation does change over time.
- Director Soriano would like to have a further conversation on this and include Director Flynn.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was held.

FUTURE AGENDA

Discussion on the process for selection of levy projects, including why Laurelhurst has not been selected.

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