

Agenda Item 465-466

TESTIMONY

2:00 PM TIME CERTAIN

**SKIDMORE/OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT**IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
✓ Jackie Peterson-Loomis	222 NW DAVIS 97209 2827 NE MASON 97211	JACKIE@comcast.net
✓ BILL HAWKINS	1425 S.W. 20 <sup>th</sup> AVE, 97201	billhawkins1@guestoffice.net
✓ Peggy Moretti	1130 SW Morrison #318 97201	peggym@RestoreOregon.org

**Parsons, Susan**

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**From:** Starin, Nicholas  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 03, 2016 9:41 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Edmunds, Sallie; Zehnder, Joe; Spencer-Hartle, Brandon  
**Subject:** FW: Old Town Chinatown Community Association Support for Old Town/Skidmore Historic District Design Guidelines  
**Attachments:** 5-3-16 letter re Skidmore historic design guidelines.docx

Karla,

Attached is testimony in support of Skidmore Old/Town Guidelines adoption, 5/4/16 hearing.

**- Nicholas T. Starin, City Planner**

- Portland Bureau of Planning & Sustainability

- [nicholas.starin@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:nicholas.starin@portlandoregon.gov)

- TEL 503.823.5837

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**From:** Sarah J. Stevenson [mailto:sstevenson@innovativehousinginc.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 03, 2016 9:38 AM

**To:** Commissioner Fish <nick@portlandoregon.gov>; Commissioner Fritz <amanda@portlandoregon.gov>; Commissioner Novick <novick@portlandoregon.gov>; Commissioner Saltzman <dan@portlandoregon.gov>; Hales, Mayor <mayorcharliehales@portlandoregon.gov>

**Cc:** Zachary J. Fruchtengarten <zfruchtengarten@gevurtzmenashe.com>; Starin, Nicholas <Nicholas.Starin@portlandoregon.gov>; Peggy Moretti <PeggyM@restoreoregon.org>

**Subject:** Old Town Chinatown Community Association Support for Old Town/Skidmore Historic District Design Guidelines

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

Please see the attached letter for our enthusiastic endorsement and support of the proposed Old Town/Skidmore Historic District Design Review Guidelines, which come before you tomorrow for your review and approval.

Sarah Stevenson  
 Executive Director  
 Innovative Housing, Inc.  
 219 NW Second Avenue  
 Portland, OR 97209  
 (503) 226-4368 x2

[www.innovativehousinginc.com](http://www.innovativehousinginc.com)



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Land Use and Design  
Review Committee  
Old Town / Chinatown Community Association

May 3, 2016

Mayor Charlie Hales  
Commissioner Nick Fish  
Commissioner Dan Saltzman  
Commissioner Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner Steve Novick  
1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97204

**Re: Design Review Guidelines for the Old Town/Skidmore Historic District**

Dear Mayor Hales and Commissioners Fish, Saltzman, Fritz, and Novick,

We are writing on behalf of the Old Town Chinatown Community Association Land Use and Design Review Committee to share our appreciation and support for the revised Old Town/Skidmore Historic Design Guidelines that will come before you tomorrow for your approval.

Old Town Chinatown straddles two National Historic Districts, the Skidmore Historic District and the New Chinatown/Japantown Historic District. These two districts are home to many historic buildings and form the epicenter of Portland's rich multicultural history. Our Community Association, along with many neighbors and stakeholders, is working hard to revitalize and bring the district back to life. One significant component of that revitalization work is ensuring that future development is compatible with the existing historic fabric of our neighborhood. Historic design guidelines are critical to this goal.

We appreciate revisions made to the previous draft of the Skidmore Design Guidelines, particularly the change that replaces natural materials with historically compatible, high quality materials and the guideline change for new construction that requires developers to integrate the design of new buildings with the "cast iron character" as opposed to "Italianate" character of the Historic District. We feel that these changes more clearly express the neighborhood's desire for compatibility with Italianate and Cast Iron buildings rather than requiring developers to replicate a style that may not always be appropriate.

We enthusiastically endorse the Skidmore/Old Town Historic District Design guidelines and urge their immediate adoption. And we thank you, our City Council, for your time and commitment to preserving and celebrating what makes Portland special.

Sincerely,



Zachary J. Fruchtengarten, Co-Chair  
Old Town Chinatown  
Land Use and Design Review Committee



Sarah J. Stevenson, Co-Chair  
Old Town Chinatown  
Land Use and Design Review Committee



**City of Portland**  
Historic Landmarks Commission

1 8 7 7 3 8

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April 5, 2016

Mayor Charlie Hales and Portland City Council  
City Hall  
1220 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Hales and City Commissioners,

The Skidmore/Old Town Historic District is where the City of Portland began. It is truly one of the most special places in the city, featuring signature works of architecture, intimate open spaces around the Skidmore Fountain, and unique streets not found anywhere else in the city. In order to acknowledge, celebrate, and protect its robust collection of buildings with intricate cast iron facades, the district was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1977 in recognition of its national historic significance. It is one of only two such nationally-designated historic districts in the Oregon.

**Skidmore/Old Town Historic District Design Guidelines**

The Historic Landmarks Commission is pleased to forward you the *Skidmore/Old Town Historic District Design Guidelines*. These new design guidelines will ensure that future historic renovations and new construction in the Skidmore/Old Town Historic District will preserve and enhance the historic character of the district.

The guidelines powerfully fulfill two missions: First, they lay out clear directions regarding design, scale, materials, texture, proportions, etc., which will best guide applicants. The ambiguity of the guidelines these replace is gone. Second, these guidelines will serve as a strong economic development tool by establishing a high standard of congruent historic design. The Skidmore/Old Town Historic District can become a key cultural attraction in the region, showcasing its one-of-a-kind collection of cast-iron fronted buildings and tell the story of our great city. Portland will be able to boast an Old Town to rival those of San Francisco, Charleston, Savannah, and Boston.

**Cast Iron Resolution**

The Commission fully supports the work of William J. Hawkins III, FAIA and the goal of reintroducing cast iron building façade elements into the historic district as a part of restoration projects, new construction, or other interpretive works accessible to the public. As a means to this goal, the commission urges your support of the resolution to direct City bureaus to prioritize reuse of artifacts from the Eric Ladd and other cast iron artifact collections in the Skidmore/Old Town Historic District. This is critical because the cast iron is the reason that this district obtained national recognition and landmark protection.

A great deal of thought and effort by City staff, members of the public, and the Historic Landmarks Commission has gone into the design guidelines and accompanying cast iron resolution—dating back to 2007. We ask City Council to adopt the guidelines and resolution without major revision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kirk Ranzetta".

Kirk Ranzetta,  
Chair, Portland Historic Landmarks Commission

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul Solimano".

Paul Solimano  
Vice Chair, Portland Historic Landmarks Commission