

Historic Preservation Review Board Work Session Wednesday, February 10, 2016 6:00 PM

The Historic Preservation Review Board met for a work session, at 6:02 PM at Town Hall.

Board Members present: Mike Vouri, Stephen Revella, and David Harsh.

Also present: Sandy Strehlou, HPRB Coordinator; Peggy Sue McRae, Recording Secretary.

Pocket Park on Spring Street

Members of the HPRB met for a work session to discuss a proposed pocket park on Spring Street in front of Haley's, the Palace Theatre and the breezeway between those two establishments. The board and staff agreed that they would like to weigh in on the project while there is still time to address issues of concern.

HPRB Coordinator Sandy Strehlou introduced the subject. Architectural designs for both Plan A, and Plane B, were available to view. HPRB board members present for the work session made the following comments.

Comments:

Less is more. Landscaping functions as art. Tom Small granite bench is a functional art piece. All agreed that sculptural features by Tom Small are desirable.

A functioning water feature would relate to the history of Spring Street if it incorporated a well pump or related theme.

If more art must be added, a dog sculpture would better relate to Friday Harbor's "sense of place" than sea life. Marine themed art is appropriate along the shoreline but not in the commercial business part of town.

The walls on either side of the breezeway between the theatre and Haley's are private property on both sides. It is very narrow and therefore any covering above the walkway it would cut out what little natural light comes into it. String lights seem appropriate.

Murals in the breezeway (on either wall) would require more viewing space than exists in this location and are not recommended.

The existing boarded-up windows on one of the walls would be appropriate for art of a small scale. Installations could be added without structural changes to the building. Adding frames to these openings would create a false architectural premise and would feel contrived.

Putting an arched sign above the breezeway would block the visual pathway into the Farmers Market area. This would diminish the visual impact of a potential kinetic sculpture that has been recommended by the Sunshine Alley consultants for the corner of the Brickworks property. If signage is required to identify the alley entrances, small removable signs announcing market days on either side of the breezeway entry walls, (flat against the wall,) would be less visually disruptive while still achieving a way-finding objective for pedestrians in a fun, artistic way.

Scored concrete without added design elements was generally preferred. Simple is better. Granite boulders for sitting are preferred.

The Board members attending the work session do not recommend the addition of a decorative, illuminated, column feature. If there must be a column, one in the form of welded metal tools referencing the ally's industrial past, or a thin round European style-Kiosk were suggested--neither including lighting.

Street furniture should be careful not to block the flow of pedestrian traffic.

Vegetation should be done with native plants. A tree is not necessary and may block desired views.

Stone is the preferred material for a wall on the traffic side.

Work Session adjourned 7:30

Peggy Sue McRae, Recording Secretary