



DESIGN COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MARCH 26, 2014

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Richard Erwin called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM in the Council Chambers, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

ROLL CALL:

Chair Richard Erwin, Vice-Chair Colin Brandt, Commissioners Susanne Foster, Nadine Laszlo, Lara Sanderson, and Tami Szerlip were present. Commissioner Hui Tian was not present.

STAFF PRESENT:

Scott Greenberg, Development Services Group Director; Christina Schuck, Assistant City Attorney; and George Steirer, Principal Planner, were present.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

The Design Commission reviewed the minutes from the March 12, 2014 meeting. Commissioner Brandt motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Foster seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

STUDY SESSION – Mercer Island Elementary School 04 – 4030 86th Ave SE

George Steirer provided the staff report and responded to a question from the Design Commission.

Joanne Wilcox of Mahlum Architects Inc gave the applicant's presentation and answered questions from the Design Commission.

Brandy Fox, Project Manager for the Mercer Island School District answered questions from the Design Commission.

The main issues of concern to the Design Commission included:

1. Examine north elevation modulation, especially the continuous upper floor windows
2. Examine the potential of using plantings on northern bump outs and band of windows.
3. Examine options to 'warm up' the northern façade. Art, planting overhangs, roof modulation, etc.
4. Continue to examine (student) art in the large window areas
5. Suggest transforming the concrete perimeter walls with paintings or other art
6. Have the landscape architect explore ways to save the large maple tree on the Northern side of the site
7. Examine celebrating the main entries a little more with art and/or color
8. Show lighting and protection of neighboring properties.
9. Be careful with trees immediately adjacent to walls
10. Be careful of certain tree species (west side) near building that require more significant lighting.
11. Consider alternative tree species in the bus turn around.
12. Plants in courtyard should be native, non-poisonous, and shorter.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Staff had no additional comments.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is April 9, 2014. Vice Chair Brandt and Commissioner Sanderson will be absent on April 9, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Erwin adjourned the meeting at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
George Steirer, Principal Planner