Chair Ken House called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

   A. Excusal of Absences

      Commissioners Ross Buffington, Jonah Jensen, and Duke York were excused.

2. DESIGN REVIEW

   OLD BUSINESS

   A. 811 North M Street - North Slope Historic Special Review District

      Ms. Tonie Cook summarized the report on the April 17, 2013 Architectural Review Committee meeting conducted on site to review the condition of the existing windows proposed for replacement. It was agreed by the property owner Ryan Hinkson, to repair all of the windows.

3. BOARD BRIEFINGS

   A. 1701 Pacific Avenue - Tacoma Art Museum (Union Station Conservation District)

      Mr. Tom Kundig presented the proposal for a southern addition onto the existing Tacoma Art Museum...
building. The purpose of the addition is for new gallery, lobby, service and mechanical spaces. In addition, the east elevation elevator will be replaced with a new elevator and entrance.

The Tacoma Art Museum team demonstrated, through renderings and slide show, how the screens, selected materials and colors, glazing, new entrances, and exterior sculptures will function in an effort to open the Tacoma Art Museum to the street.

Comments from Commissioners included:

1. The massing of the existing building is significantly improved; the color, materials and scale of the proposed addition appears to provide symbiotic relationship.
2. Concern was expressed with the rear parking lot: it lacks architectural screening elements, and also presents safety and security in that area.
3. The Commission requested the submittal of a greater level of plan detail and size of openings along the Pacific storefront. The Commission noted that the new clear glazing provides transparency on Pacific and that the screening is movable according to lighting conditions, which was not readily discernible from the rendered drawings.
4. The Commission requested a rendering of the proposal at night.
5. The proposed planters along Pacific may appear to be a barrier; however, the intention is to buffer the street and the building.
6. The Commission noted that the color of the building in the renderings appears darker than the bronze color sample circulated at the meeting.
7. The close proximity of the addition to the iconic Union Station building was noted.

The Commission requested the following additional information for their final review:

1. Submit a rendering at night;
2. Submit greater level of plan detail including the size openings on the Pacific storefront and the east elevation.

Mr. Reuben McKnight explained that the application was ready for final review pending the submittals requested by the Commission at this meeting and, the next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2013.

B. Stadium Way – Schuster Parkway Retaining Wall

Mr. Mark D'Andrea, PE, Public Works/Engineering Division, and consultant, Paul Fuesel, KPG, presented two options for the retaining wall at Schuster Parkway. The options developed include sculpted shotcrete rock outcrop and ashlar rock. The request to the Commission is for advisory purposes and not a formal review.

The Commission discussed the two options as well as an alternative option, similar to the existing wall.

The Commission agreed their preference is the application of a plain shotcrete finish.

Mr. David Boe, who stated his attendance was in the role of architect, described a wall that he favored and, is located along the Prairie Line, close to and towards 11th Street Bridge; this wall is limestone.

Mr. D'Andrea circulated a photo of the limestone wall which was recently sent to him.

C. Tacoma Totem Pole – 9th and A Street, in Fireman’s Park
Mr. Darius Thompson, Public Works/Engineering Division, presented the background on the deterioration on the Tacoma Totem Pole, which has been a designated landmark since 1975; it was constructed in 1903, and owned by the City of Tacoma as part of the Municipal Art Collection. He described the report by the engineering firm, PCS Structural Solutions, which resulted in the City’s Public Works Director decision to fence off the surrounding park and the installation of emergency bracing.

Commissioners asked questions and discussed possible stabilization approaches for preservation as well as consulting further with the Burke Museum and/or the Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia, which is known for its collection by First Nations peoples of the Pacific Northwest Coast. Local artists and experts and, the Royal Museum in Victoria BC were also mentioned as possible resources.

The Commission recommended research be conducted to understand the origin of the Tacoma Totem Pole, before final plans are made for preservation and stabilization.

Mr. Darius Thompson stated his availability to continue with updates to the Commission on the condition of the Totem Pole.

4. BOARD BUSINESS/PRESERVATION PLANNING

A. Historic Preservation Month in May

The Commission agreed on the award recipients, proclamation, and Chair report to City Council on May 21, 2013. They agreed to organize an awards ceremony reception to honor the recipients and schedule the reception on Thursday, May 30, 2013. Commissioner JD Elquist offered his event coordination skills and his place of business, Feather and Oar, for the reception.

B. State of Historic Preservation Officer Awards

Mr. Reuben McKnight stated that he was attending the SHPO awards for Murray Morgan in Olympia on May 14.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Submitted as True and Correct:

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Reuben McKnight
Historic Preservation Officer