



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Historic Preservation Commission Motion No. 0222

HEARING DATE: JANUARY 15, 2014

Filing Date: December 4, 2013
Case No.: **2013.1764A**
Project Address: **VETERANS BUILDING, 401 VAN NESS AVENUE
(PART OF THE WAR MEMORIAL COMPLEX)**
Historic Landmark: Landmark No. 84; Civic Center Landmark District
Zoning: P (Public) Zoning District
OS/96-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 0786A/001
Applicant: Tara Lamont, DPW-Bureau of Architecture
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ADOPTING FINDINGS FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR PROPOSED WORK DETERMINED TO BE APPROPRIATE FOR AND CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES OF ARTICLE 10, TO MEET THE STANDARDS OF ARTICLE 10 AND TO MEET THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR'S STANDARDS FOR REHABILITATION, FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED ON LOT 001 IN ASSESSOR'S BLOCK 0786A, WITHIN THE P ZONING DISTRICT, CIVIC CENTER LANDMARK DISTRICT, AND OS/96-X HEIGHT AND BULK DISTRICT.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2013, Tara Lamont of the City and County of San Francisco Department of Public Works-Bureau of Architecture (Project Sponsor) on behalf of San Francisco War Memorial Board of Trustees (Property Owner) filed an application with the San Francisco Planning Department (Department) for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of the upper skylights on the subject property located on Lot 001 in Assessor's Block 0786A.

WHEREAS, the Project was determined by the Department to be categorically exempt from environmental review. The Historic Preservation Commission (hereinafter "Commission") has reviewed and concurs with said determination.

WHEREAS, on July 18, 2012, the Commission previously approved exterior alterations to the subject property, as determined in Historic Preservation Commission Motion No. 0166.

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2014, the Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing on the current project, Case No. 2013.1764A (Project) for its appropriateness.

WHEREAS, in reviewing the Application, the Commission has had available for its review and consideration case reports, plans, and other materials pertaining to the Project contained in the Department's case files, has reviewed and heard testimony and received materials from interested parties during the public hearing on the Project.

MOVED, that the Commission hereby grants a Certificate of Appropriateness for Option B (of the three option submitted by the Project Sponsor), in conformance with the project information received on January 2, 2014 and labeled Exhibit A on file in the docket for Case No. 2013.1764A based on the following findings:

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

To ensure that the proposed work is undertaken in conformance with this Certificate of Appropriateness, staff recommends the following conditions:

1. As part of the Building Permit and as conditioned in the previous approval, the Project Sponsor shall provide a mock-up of the skylight replacement for review and approval by Planning Department Preservation Staff. Prior to installation, the Project Sponsor shall provide a detailed mock-up demonstrating the material, finish, and detail of the skylight replacement. Department staff shall invite a representative of the Veteran's group to the mock-up demonstration.

FINDINGS

Having reviewed all the materials identified in the recitals above and having heard oral testimony and arguments, this Commission finds, concludes, and determines as follows:

1. The above recitals are accurate and also constitute findings of the Commission.
2. Findings pursuant to Article 10:

The Historic Preservation Commission has determined that the proposed work is compatible with the character of Landmark No. 84 and the Civic Center Landmark District as described in Article 10 of the Planning Code.

- That the exterior alterations would replace historic materials, including the leaded-copper roof, with compatible substitute materials.
- That the exterior alterations would preserve, enhance and restore the exterior architectural appearance of the landmark property in a manner that is compatible with the surrounding Civic Center Landmark District.
- That the essential form and integrity of the landmark and its environment would be unimpaired if the alterations were removed at a future date.

- That the proposal respects the character-defining features of Landmark No. 84.
 - That the proposal respects the character-defining features of the Civic Center Landmark District
 - The proposed project meets the requirements of Article 10.
 - The proposed project meets all ten of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.
3. **General Plan Compliance.** The proposed Certificate of Appropriateness is, on balance, consistent with the following Objectives and Policies of the General Plan:

I. URBAN DESIGN ELEMENT

THE URBAN DESIGN ELEMENT CONCERNS THE PHYSICAL CHARACTER AND ORDER OF THE CITY, AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PEOPLE AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT.

GOALS

The Urban Design Element is concerned both with development and with preservation. It is a concerted effort to recognize the positive attributes of the city, to enhance and conserve those attributes, and to improve the living environment where it is less than satisfactory. The Plan is a definition of quality, a definition based upon human needs.

OBJECTIVE 1

EMPHASIS OF THE CHARACTERISTIC PATTERN WHICH GIVES TO THE CITY AND ITS NEIGHBORHOODS AN IMAGE, A SENSE OF PURPOSE, AND A MEANS OF ORIENTATION.

POLICY 1.3

Recognize that buildings, when seen together, produce a total effect that characterizes the city and its districts.

OBJECTIVE 2

CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES WHICH PROVIDE A SENSE OF NATURE, CONTINUITY WITH THE PAST, AND FREEDOM FROM OVERCROWDING.

POLICY 2.4

Preserve notable landmarks and areas of historic, architectural or aesthetic value, and promote the preservation of other buildings and features that provide continuity with past development.

POLICY 2.5

Use care in remodeling of older buildings, in order to enhance rather than weaken the original character of such buildings.

POLICY 2.7

Recognize and protect outstanding and unique areas that contribute in an extraordinary degree to San Francisco's visual form and character.

The goal of a Certificate of Appropriateness is to provide additional oversight for buildings and districts that are architecturally or culturally significant to the City in order to protect the qualities that are associated with that significance.

The proposed project qualifies for a Certificate of Appropriateness and therefore furthers these policies and objectives by maintaining and preserving the character-defining features of the Landmark No. 84 and the Civic Center Landmark District for the future enjoyment and education of San Francisco residents and visitors.

4. The proposed project is generally consistent with the eight General Plan priority policies set forth in Section 101.1 in that:

- A) The existing neighborhood-serving retail uses will be preserved and enhanced and future opportunities for resident employment in and ownership of such businesses will be enhanced:

The project will not have any impact on any existing neighborhood serving retail uses.

- B) The existing housing and neighborhood character will be conserved and protected in order to preserve the cultural and economic diversity of our neighborhoods:

The proposed project will strengthen neighborhood character by respecting the character-defining features of Landmark No. 84 and the Civic Center Landmark District in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

- C) The City's supply of affordable housing will be preserved and enhanced:

The project will have no impact to housing supply.

- D) The commuter traffic will not impede MUNI transit service or overburden our streets or neighborhood parking:

The proposed project will not result in commuter traffic impeding MUNI transit service or overburdening the streets or neighborhood parking.

- E) A diverse economic base will be maintained by protecting our industrial and service sectors from displacement due to commercial office development. And future opportunities for resident employment and ownership in these sectors will be enhanced:

The proposed will not have any impact on industrial and service sector jobs.

- F) The City will achieve the greatest possible preparedness to protect against injury and loss of life in an earthquake.

Preparedness against injury and loss of life in an earthquake is unaffected by the proposed work. Any

construction or alteration associated with the project will be executed in compliance with all applicable construction and safety measures.

- G) That landmark and historic buildings will be preserved:

The project as proposed is in conformance with Article 10 of the Planning Code and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

- H) Parks and open space and their access to sunlight and vistas will be protected from development:

The proposed project will not impact the access to sunlight or vistas for parks and open space.

5. For these reasons, the proposal overall, is appropriate for and consistent with the purposes of Article 10, meets the standards of Article 10, and the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*, General Plan and Prop M findings of the Planning Code.

DECISION

That based upon the Record, the submissions by the Applicant, the staff of the Department and other interested parties, the oral testimony presented to this Commission at the public hearings, and all other written materials submitted by all parties, the Commission hereby **GRANTS WITH CONDITIONS a Certificate of Appropriateness** for the property located at Lot 001 in Assessor's Block 0786A for proposed work in conformance with the project information received on January 2, 2014, labeled Exhibit A on file in the docket for Case No. 2013.1764A.

APPEAL AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF MOTION: The Commission's decision on a Certificate of Appropriateness shall be final unless appealed within thirty (30) days. Any appeal shall be made to the Board of Appeals, unless the proposed project requires Board of Supervisors approval or is appealed to the Board of Supervisors as a conditional use, in which case any appeal shall be made to the Board of Supervisors (see Charter Section 4.135).

Duration of this Certificate of Appropriateness: This Certificate of Appropriateness is issued pursuant to Article 10 of the Planning Code and is valid for a period of three (3) years from the effective date of approval by the Historic Preservation Commission. The authorization and right vested by virtue of this action shall be deemed void and canceled if, within 3 years of the date of this Motion, a site permit or building permit for the Project has not been secured by Project Sponsor.

THIS IS NOT A PERMIT TO COMMENCE ANY WORK OR CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY UNLESS NO BUILDING PERMIT IS REQUIRED. PERMITS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION (and any other appropriate agencies) MUST BE SECURED BEFORE WORK IS STARTED OR OCCUPANCY IS CHANGED.

I hereby certify that the Historical Preservation Commission ADOPTED the foregoing Motion on January 15, 2014.

Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

AYES: Hasz, Johnck, Johns, Hyland, Matsuda, Pearlman and Wolfram

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED: January 15, 2014