



**HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) MEETING**

SYNOPSIS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019

1:00 – 2:30 P.M.

City Hall Tower

200 East Santa Clara Street

ROOM T-332

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Edward Saum, HLC Chair

Anthony Raynsford

Stephen Polcyn

Meeting Goal: Discuss preliminary project design and provide comments to staff and applicants.

Proposed Projects for Review:

1. **HP19-008 & PP16-037.** Historic Preservation Permit for the Public Project for the Saint James Park Capital Vision and Levitt Pavilion in the Saint James Square National Register and City Landmark Historic District at Saint James Street and North First Street. Council District 3.
PROJECT MANAGER, KATY MARTIN, SAN JOSE PUBLIC WORKS & RINA SHAH, PBCE

Attachments:

1. [Project Plan Set \(25 percent design\)](#)
2. [Historic Resource Project Assessment \(Draft\), Archives & Architecture, August 12, 2019](#)
3. [Rehabilitation Project Review \(Draft\), Archives & Architecture, August 12, 2019](#)
4. [HLC letter in Response to the NOP, June 21, 2016](#)
5. [Saint James Square Design Guidelines, 1989](#)

Discussion and Comments

Eduard Saum noted that his is also a Levitt board member, so he restricted his comments on other aspects of the project.



Staff/ HPO:

Under the Historic review there are two historic resources to be noted:

- 1. St. James Park itself*
- 2. The park is a contributor in a City Landmark District and National Register District*

Katy Martin, Project Manager from Public Works, presented the project design for St. James Park renovation. She added that preliminary plans were 25 percent done, and the park will maintain the Victorian garden design and will have perimeter undulating paths for access and engagement. McKinley, Naglee and Volkers and Cottrell memorials will be preserved. Kennedy podium will be preserved but may not be in the same quadrant. Different configuration of trees will be maintained. There are currently 340 trees surveyed in the park. White color was selected for competition, but organic colors will be chosen for final design. The new buildings will also be maintained in dark warm wood colors. A summary of recommendations based on the completed CEQA analysis for the park will also be considered. Comments from the Commissioners include:

Stephen Polcyn:

- Prefer Levitt earth tones presented*
- Like the direction of the support buildings in context to the larger park itself*
- RFK memorial – ok with the relocation*
- Naglee memorial – ok with relocation*
- In favor of the meandering paths presented, false to try to mimic original layout*
- Balance of the park is good, activating the park in multiple ways*
- Several mid-century buildings within the Historic District and surrounding the park (96 N. 2nd, and two others), designed by noted architects*
- As the project develops the details should be refined, garden fence feels a bit contrived.*

Edward Saum:

- Because it is part of so many designations it has a greater impact*
- Fountain: Consider if a mitigation measure from the 1980s should be considered part of the fabric of the park.*
- It would be good to understand the fountain history*



- *Agree with rotating the RFK monument, the area around it should be reworked in the next phase of design so it doesn't face the back of house. Generally ok with shifting it over.*
- *It would be false historicism to make the buildings look like the buildings around the park, support current direction*
- *Removal and replacement of trees should be closely analyzed to maintain the grove of historic landscaping.*

Anthony Raynsford:

- *Asked about plant species. Consider adding plants that recall what we see in photos, big leaved, interesting plants typical of the Victorian garden*
- *Agreed that plants should still be sensible based on what we know now regarding water use and native/native-adaptive species*

PAC SJ Representative (Mike Sodergren):

- *Concerned about line in Historic Analysis saying this would negatively impact the Historic District. Katy Martin confirmed that was written prior to the new changes presented today and it is the City's goal to have less than significant impact on the historic district and the park itself.*
- *Concerned about security. Katy Martin confirmed that the park will be secured enough such that families feel comfortable visiting the park.*

2. **HP19-009 & SP19-028.** Site Development Permit and Historic Preservation Permit to allow the construction of a new 18,470 square foot church on an approximately 2.77-gross acre site located at 389 East Santa Clara Street. City Landmark HL-92-73 St. Patrick's School. Council District 3. **PROJECT MANAGER, ANGELA WANG, PBCE**

Attachments:

1. [Project Plan Set, dated September 3, 2019](#)
2. [Historic Report, dated April 1, 2016 \(to be updated\)](#)

Discussion and Comments

Applicant Presentation:

- *The architect gave an overview of the project and described the changes of the project from the previously approved (and expired) SP15-004. The project has been scaled down to include the church only. The previously approved parking structure and the multi-purpose*



building were eliminated. The church was originally designed (SP15-004) to be elevated about eight feet above grade to incorporate a parking level. The revised design eliminates the parking level and brings the church down to the ground level. The height of the church has been reduced from 63 feet to 54 feet. The bell tower is proposed at the same location as SP15-004 with a height of 49 feet. The alternative parking for church would be located at the parking structures within San Jose State University.

- *The applicant, the Father of the church, described the operation hours of the facility and explained the reason why they propose fences around the proposed open space nearby the church is to address the safety concern for the students at St. Patrick School and stated that the open space will be accessed by the public when there are no school sessions. He also expressed the urgent needs for constructing this church.*

Commissioner and Public Comments:

- *Commissioner Polycn asked about the experience from the outside and relationship to the street and other facilities onsite.*
- *Chair Ed Saum stated that the redesign of the project has addressed their previous concerns on SP15-004 in that the revised design provides a better relationship between the sidewalk and the church by eliminating the parking level under the church and locating the church to the street level. He likes the that the project includes a bell tower facing East Santa Clara Street and stated that overall SP19-028 is a great improvement to SP15-004 and he believes that the project would help reactivate the place.*