

# KING COUNTY LANDMARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES\*

*November 16, 2023  
Zoom Conference Platform &  
King Street Center  
Eighth Floor – Rm 8J  
Seattle, WA  
(Approved 12/21/2023)*

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Cristy Lake, Chair, Dean Kralios, Vice-Chair, Francesca Renouard, Jeff Murdock, Amber Earley, Kim Hartman, Amy Blue

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Huy Pham

**STAFF PRESENT:** Sarah Steen, Jennifer Meisner

**GUESTS:** Sue Thomas, Louise Luce, Sarah Martin, Denise Smith, Eugenia Woo

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Lake called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. Introductions of commissioners and staff were made, and the Chair outlined the structure of the hearing.

## **Convene ISSAQUAH LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

**SPECIAL COMMISSIONER:** *Vacant*

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:** None

**GUESTS:** Sue Thomas, Louise Luce, Sarah Martin, Denise Smith, Eugenia Woo

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Wenberg House Landmark Nomination

Nomination author Sarah Martin presented the history and significance of the Wenberg House, including her argument that it is eligible for landmark designation under criteria A1, A3 and A5. Martin also detailed the house's eligibility under the standards described in King County's *Mid Century Modern Residential Multiple Property Document*.

Steen offered a staff report covering the designation process and the staff recommendation in support of designation. Steen also raised lingering staff questions regarding eligibility under criteria A5 for Commission discussion.

Chair Lake stated that the Commission had received two letters of support for the designation of the Wenberg House, which she entered into the hearing record, then opened the floor to public comment.

Eugenia Woo, Executive Director of Historic Seattle and cofounder of Docomomo WEWA, spoke in support of the nomination.

Denise Smith, neighbor and friend of owner Louise Luce, 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 Murdock asked what the source was for the large stone hearth on the

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

southwest corner of the house. Owner Louise Luce and her niece Sue Thomas said that Louise and Johan had spent weekends collecting the stones for the hearth from Surveyor's Lake near Snoqualmie Pass. Commissioner Blue asked if the large masonry stove in the bedroom should be included as a significant interior feature. Steen said that she generally advocates caution when it comes to designating interior features in historic houses, and that the large stone hearth in the living room was the only interior feature staff had recommended be included as significant.

Commissioner Kralios said that the interior post-and-beam structure should be included as a significant feature, as those structural elements continue to the exterior and are key features of the Pacific Northwest Regional architectural style. He went on to say that the nomination was excellent, and that he was unsure regarding eligibility under criterion A5 since he didn't know enough about architect Omer Mithun's other work to make a definitive comparison.

Commissioner Murdock supported eligibility under A5, as Mithun's designs became known for their environmental sustainability, and the Wenberg House represents some of his early work along that line. Murdock said that Mithun played a key role in creating Seattle's cultural focus on environmental sustainability in architectural design.

Hearing no further comment or questions, Chair Lake closed the floor for public comment and asked the Commissioners to deliberate on the nomination application. Commissioners Blue, Hartman, Renouard, Earley and Chair Lake all concurred with Murdock that the house was eligible under A5, and with Kralios that the house was eligible under A1 and A3.

Blue/Hartman moved to approve landmark designation of the Wenberg House under criterion A1, A3 and A5, with the following boundaries and features of significance: the boundaries of the legal parcel on which the house sits; all exterior features, the exterior and interior post-and-beam structural system, the interior stone hearth including the copper hood, and all the land area within the landmark boundaries (for new construction only). The motion passed, 7-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (*general*): None

**ADJOURN:** The ILC adjourned at 5:22 p.m

### **Convene KING COUNTY LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (*general*): None

**HISTORIC OFFICER'S REPORT:** Meisner reminded the Commission that HPP's next Regional Training was coming up, covering bottle identification in historic archaeology reglazing historic wood windows. Meisner then said that the John D. Spellman Awards will be held in person out at the Si View Activity Center in North Bend on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Chair Lake would be presenting the landmark certificates this year.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**ADJOURN:** The KCLC adjourned at 5:27 p.m.