

KING COUNTY LANDMARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES*

*June 22, 2023
Zoom Conference Platform &
Preston Community Center
8625 310th Ave SE
Preston, WA
(Approved 09/28/2023)*

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Cristy Lake, Chair, Francesca Renouard, Jeff Murdock, Huy Pham, Amy Blue, Amber Earley, Kim Hartman

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: Dean Kralios

STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Steen

GUESTS: Rachel Bennett, Tom Hitzroth, Rick Divers, Sarah Martin, Kathy Lambert, Brian Kursar, Bonnie Eiber, T.J. Davis

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Lake called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Introductions of commissioners and staff were made, and the Chair outlined the structure of the hearing.

Convene NORTH BEND LANDMARKS COMMISSION

SPECIAL COMMISSIONER: Kevin Burrows

CITY STAFF PRESENT: None

GUESTS: Rachel Bennett

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS #23.16: Twede's Café, North Bend Historic Commercial District – proposal to install neon "RR" addition to café signage.

Steen gave a brief staff report detailing the history of the historic district and the pop cultural connection between the café and the 1990s TV show "Twin Peaks" inspiring the request for additional signage. Applicant/owner Rachel Bennett described the community interest in restoring the neon "RR" on free-standing café sign as it was for Twin Peaks. She noted that the Kickstarter campaign to fund the restoration raised more than enough funds in one day, and said that the café is an important tourist draw to downtown North Bend. Bennett also said that the design for the new neon "RR" was based on the original template used by the show's producers. Commissioner Murdock offered the DRC report, noting that the DRC thought the project proposal was minor, easily reversible, and provided a connection to a significant show in popular culture history. Chair Lake called for public comment. Hearing none, she asked if Commissioners had any questions of the applicant or staff. Hearing none, Lake closed the public comment portion of the meeting and invited Commissioners to deliberate. Commissioner Renouard said the project had clear community interest, and Commissioner Pham stated that he believed the project appropriate under that Standards and showcased how they can apply to significant features from contemporary history.

*May include minutes for cities who have interlocal historic preservation agreements with King County.

Commissioners Earley, Hartman and Lake concurred. Special Commissioner Burrows noted the integration of fictional history and actual history, referring to the cultural impact of the TV show. Lake called for a motion.

Burrows/Blue moved to approve CoA #23.16 as proposed and recommended by the DRC. The motion passed, 8-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT (*general*): None

ADJOURN: The NBLC adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Convene KING COUNTY LANDMARKS COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING: Preston Mill Drying Kiln landmark nomination

Nomination author Sarah Martin presented the history and significance of the drying kiln, including her argument that it is eligible for landmark designation under criterion A1. Steen offered a staff report covering the designation process and the staff recommendation in support of designation. Steen also described the County's plan for park development at the old lumber mill site. King County parks project manager T.J. Davis also spoke to parks' phased plan for the Preston Mill Park, noting that a use had not been determined for the drying kiln.

Chair Lake opened the floor to public comment. Kathy Lambert, former King County Councilmember representing District 3, spoke in support of the nomination.

Hearing no further comment from the public, Chair Lake asked if the Commissioners had questions of staff or the applicant. Commissioner Blue asked Davis about a structural stabilization plan for the kiln. Davis replied that taking community input on the future use of the kiln building was an element of the phased development plan, and further decisions would be made then. Commissioner Murdock asked Martin if there were any clues left to indicate the conveyance system within the structure, when it was in active use as a drying kiln. Martin said that it was assumed the kiln had one, but all remnants had been removed. Rick Divers, with the Fall City Historical Society, noted that there were square openings on the interior concrete walls. Chair Lake said that others in the Snoqualmie Valley used flatcars on railroad tracks which could be easily removed.

Hearing no further comment or questions, Chair Lake closed the floor for public comment and asked the Commissioners to deliberate on the nomination application. Commissioner Renouard said that the lumber industry and Preston Mill had played an important role in the region's history, and that the kiln qualified for designation under A1. Commissioner Pham noted that the report made a clear case and that he supports the nomination. Commissioner Hartman noted that the kiln was an early use of concrete in the area. Commissioner Murdock said the kiln was a beautiful utilitarian structure where construction details could be easily read, and that the kiln lent itself well to public interpretation efforts. Commissioners Earley, Blue and Lake concurred.

Blue/Murdock moved to approve landmark designation of the Preston Mill Drying Kiln under criterion A1, with the following boundaries and features of significance: the building footprint and a 10' buffer zone surrounding the structure; all exterior features and the open volumes of the two interior bays. The motion passed, 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT (*general*): None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

ADJOURN: The KCLC adjourned at 6:05 p.m.