

**LANDMARKS PRESERVATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:**

**Vince Sugrue, Chair
Klara Komorous, Vice-Chair
Chris Andrews
Ben Fu
Marcus Johnson
Nenna Joiner
Tim Mollette-Parks**

**LANDMARKS PRESERVATION
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES:**

**December 14, 2020
Special Meeting 5 PM
Via: Tele-Conference**

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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Chair Sugrue @ 5:03pm

ROLL CALL:

**Board Members present: Fu, Johnson, Joiner, Vice-Chair Komorous,
Mollette- Parks, Sugrue
Board Members absent: Andrews
Staff present: Pete Vollmann, Betty Marvin**

WELCOME BY CHAIR - Board Chair Vince Sugrue welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked **Pete Vollmann, Board Secretary**, to give a helpful explanation on the meeting. He gave some pointers on how this works for everyone in attendance either by Zoom or by phone. **By Zoom:** he asked all attendees to lower any hands that are raised and only raise them if you're interested in speaking on an item when it's called. This will help us avoid confusion and calling speakers for the wrong item. The system will keep track of the order of hands that are raised and it's important that once you raise your hand, keep it raised, unless you change your mind about speaking. Lowering and raising your hand will bump you to the end of the line. Each speaker will have a maximum of 2 minutes to speak and during this time, speakers cannot concede time. When it's your time to speak, the City will unmute you and then you will need to unmute yourself on your device to begin speaking. **By phone to comment:** you press *9 to engage the raise your hand feature. When it's your time to speak, the City will refer to you by the last four digits of your phone number and then press *6 to unmute yourself. If you do not wish to speak on any item, you can also view the hearing on KTOP Live on television as well, instead of this platform if you so choose.

BOARD BUSINESS

Agenda Discussion - None

Board Matters –

Board Elections – Board Secretary Vollmann – explained the process for the Board elections; every year we have Board Elections and these are elections done by the Board Members, to select a Chair and Vice-Chair. This was done a year ago in December, so we're here to set-up for the new year going forward. If anyone wishes to nominate someone they can do so and then it requires a motion to adopt that person as Chair/Vice-Chair. There will be one vote each for Chair/Vice-Chair. **Chair Sugrue** – asked the Board

Members if they had a nomination or motion they wanted to present. **Vice-Chair Komorous** – nominated Chair Sugrue to continue as Chair. **Board Member Fu** – seconded the nomination. **Vollmann** – before we take a vote, Chair Sugrue’s term will expire this coming year (2021). It needs to be noted that it is recognized as part of that motion to wave the limitation on electing a member as chair when their term expires in the coming year. Typically, a Chair is not added if they are ‘termed out’ during the next year, but the Board can wave that as part of the motion. **Fu** – asked if Chair Sugrue would term out in 2021. **Vollmann** – his terms ends-out in the middle of 2021, however, if there’s no appointment made to replace him, then he can stay on until (if he wishes) a replacement appointment is made. **Fu** – at that point, we’ll have to re-elect a new Chair for the duration of the year. **Vollmann** – that is correct, we can go forward if that does happen. The Vice-Chair can step into the Chair role until an election is made for a new Chair. **Komorous** – amended her previous motion, and asked to nominate our current Chair Sugrue to continue in his role and wave the time constraints. **Fu** – seconded the motion. **Vollmann** – did verbal roll call; (6 ayes), the motion passes, **Vince Sugrue** will continue as **Chair** for the next year. **Sugrue** – do we have a nomination and subsequent motion for Vice-Chair. **Mollette-Parks** – made a motion, nominating Vice-Chair Komorous to continue as Vice-Chair. **Fu** – seconded the motion. **Vollmann** – did verbal roll call; (6 ayes), the motion passes, **Klara Komorous** will continue as **Vice-Chair** for the next year.

Sub-committee Reports – None

Secretary Reports – None

OPEN FORUM – No Public Speakers

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation by Oakland Heritage Alliance on the Cryer Boatworks site.

Naomi Schiff, Oakland Heritage Alliance (OHA) - did a PowerPoint presentation on the historic Cryer Boatworks building, recently destroyed by fire. She stated, that she wasn’t sure if people knew about the building but wanted to describe it and, also point to some larger issues that this destruction raises. The historic building burned down on November 13, 2020 and was not in formal use, but brings the question, “how can we prevent destruction of Oakland’s unoccupied historic buildings?” The building was largely destroyed, which sits just north of Union Point Park and is very close to the access to Coast Guard Island. It was called the Cryer site by the City and, the City had put in 2.5 million dollars in improving the area around it. Most recently, the park has been occupied by the homeless and some interaction by the BCDC, (Bay Conservation and Development Commission) about this being an ‘inappropriate and damaging’ use of the site which is their purview. The building sits on the Waterfront Trail and money has already been spent on the project. One of the issues is the contamination of the ground and there has been a clean-up effort. The building couldn’t be used for residential activities but there was some hope for re-use and it being over 100 years old, it was a historic remnant of our Maritime past. Founded by William Cryer in the 1890’s, he operated Cryer & Sons Boatyard in Oakland from 1907 till 1989. They built and repaired wooden powerboats, repaired steel-hulled boats, during World War II, built small coastal transports for the U.S. Navy and are still well known and active today.

What this does bring up is that, our empty historic buildings are at risk and I’m hoping that the LPAB will think about this. We lost our 99-year old, 23rd Avenue Library to fire on 2/23/18 and, the privately owned 16th & Wood Train Station has suffered from damage. We have other damages to properties including; leaks, intrusion, theft, graffiti and demolition. When an owner, either private or public, allows a building to get in such a state of dis-repair, it ends up being condemned or demolished for safety reasons. One of our concerns is the historic Moss House in Mosswood Park, which is about to have a big renovation of its

Recreation Center, which was also destroyed by fire and burned down on 11/26/2016. This extremely valuable example of Carpenter Gothic, is at risk and it would be a terrible loss. We have been discussing with Public Works, are there ways to better secure the building including; a monitored alarm system, putting heavy metal mesh on the outside of the windows (to stop breakage) and finding a way to utilize the building. Also, we don't know what is happening with the Fire Insurance payments. We never did find out what happened to the money (insurance payments) for the 23rd Avenue Library and again, the Boatworks building is insured. We propose, that the Insurance Policy proceeds from such fires, should go to Public Works and be earmarked to preserve the City owned, valuable structures. She added, that this isn't just us (OHA) saying, "it would be nice to save these buildings", the City does have a policy to preserve its own Historic buildings, the policy is in our General Plan and is in the Historic Preservation Element (Policy 3.2). Unfortunately, the City has not been performing very well in taking care of its own historic properties. She asked the LPAB to put this on their agenda and propose to the Planning Commission and the City Council, when there are Insurance payments associated with the loss of Historic properties, perhaps that money should be used to preserve what's left of the damage. Ms. Schiff also listed some additional reading/links information about the Boatworks Building and can be accessed through a PDF file on the LPAB webpage.

BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS – **Johnson** – regarding the 16th & Wood Train Station, it suffered 2 different fires prior to 2007; one in the baggage wing and one in the rear door area of the main hall.

Ms. Schiff – that building is extremely valuable and I feel that it is time to speak with the owners again, to see what we can do to preserve it. **Sugrue** – in terms of receiving an update on the Insurance issue raised by Ms. Schiff is concerning, is there a potential to get a status update on that at some point next year.

Vollmann – yes, I can look in to that and forward it on to the Department of Real Estate also, check in with Public Works, who does the maintenance on the City owned buildings, but Real Estate actually controls the ownership of the property. **Sugrue** – that would be helpful and, can I also put an email together and send it to them with this or do you want to directly reach out to them. **Vollmann** – yes, that would be helpful too and I can get the contacts for you also.

Komorous – how can we follow-up on Ms. Schiff's suggestion for the Board, can we make a recommendation or send a letter to the City Council with our support, that the insurance money be utilized for the protection of other endangered historic buildings. **Vollmann** – if the Board would like to make a motion to support the recommendation to use the insurance money for that purpose and, that this report get forwarded on to Real Estate and Public Works and eventually to the City Council, to look into this. **Komorous** – made a motion that; the LPAB is in support of OHA's recommendation for the use of insurance money and it be forwarded to Real Estate and any other appropriate agencies. **Johnson** – seconded. **+6 ayes**, motion passes unanimously.

Sugrue – thanked Ms. Schiff and OHA for binging this very important item to their attention.

BOARD DISCUSSION – suggested different ways on how to prevent this from happening to other City of Oakland Landmarks; request a statement from owners on their preservation plan for the property and, not allowing the building to fall in such disrepair that it has to be demolished (for safety reasons and through the process of Demolition Findings), contact City of Oakland's Code Compliance Department, to report an issue with the property (private or public), dividing the list of Landmarks and Heritage Properties (amongst themselves & staff) and do an informal field check (exterior) to see how the property is withholding, either in good/stable or bad condition.

APPLICATIONS – No applications were presented for consideration

ANNOUNCEMENTS - No

UPCOMING – No

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – for October 12, 2020 – motion to approved minutes by **Joiner**, seconded by **Johnson**, (Fu – abstained). +5 ayes, motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT – 5:46p

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: January 11, 2021

Minutes prepared by - LaTisha Russell