MEETING OF THE CIVIC DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE

Monday, October 21, 2024 2:00 p.m. Hybrid Meeting

Draft Minutes

Chair Abby Sadin Schnair called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

1. Roll Call (00:08)

Commissioners Present: Abby Sadin Schnair (Chair); Seth Brenzel, Patrick Carney, Jessica Rothschild, Janine Shiota

Staff Present: Ralph Remington, Director of Cultural Affairs; Sarah Hollenbeck, Deputy Director of Finance and Administration; Paris Cotz, Program Associate; Manraj Dhaliwal, Commission Secretary

Chair Schnair announced the meeting instructions.

Program Associate Paris Cotz announced public comment instructions.

Chair Schnair began the meeting reading the Arts Commission's land acknowledgement statement.

2. General Public Comment (6:15)

There was no general public comment.

3. SFO Terminal 3 West Modernization: Phase 2 Review (6:55)

The project team gave an overview of project context to remind commissioners of the overall goals.

The team is considering the amount of solar radiation and glare that can entre the landside façade of the building. The solution is to use frit on the glass and fins to shield the building year-round.

The team shared a major design change, in softening the boxiness of the roof into an arch to create a more singular expression to connect all of the different areas. The glass canopy has been switched to a metal canopy, in order to simplify the façade and to shade the sidewalks. The entryways are colored with a warm bronze to emphasize the doorways to ensure easier pick up, as well as to reflect the interior warmth. A mechanical penthouse had to be added and bookends one on the opposite end and is not visible from the ground level.

Commissioners commended the team for their design and agree that the arched eyebrow creates lightness and structural purpose. Commissioners also appreciated the expanded beveled doorways with increased signage to alleviate traffic congestion.

Commissioners asked about the scale of the new terminal. The team responded that it is of the same scale as Terminal 2.

Commissioner Brenzel, seconded by Commissioner Shiota, moved to approve SFO Terminal 3 West Modernization: Phase 2 Review.

The motion was unanimously approved by the following vote: Ayes: Brenzel, Carney, Schnair, Shiota

There was no public comment.

4. Kezar Pavilion Renovation: Phase 1 Review

(43:45)

The project team presented an updated design and gave a building program overview since their previous Phase 1 review and Informal Work Session. The key feedback they have received included: creating a more unified design between Annex and landscape; address circulation to stadium gates; site furnishings and paving needs more consideration and should better relate to historic architecture; north elevation of Annex could relate more to historic architecture; integrate architectural materials and details to support a more inviting and human-scale design.

The human scale design is supported by a raised planter sectioned with wooden benches on the north elevation of the Annex. The windows on the first floor have been recessed and made smaller to emphasize the shadow lines and includes terracotta spandrel panels. The team shared details of a utility structure at the entry driveway for electrical equipment.

The landscape design team shared details of the plaza programming. The new plaza design is punctuated by a two-sided arced bench, inspired by the geometry of the historic façade. The site furnishings are inward facing and feature a consistency of materials. The team reviewed the site plantings.

Commissioners suggested removing every other terracotta louver on the south side of the Annex to increase visibility and asked about whether the pantry box can be absorbed into the event space.

Commissioners agreed that the south annex elevation of the Annex needs further refinement and that the utility structure should be further beautified.

Commissioner Brenzel, seconded by Commissioner Shiota, moved to approve Kezar Pavilion Renovation: Phase 1 Review.

The motion was unanimously approved by the following vote: Ayes: Brenzel, Carney, Rothschild, Schnair, Shiota

There was no public comment.

5. Jackson Playground Renovation Project: Phase 1 Review

(1:08:50)

The project team gave an overview of the site context, project development, and community engagement process since their last review in 2020. The team highlighted the tightly spaced baseball fields and overall accessibility issues, as their redesign focus. The community priorities are increasing passive open space/green space and improving the community center space.

The team is proposing to move and rotate the clubhouse from Mariposa Street to Carolina Street, which allows the baseball fields to be spaced further apart and opens up space along the perimeter of the park. This would increase the overall programming area by 9500 square feet. The team reviewed the site materials and play area design, as well as the planting palette. The public art opportunities are proposed as panels or walls on either the street side of the clubhouse or the clubhouse itself. The team shared the goals of the clubhouse rehab, which will include expanding the space, to create a welcoming entry point and to function as a hub for the entire park.

Commissioners commended the project team for their design and concerted community engagement process, especially how they merged the park into the sidewalk area.

Commissioners commented that the roof of the clubhouse has a heaviness to it and advised them to lighten up the roof to function more like a canopy.

Commissioner Carney, seconded by Commissioner Shiota, moved to approve Jackson Playground Renovation Project: Phase 1 Review.

The motion was unanimously approved by the following vote: Ayes: Brenzel, Carney, Rothschild, Schnair, Shiota

Public Comment:

A community member from the Potrero Hill Archive Project shared what impressed them the most about the new design, highlighting renovations and relocation of the clubhouse, the imaginative play area, and the maintenance of the existing olive trees.

A community member from Friends of Jackson Park expressed their excitement about collaborating with the design team on the park's redesign.

6. San Francisco Fire Department Division of Training: Phase 1 Review

(1:47:50)

As a reminder, the team gave an overview of the project site and the technical complexity of the project. The team has conducted multiple community outreach meetings with local constituents.

The team shared their master plan strategy, which includes an underlying campus ordering system that emulates the fabric of the neighborhood. The outdoor educational zones present as four distinct quadrangles: traditional classrooms with outdoor interface; tactical/operational; scenario district; and outdoor/adaptable training space and vehicle operations.

The team shared their preferred massing concept for the Carroll Avenue frontage, which connects a collection of diverse building types—a garage, a support building, an office building and a utility yard—into a consistent, unified civic structure. The façade features a continuous brick perimeter, and variety is achieved through a pattern of window openings. There will be a tower that will function as facility beacon and identity, and the increasing scale will mark the campus entry. The team shared their inspiration for the brick façade, which functions as a legacy material for fire departments but also a local material for the nearby shipyards. The team shared the overview of the organizational programming of the campus.

The team shared their material palette, landscape palette, streetscape design, and art opportunities.

Commissioners suggested adding more openings along the pedestrian level to open up certain sections of the façade. Commissioners commended the material palette and the tower concept.

Commissioners commented that the street facing façade is closed off and too simple, whereas the internal structure is more inviting. They suggested reversing the two concepts and experimenting with a mix of concepts and materials to create a more organic and human-scaled design.

Commissioners enjoyed the idea of using the tower as the artwork site. Commissioners asked the team to explain further in their next review what their plan was to make the brick façade seismically sound.

Commissioner Brenzel, seconded by Commissioner Shiota, moved to approve San Francisco Fire Department Division of Training: Phase 1 Review.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Brenzel, Carney, Schnair, Shiota

Nays: Rothschild

There was no public comment.

7. Great Famine Memorial: Small Project Review

(2:23:55)

The project team gave a background overview and history of the project, including past approvals. The design team shared the project location within Golden Gate National Recreation Area in Lincoln Park Golf Course.

The project will consist of a concrete platform that will function as a sculpture platform, as an overlook to the Golden Gate Bridge and will feature storytelling plaques about the Great Irish Famine. The sculpture will be commissioned through a competitive process. The team reviewed the material palette as well as site lighting and the plant palette.

Commissioners asked whether the wheelchair entrance and remove the stair on the other side of the slope. The team answered that because of the topography it is difficult to create a level platform.

Commissioners recommended opening up the U-shape to be gentler and rounder which might give the site more space, as well.

Commissioner Carney, seconded by Commissioner Brenzel, moved to approve Great Famine Memorial: Small Project Review.

The motion was unanimously approved by the following vote: Ayes: Brenzel, Carney, Rothschild, Schnair, Shiota

Public Comment:

Micheál Smith, Ireland's Consul General to the Western United States, commended this project and thanked the project team and City Hall, on behalf of the consulate. Smith commented that this is a commemoration not just to those affected by the Great Famine but to the endurance and resilience of all communities who have gone through hardships and have found a new life in this part of the world.

8. New Business and Announcements

(2:36:15)

There was no new business nor announcements.

There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40pm.