

Design Review Board

November 11, 2015

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM

Attendance

- Board Members Present: Chris Batten; Chair, Craig Andersen; Vice-Chair, David Buescher, Austin Dickey, Colleen Gardner, Jacqui Halvorson, Jeff Logan
- Board Members Not Present: Steven Meek
- Staff Present: Julie Neff, Tirrell Black; Planning and Development, Berry Ellison; Parks & Recreation

Briefing Session:

1. Chair Comments
 - None
2. Staff Comments
 - November 25th meeting has been cancelled in observance of Thanksgiving.
 - Introduced Planning Department's new Urban Designer, Omar Akkari.

October 14, 2015 meeting minutes approved

Board Workshop

1. 2nd Meeting on the South Channel Howard Street Bridge Replacement
 - Staff report: Tirrell Black, Planning and Development
 - Applicant Report: Mark Brower; CH2M
 - Public Comment: None
 - Questions asked and answered

Workshop Motion

Based on the review of the materials submitted by the applicant and discussions during the November 11, 2015 public workshop, it is recommended that the applicant should show how the bridge structure can be flexible enough to handle change to the Amenity zones. Investigate the length and location of the drop down zones with respective views and context. Amenity zones should be integrated in the bridge so they don't look like they've been applied. Materials of this design need to speak to the nature of Spokane while maintaining the open transparent nature. Revisit the purpose and impact of the interior balustrade. Consider the benefits of emitting the interior balustrade in favor of providing a more open and transparent balustrade. Also examine opportunities to eliminate the balustrade and still provide seating and lighting and utilities.

Craig Andersen moved to approve; Motion seconded by ??? and motion carries unanimously

Board Business

1. **Mayors Urban Design Awards Discussion. Facilitated by Luke Baumgarten .**
 - Ask in the submission process for submitters to respond to the 15 criteria.
 - This is unanimous.
 - And maybe there should be fewer criteria.
 - Maybe some redundancies to eliminate.
 - **Regardless: they need to know what those criteria are and encourage them to speak to those criteria.**

Note: Minutes summarized by staff. An audiotape of the meeting is on file - Design Review Board Urban Design, City of Spokane.

- This allows the jury to more closely understand the thought behind the design
- Additional thoughts on the criteria
 - One of the key considerations in awarding The Nest was its ambitious programming, which isn't part of the criteria.
- As some awesome/exciting projects don't necessarily fit the existing criteria, it may be prudent to think up new awards
 - New Award possibilities
 - Have something that's just architectural/aesthetic/design
 - Maybe a renovation award?
 - Cool project category
 - People like this idea
- There should be a public works / schools category
 - Should be held to past expectations
 - These should be held in a different class | Public versus Private
 - Gateways, parks, parkways, etc.
 - "Is this really better than Shadle? Rogers? Will it be better than Hutton?"
 - We need to encourage them to improve.
 - Held to higher expectations.
 - This sentiment seems unanimous.
 - "For its project type, did this raise the bar?"
 - Maybe it's more of a comparison to past work within that category
 - Are we comparing against all the projects ever?
 - Or are we comparing against this year's projects?
 - Left as an open question to consider.
- It would have been nice to go take a look at the submittals in person too.
 - Nice to send the list out beforehand
 - Already broken up into groups
 - A little more time to go through the submissions
 - A history would be helpful for reference
 - Who did what when?
- In addition, during jurying, people felt like there wasn't enough time to really get their heads around the projects
 - Suggested use of Dropbox beforehand to allow for more time
 - Would feel less superficial
 - Walkthroughs are a big thing for Colleen
- Current categories are inside and outside the limits and masterplans and projects
 - Should we kill these categories?
 - Rethink them?
 - Should we add public and private? Should we add dollar values?
- The group would like to do a retreat in a year to solidify the plan for 2017

Meeting Adjourned at 6:21pm

Next Design Review Board meeting is scheduled for **December 9, 2015**

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