



City of Portland Historic Landmarks Commission

Briefing

SUMMARY MEMO

Date: December 26, 2023
To: Jeff Hawthorne, City Arts Manager, OMF
From: Hillary Adam, Design / Historic Review
hillary.adam@portlandoregon.gov, 503-823-8953
Re: Briefing on Thompson Elk Fountain
Summary of December 11, 2023 Historic Landmarks Commission Briefing

Thank you for taking advantage of the opportunity to hold a preliminary briefing with the Historic Landmarks Commission regarding your project. I hope you find it informative and valuable as you continue with your project development. Attached is a brief summary of the comments provided by the Historic Landmarks Commission at the December 11, 2023 Briefing. This summary was generated from notes taken at the public meeting and a subsequent review of the public meeting recordings. To review those recordings, please visit:
<https://efiles.portlandoregon.gov/record/16345526>.

These Historic Landmarks Commission comments are intended to guide you in further design exploration of your project. These comments may also inform City staff when giving guidance over the course of future related land use reviews. It should be understood that these comments address the project as presented on December 11, 2023. As the project design evolves, the comments, too, may evolve or may no longer be pertinent.

Preliminary briefings are not intended to substitute for other Code-required land use or legislative procedures.

Please continue to coordinate with Kara Fioravanti (kara.fioravanti@portlandoregon.gov), as necessary as you prepare your formal land use application.

Encl:
Summary Memo

Cc: Historic Landmarks Commission

This memo summarizes **Landmarks Commission** design direction provided on December 11, 2023.

Commissioners in attendance on December 11, 2023 include: Smith, Moreland, Roman, Moretti, Davis, Agosto

All comments:

- Commissioners thanked the project team for coming before the Commission and presenting.
- The Commission was pleased to see that the Thompson Elk Fountain is to be restored and returned to its original location. Commissioners thanked the Portland Parks Foundation for leading the process and Bill Hawkins for initiating the calls for full restoration. Multiple Commissioners noted that this is a celebratory moment.
- The Commission asked if water could be kept in the fountain to prevent fires from being built within the basin. It was encouraged that water should be kept in the fountain year-round.
- The Commission noted a desire for more bollards within the right-of-way to protect the fountain from vehicular collisions. One Commissioner asked if temporary bollards could be installed until permanent bollards could be installed.
- The Commission noted a desire to see Belgian Blocks restored to this location, perhaps within a bollarded perimeter so that they wouldn't impact bicyclists.
- One Commissioner suggested that this is an instance of when we need the highest skilled artisans (such as for carving the animal heads) rather than the lowest bidder to accommodate the public investment in the project and try to get the best quality product.
- One Commissioner suggested additional education may be necessary so that the public can be made better aware of the original intention (as an homage to the natural world) and history of the fountain so that it may not become a target during future protests.
- Commissioners expressed confidence that the design team can put together accurate drawings that reflect the original condition to ensure that this qualifies as a restoration.

Files related to this Briefing can be found here: <https://efiles.portlandoregon.gov/Record/16499271/>.

Please contact me with any questions.