

Agenda No. 293

REPORT

Accept the Portland Design Commission 2019-2020 State of the City Design Report (Report)

March 31, 2021

TO: Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty
Commissioner Mingus Mapps
Commissioner Carmen Rubio
Commissioner Dan Ryan

FROM: Rebecca Esau, Director
Bureau of Development Services

SUBJECT: **Portland Design Commission 2019-20 State of the City Design Report**

This is the Annual Report of the Portland Design Commission State of the City Design Report for 2019-2020. The report is required by the Portland Zoning Code [[Title 33](#)] to fulfill the Annual Report requirement for Commission's actions and accomplishments for each fiscal year.

Current Issues before Council today:

The Design Commission is a particularly active volunteer Commission, meeting 33 times in 2019, and 22 times in 2020 for Land Use cases, Design Advice Requests (a form of early assistance to Design Review customers prior to submitting their Design Review applications) and briefings on significant matters including the Design Overlay Zoning Assessment (DOZA), Vertical Infrastructure in the Right of Way (concealed "small cell" 5g & 4g antennas

Introduced by
Commissioner Ryan

Bureau
Development Services

Prepared by
Tim Heron, Kara Fioravanti, & Gabby Bruya

Date Prepared
April 1, 2021

Requested Council Date
April 29, 2021

Requested Agenda Type
Time Certain 2:00 pm
1 hour requested

Date Filed with Clerk
April 20, 2021

within street light poles), and Character Statements that describe the context and history of neighborhoods outside the Central City.

The premise of this 2019-20 biennium of the State of the City Design Report is to be educative. The Design Commission will present an overview of the three tenets of design around which our city's design guidelines are organized: 1. Context, 2. Public Realm, and 3. Quality & Permanence and bring forward three example projects that successfully upheld the values of each tenet.

Led by the Design Commission Chair, Julie Livingston, all the Design Commissioners will be participating in the presentation in their respective areas of expertise across these three tenets. I look forward to hearing more from Julie and all the Commissioners at their presentation and hearing your comments and questions.

Background, from 33.710.050:

DESIGN COMMISSION

The Design Commission provides leadership and expertise on urban design and architecture and on maintaining and enhancing Portland's historical and architectural heritage.

The Design Commission consists of seven members, none of whom may hold public elective office. The Commission must include a representative of the Regional Arts and Culture Council, one person representing the public at-large, and five members experienced in either design, engineering, financing, construction or management of buildings, and land development. No more than two members may be appointed from any one of these areas of expertise. The Regional Arts and Culture Council member is nominated by the Regional Arts and Culture Council chair and approved by the Mayor. The other members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

The Design Commission meets at least once a month and as necessary to act on reviews assigned to them by this Title 33. Meetings are conducted in accordance with adopted rules of procedure. Four members constitute a quorum at a meeting. The election of officers takes place at the first meeting of each calendar year.

The Design Commission may divide its membership into special subcommittees which are authorized to act on behalf of the Commission for an assigned purpose. Three members of the Commission constitute a quorum on such

subcommittees. Subcommittee actions require the affirmative vote of at least three members.

Powers and duties:

The Design Commission has all of the powers and duties which are assigned to it by Title 33 or by City Council. The Commission powers and duties include:

- 1. Recommending the establishment, amendment, or removal of a design district to the Planning and Sustainability Commission and City Council;*
- 2. Developing design guidelines for adoption by City Council for all design districts except Historic Districts and Conservation Districts;*
- 3. Reviewing major developments within design districts, except those projects involving or located within the following:*
 - a. Historic Districts;*
 - b. Conservation Districts;*
 - c. Historic Landmarks; and*
 - d. Conservation Landmarks.*
- 4. Reviewing other land use requests assigned to the Design Commission; and*
- 5. Providing advice on design matters to the Hearings Officer, Planning and Sustainability Commission, Historic Landmarks Commission, Portland Development Commission, and City Council.*

The following Exhibits are included in support of this report:

- Exhibit A: Part 1 Portland Design Commission State of the City Design Report for 2019-2020
- Exhibit B: Part 2 Portland Design Commission State of the City Design Report for 2019-2020
- Exhibit C: A document tracking 2019 meetings and Design Commission-related work for the year.
- Exhibit D: A document tracking 2020 meetings and Design Commission-related work for the year.

Action Taken: April 29, 2021 Accepted

Commissioners voted as follows (Yea or Nay)

Rubio - Yea

Ryan - Yea

Hardesty - Yea

Mapps - Yea

Wheeler - Yea