



City of Seattle

Department of Planning & Development

Diane M. Sugimura, Director



FINAL RECOMMENDATION MEETING OF THE EAST DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Project Number: 3014339

Address: 605 15th Avenue East

Applicant: Gary Oppenheimer, nk architects for Marc Angelillo

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, December 18, 2013

Board Members Present: Dawn Bushnaq (Chair)
Dan Foltz
Natalie Gualy
Christina Orr-Cahall
Michael Austin

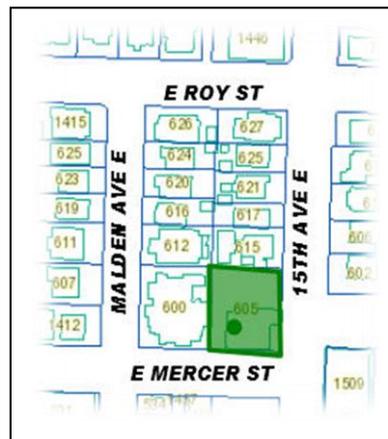
DPD Staff Present: Lisa Rutzick, Senior Land Use Planner

SITE & VICINITY

Site Zone: Neighborhood Commercial 2P-40 (NC2P-40) in the Capitol Hill Urban Center Village

Nearby Zones: North: Lowrise 2 and Single Family 5000.
South: Neighborhood Commercial 2P-40 and Lowrise 3.
East: Neighborhood Commercial 2P-40 and Single Family 5000.
West: Lowrise 3.

Lot Area: 9,317 square feet



Current Development: The site is currently developed with a single story commercial structure built in 1941, occupied by a restaurant. Surface parking is located north of the building.

Access: The site is a corner lot with street frontage along 15th Ave E and E Mercer Street.

Surrounding Development: The subject lot is located at the northern edge of a five block stretch of Neighborhood Commercial zoning along 15th Ave E. To the north and west, the site abuts Lowrise zoned parcels. Across 15th Ave to the east and a block north are single family zoned blocks, developed with older Seattle housing stock from the early 1900's. Directly to the north is a duplex structure built in 1903. Across 15th Ave E to the south of E Mercer is a three-story 1907 apartment structure with ground level commercial use. Across 15th Ave E to the north of E Mercer St. is a block of single family residences built at the turn of the 20th century. Directly to the west is a three plus story apartment structure built in 1988. Across E Mercer Street to the south is a single story service station built in 1966.

ECAs: None

Neighborhood Character: 15th Ave E to the south is an active neighborhood commercial street of mostly single story structures built over the past 100 years. Surrounding 15th Ave E is one of Seattle's oldest neighborhoods, with stately homes and brick apartment buildings interspersed with newer development. Old trees and landscaping provide a strong vegetation presence. A few blocks to the north is Volunteer Park. A few blocks to the south is Group Health Cooperative.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposal is for construction of a 4 story mixed-use building with street level commercial space, three stories with approximately 34 apartment units and 24 below grade parking spaces.

EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE MEETING: April 3rd, 2013

DESIGN PRESENTATION

The EDG packet includes materials presented at the EDG meeting, and is available online by entering the project number 3014339 at this website:

http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Design_Review_Program/Project_Reviews/Reports/default.asp.

The EDG packet is also available to view in the project file (project number 3014339), by contacting the Public Resource Center at DPD:

Mailing Public Resource Center
Address: 700 Fifth Ave., Suite 2000
P.O. Box 34019
Seattle, WA 98124-4019

Email: PRC@seattle.gov

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

Three alternative design schemes for the corner site were presented. The site is relatively flat with no grade change along 15th Ave E and about 4' along E Mercer St. The properties abutting the site to the north and west are in Lowrise residential zones.

The access ramp to below grade parking will be provided off of E Mercer St along the west property line. A green screen will be located along the property line to screen the ramp. During the presentation, the applicant noted that an existing laurel hedge located on site along the north property line is being retained to provide privacy with the structure to the north.

Seattle City Light power lines cut across the intersection of 15th Ave E and E Mercer Street. Unless the lines are relocated the upper story of the proposed structure will need to set back to accommodate a 10' minimum clearance from the lines.

Option 1 (the code compliant option) consisted of 33 residential units, 25 parking spaces and approximately 3,700 square feet of commercial space. The residential entry lobby and ramp to below grade parking are off of E Mercer St. Commercial space fronts 15th Ave E and E Mercer St. taking up approximately half of the ground level interior space. Three residential units are located at ground level. The upper residential levels are set back from the abutting Lowrise zoned parcels to the north and west.

Option 2 proposed 33 residential units, 23 parking spaces and approximately 3,950 square feet of commercial space. The residential entry lobby is located off of 15th Ave E at the northeast corner of the structure. Commercial space fronts 15th Ave E and E Mercer St. The ramp to below grade parking is off of E. Mercer St. Two residential units are located at the ground level. The upper residential stories project into required residential setbacks along the north and west lot lines.

Departures were requested for residential setbacks along the north and west property lines.

Option 3 is the applicants preferred scheme. The option proposes 33 residential units, 21 parking spaces and approximately 3,550 square feet of commercial space. The residential entry lobby and ramp to below grade parking are off of E Mercer St. Commercial space fronts 15th Ave E and E Mercer St. taking up approximately half of the ground level interior space. The ground level commercial uses will be set back a few inches from the property line, increasing the width of the sidewalk. Two residential units are located at the ground level. The upper residential stories project into the required residential setbacks along the north and west lot lines.

Departures were requested for residential setbacks along the north and west property lines and slope of the parking access ramp.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At this Early Design Review meeting, the following comments, issues and concerns were raised:

- Concerned project is not relating to the grand Capitol Hill residential architecture or neighborhood character.
- Concerned that the building to the west will have its views blocked.
- Concerned that east facing windows of the existing apartment building to the west will be blocked, and residents will lose privacy and light.
- Supported the required 15' residential setbacks being maintained.
- Supported trees and greenscaping.

- Encouraged brick as a material.
- Stated that they do not want a ‘playful’ Pike/Pine corridor type design.
- Encouraged design to have a variety of windows.
- Supported allowing the ramp slope departure.
- Objects to the requested setback departures.
- Concerned that project is being designed around a hedge. Noted that the laurel hedge will need sun, asked how that will be provided.
- Noted that the north façade is important.
- Concerned about a blank wall along the north façade.
- Supported lobby location in preferred option.
- Encouraged small scale retail such as a restaurant with seating along E Mercer St.
- Stated that they liked the facade modulation of the building to west and encouraged the project to provide modulation.
- Stated that the project is not successfully transitioning to the Lowrise zones.
- Stated that the project conceptual design is acceptable, and encourage massing similar to older apartment buildings.

INITIAL RECOMMENDATION MEETING: SEPTEMBER 18, 2013

DESIGN PRESENTATION

The Initial Recommendation packet includes materials presented at the meeting, and is available online by entering the project number (3014339) at this website:

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DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

The project that was presented at the Initial Recommendation Meeting was a further developed “preferred option”, presented at the EDG meeting. Materials, commercial lighting, signage and landscaping were presented in the packet. The applicant presented the treatment of the north “gateway” elevation which the Board had requested at the EDG meeting. A “Little Library” community book exchange, located at the north end of the elevation along 15th Ave E, had been added to the blank façade of the exit stair from the garage. The applicant noted that the fourth floor is truncated at the corner of 15th Ave E and E Mercer St. due to City Light power lines. During the project presentation, the applicant noted that in response to the EDG guidance, the setbacks along the west property line had been modified. The Board found, however, that the changes had not been presented clearly.

From the EDG and the zoning and Land Use reviews of the submitted MUP drawings, it was determined that six departures would be needed for the proposal. The departures from the residential setbacks along the west and north property lines were a large part of the Board's deliberation. See the Departures section later in the report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At this Initial Recommendation meeting, the following comments, issues and concerns were raised:

- Encouraged the project to better transition to the lowrise structures to the north.
- Does not support the triangular look to the upper story.
- Concerned about the material colors, especially the lighter colors on the west and north elevations.
- Concerned about the look of the balconies.
- Concerned the colors will darken over time.
- Stated the setbacks along the residential zones should be increased.
- Stated the north elevation does not need to be a gateway.
- Supported the modulation at the west elevation.
- Concerned the below grade level will not accommodate larger vehicles used for moving.
- Noted a courtyard at the street is desirable.
- Encouraged the corner at 15th Ave E and E Mercer St. be softened as it appears too sharp.
- Encouraged a sidewalk café along E Mercer St.
- Stated the book exchange feature looks tacked on.
- Stated that the windows in the north elevation are too small.
- Does not support departures, as the rationale given does not make the project better meet the intent of the guidelines.
- Encouraged that the lower level has been moved closer to the existing laurel hedge at the north elevation.
- Stated that the north elevation is not grand enough, the design elements appear tacked on.
- Concerned about granting the setback departure at the north.
- Concerned that the design is revolving around a hedge that will eventually die.
- Concerned about the height, bulk and scale at the north transition.

SECOND RECOMMENDATION MEETING: NOVEMBER 6, 2013

DESIGN PRESENTATION

The Second Recommendation packet includes materials presented at the meeting, and is available online by entering the project number (3014339) at this website:

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DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

The project that was presented at the Second Recommendation Meeting was similar to the development that was shown at the Initial Recommendation Meeting. The materials and detailing of the elevations had been modified in response to guidance given by the Board. The west and north elevations had higher quality materials. Windows had been added to the west elevation. Cedar siding was added in response to the guidance for materials that reflect the residential character of the existing structures to the north. The north elevation and the northeast corner had been redesigned to reflect a more cohesive design that would provide interest and a “gateway” experience.

Materials, commercial lighting, signage and landscaping were presented in the packet. The “Little Library” community book exchange, located at the north end of the elevation along 15th Ave E, was shown in more detail. A green screen was added to the west elevation of the roof penthouse.

Six departures would be needed for the proposal. The departures from the residential setbacks along the north property lines were a large part of the Board’s deliberation. See the Departures section later in the report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At this Second Recommendation meeting, the following comments, issues and concerns were raised:

- Stated that the proposed development does not meet guidelines A-5 Respect for Adjacent Site and C-2 Architectural Concept and Consistency.
- Does not support granting of departures of the north and west residential setbacks.
- Does not support the triangular look to the upper story; suggested a 90-degree angle corner.
- Stated the design of the NE corner has improved, but the massing does not address Height Bulk and Scale and needs to be pulled back.
- Stated that the north elevations does not meet guidelines A-7 Residential Open Space and B-1 Height, Bulk and Scale.
- Stated that preserving the laurel hedge at the north property line and a well-designed project does not make the project better meet the intent of the design guidelines; the departure for the north setback should not be granted.
- Does not support granting of the north setback departure as it is not providing open space or enhancing the design.
- Concerned that the building is not compliant with guideline B-1 Height, Bulk and Scale; the design should be code compliant.
- Concerned that bringing the north wall closer to the property line will create a wall of windows impacting the Lowrise and Single Family zones to the north.
- Concerned about the proposed signage and the “little library”.
- Encouraged the granting of the setback departure of the west façade.
- Supports the cedar siding.
- Stated the developer has been responsive to adjacent property owners concerns.

- Encourage materials that will relate to the older existing neighborhood structures.
- Does not support the contemporary design, suggests older more textured materials

FINAL RECOMMENDATION MEETING: DECEMBER 18, 2013

DESIGN PRESENTATION

The Final Recommendation packet includes materials presented at the meeting, and is available online by entering the project number (3014339) at this website:

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DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

The project came back for a third Recommendation Meeting to address concerns about the design of the north elevation. The Board had indicated that the north elevation setback should be increased to provide for solar access and greater privacy for the surrounding properties, and potential future development. The Board had indicated they were satisfied with the rest of the project design, therefore the presentation and meeting focused on the north elevation changes.

The applicant presented a design that was modified in response to the Board direction. At the uppermost level the north elevation was set back the code required 15'. The two floors below set back 10' and the ground level set back 5'-6" (no setback is required for this floor except at the 15' triangular area at the northeast corner of the site).

The materials and detailing of the other elevations had been modified slightly in response to the reworking of the north elevation. The "Little Library" community book exchange, located at the north end of the elevation along 15th Ave E, was removed and replaced by a vegetated green wall.

Six departures were requested. See the Departures section later in the report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At this Final Recommendation meeting, the following comments, issues and concerns were raised:

- Expressed that the design evolution has been fantastic and addressed the concerns of the north façade and shadow impacts to the north.
- Commended the work and overall design. Liked the proposed material and color palette.
- Pointed out the lack of cedar paneling under the second window bay on the north side of the east elevation.

- Would like to see inclusion of a restaurant hood in the retail space to facilitate possibility of a restaurant use.
- Appreciated the time and work involved in the revised design, including the increased setbacks, cedar siding and brick.
- Would like to see the cedar used more to enhance the residential appearance. Noted that this is an important corner and transition to a residential neighborhood.
- Requested that the tree in the NW corner of the site be preserved to maintain privacy.
- Appreciated outreach by developer and efforts to retain the hedge and retaining wall to the north.

PRIORITIES & BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

After visiting the site, considering the analysis of the site and context provided by the proponents, and hearing public comment, the Design Review Board members provided the following siting and design guidance. The Board identified the Citywide Design Guidelines & Neighborhood specific guidelines (as applicable) of highest priority for this project.

A. Site Planning

- A-1 Responding to Site Characteristics. The siting of buildings should respond to specific site conditions and opportunities such as non-rectangular lots, location on prominent intersections, unusual topography, significant vegetation and views or other natural features.**

At the Early Design Guidance Meeting, the Board indicated the project should be designed to respect the neighborhood. The Board also noted that the project design was being limited by retaining the existing laurel hedge. (See Guideline E-1)

At the Initial Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not comment on the laurel hedge. See Guideline C-1 for the Board's comments about architectural context.

At the Second Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not directly discuss this guideline.

At the Final Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not specifically address this guideline.

- A-2 Streetscape Compatibility. The siting of buildings should acknowledge and reinforce the existing desirable spatial characteristics of the right-of-way.**

Capitol Hill-specific supplemental guidance:

- Retain or increase the width of sidewalks.
- Provide street trees with tree grates or in planter strips, using appropriate species to provide summer shade, winter light, and year-round visual interest.
- Vehicle entrances to buildings should not dominate the streetscape.
- Orient townhouse structures to provide pedestrian entrances to the sidewalk.
- For buildings that span a block and "front" on two streets, each street frontage should receive individual and detailed site planning and architectural design treatments to complement the established streetscape character.

- **New development in commercial zones should be sensitive to neighboring residential zones. Examples include lots on Broadway that extend to streets with residential character, such as Nagle Place or 10th or Harvard Avenues East. While a design with a commercial character is appropriate along Broadway, compatibility with residential character should be emphasized along the other streets.**

At the Early Design Guidance Meeting, the Board encouraged the sidewalk along 15th Ave E to be patterned or scored and the corner at E Mercer St and 15th Ave E be activated.

At the Initial Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not specifically address the streetscape, but did address detailing and materials. See Guidelines B-1 and C-4.

At the Second Recommendation Meeting, the Board indicated they were supportive of how the development addressed this guideline. The applicant presented the street facing build facades as being detailed to represent a more urban ‘commercial’ aesthetic along the corner of 15th Ave E and E Mercer St., and a more residential look toward the corners abutting the residential zones.

At the Final Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not specifically address this guideline.

A-4 Human Activity. New development should be sited and designed to encourage human activity on the street.

At the Early Design Guidance Meeting, the Board did not discuss this guideline but indicated it was of highest importance.

At the Initial Recommendation Meeting, the Board questioned how the proposed “Little public library” book exchange on the 15th Ave E façade, would function. There was not full Board support for this idea. The applicant needs to show that the book exchange will work.

At the Second Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not address this guideline.

At the Final Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not address this guideline.

A-5 Respect for Adjacent Sites. Buildings should respect adjacent properties by being located on their sites to minimize disruption of the privacy and outdoor activities of residents in adjacent buildings.

At the Early Design Guidance Meeting, the Board spent much time discussing their concern with the requested departures from the upper level residential setbacks along the north and west lot lines. They indicated that the relationship of the proposed structure should better respect the existing residential structure to the west, especially as the existing structure has balconies. The Board also discussed the relationship to the structure to the north, indicating that the proposed design seemed to show more respect for this property than the structure to the west.

The Board indicated they were not inclined to support a residential setback departure along the west property line. The Board has concerns about the residential setback departure along the north lot line but may be inclined to grant the departure if the north façade is designed well (see Guidelines C-2 and D-2). They also encouraged the applicant to consider moving the ground level closer to the north property line.

At the Initial Recommendation Meeting, the Board was concerned about the departures being requested from the required residential setbacks along the west and north property lines. They expressed the need for quality materials on the elevation facing the Lowrise zoned properties.

The applicant's presentation of the setback changes that had been made along the west elevation from the EDG phase, was not clearly presented in the Recommendation packet or initially understood by most of the Board. It was acknowledged that the design was heading in the right direction but needed further refinement. The Board suggested considering increasing the setbacks. See Guideline B-1.

At the Second Recommendation Meeting, the Board discussed this guideline at length. The Board expressed that though the project had responded well to the direction to provide quality materials on the residential facing elevations, they were surprised that the requested setback dimensions remained the same. The Board then indicated that the setbacks provided at the west facing façade worked well; they were not supportive of the requested north elevation setbacks.

The Board stated it was willing to grant some setback departure at the north, but could not articulate what the exact setback distance should be. The Board felt it was not their purview to design the structure, but indicated that the north setback should provide for solar access and greater privacy for the surrounding properties, and potential future development. The Board stated they need to see a design solution before they could determine if the right setback amount is being provided.

At the Final Recommendation Meeting, the Board expressed that they were very pleased with the presentation materials and depiction of the design evolution. They appreciated how responsive the design was to the guidance offered at the previous meeting. The detailed shadow studies and explanation demonstrating minimal shadow impacts on the neighboring property was very helpful.

A-7 Residential Open Space. Residential projects should be sited to maximize opportunities for creating usable, attractive, well-integrated open space.

Capitol Hill-specific supplemental guidance:

- **Incorporate quasi-public open space with new residential development or redevelopment, with special focus on corner landscape treatments and courtyard entries.**
- **Create substantial courtyard-style open space that is visually accessible to the public view.**
- **Set back development where appropriate to preserve a view corridor.**
- **Set back upper floors to provide solar access to the sidewalk and/or neighboring properties.**
- **Mature street trees have a high value to the neighborhood and departures from development standards that an arborist determines would impair the health of a mature tree are discouraged.**
- **Use landscape materials that are sustainable, requiring minimal irrigation or fertilizer.**
- **Use porous paving materials to minimize stormwater run-off**

At the Early Design Guidance Meeting, the Board did not discuss this guideline but indicated it was of highest importance.

At the Initial Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not discuss this guideline.

At the Second Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not discuss this guideline.

At the Final Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not address this guideline.

A-10 Corner Lots. Building on corner lots should be oriented to the corner and public street fronts. Parking and automobile access should be located away from corners.

Capitol Hill-specific supplemental guidance:

1. Incorporate residential entries and special landscaping into corner lots by setting the structure back from the property lines.
2. Provide for a prominent retail corner entry.

At the Early Design Guidance Meeting, the Board indicated that the corner should be activated and encouraged an entry be located at this location.

At the Initial Recommendation Meeting, did not specially discuss this guideline. See Guidelines C-2 & C-4.

At the Second Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not discuss this guideline but did indicate they approve of the street facing elevations.

At the Final Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not address this guideline.

B. Height, Bulk and Scale

B-1 Height, Bulk, and Scale Compatibility. Projects should be compatible with the scale of development anticipated by the applicable Land Use Policies for the surrounding area and should be sited and designed to provide a sensitive transition to near-by, less intensive zones. Projects on zone edges should be developed in a manner that creates a step in perceived height, bulk, and scale between anticipated development potential of the adjacent zones.

Capitol Hill-specific supplemental guidance:

3. Break up building mass by incorporating different façade treatments to give the impression of multiple, small-scale buildings, in keeping with the established development pattern.
4. Consider existing views to downtown Seattle, the Space Needle, Elliott Bay and the Olympic Mountains, and incorporate site and building design features that may help to preserve those views from public rights-of-way.
5. Design new buildings to maximize the amount of sunshine on adjacent sidewalks throughout the year

At The Early Design Guidance Meeting, the Board strongly noted that the project design and massing should be respectful of the neighboring structures. Specifically the Board would like to see the project massing transition to the residential zones to the north and west.

At the Initial Recommendation Meeting, the Board expressed concern that the proposed development does not appropriately transition to the lower height residential zones to the north and west. They stressed the need to provide high quality materials on the elevations that face the adjacent developments. See Guideline A-5.

At the Second Recommendation Meeting, the Board discussed this guideline at length. They stated that the north facade was too close to the property line and should be set back to provide for solar access and privacy for the adjacent structures. The Board did not give a set direction on how this should be achieved but mentioned shifting the massing away from the northern portion of the building. See Guideline A-5.

At the Final Recommendation Meeting, the Board expressed that they were very pleased with the presentation materials and depiction of the design evolution. They appreciated how responsive the design was to the guidance offered at the previous meeting. The detailed shadow studies and explanation demonstrating minimal shadow impacts on the neighboring property was very helpful.

C. Architectural Elements and Materials

C-1 Architectural Context. New buildings proposed for existing neighborhoods with a well-defined and desirable character should be compatible with or complement the architectural character and siting pattern of neighboring buildings.

At the Early Design Guidance Meeting, the Board stated that a ‘modern’ building design may not be appropriate for this location.

At the Initial Recommendation Meeting, the Board stated they liked the treatment of the elevations facing the two street fronts. The Board also wants to see the materials on the north elevation be informed by the wood residential structure to the north.

At the Second Recommendation Meeting, the Board appeared satisfied with the character and design of the structure. The massing of the structure along the north property line needs to be reworked. See Guidelines A-5 and B-1.

At the Final Recommendation Meeting, the Board expressed that they were very pleased with the presentation materials and depiction of the design evolution. See Guideline B-1.

C-2 Architectural Concept and Consistency. Building design elements, details and massing should create a well-proportioned and unified building form and exhibit an overall architectural concept. Buildings should exhibit form and features identifying the functions within the building. In general, the roofline or top of the structure should be clearly distinguished from its facade walls.

Capitol Hill-specific supplemental guidance:

- Incorporate signage that is consistent with the existing or intended character of the building and the neighborhood.
- Solid canopies or fabric awnings over the sidewalk are preferred.
- Avoid using vinyl awnings that also serve as big, illuminated signs.
- Use materials and design that is compatible with the structures in the vicinity if those represent the desired neighborhood character.

At The Early Design Guidance Meeting, the Board noted this guideline as highest priority and encouraged the structure to be designed as a gateway and terminus to the neighborhood commercial uses to the south and residential to the north.

At the Initial Recommendation Meeting, the Board reiterated this guidance saying the north elevation needs further refinement to become a gateway façade. The north elevation should use materials that are informed by and respectful of the wood structures to the north. The level of detailing at the corner needs to extend to the entire elevation.

The Board expressed their approval of the design of the street facing elevations. See Guidelines A-5 and C-4.

At the Second Recommendation Meeting, the Board expressed their approval of the material changes made along the west and north elevations.

At the Final Recommendation Meeting, the Board expressed their approval of the materials and stated they should remain as shown.

C-4 Exterior Finish Materials. Building exteriors should be constructed of durable and maintainable materials that are attractive even when viewed up close. Materials that have texture, pattern, or lend themselves to a high quality of detailing are encouraged.

Capitol Hill-specific supplemental guidance:

- Use wood shingles or board and batten siding on residential structures.
- Provide operable windows, especially on storefronts.
- Use materials that are consistent with the existing or intended neighborhood character, including brick, cast stone, architectural stone, terracotta details, and concrete that incorporates texture and color.
- Consider each building as a high-quality, long-term addition to the neighborhood; exterior design and materials should exhibit permanence and quality appropriate to the Capitol Hill neighborhood.
- The use of applied foam ornamentation and EIFS (Exterior Insulation & Finish System) is discouraged, especially on ground level locations.

At the Early Design Guidance Meeting, the Board stated that durable, long-life materials should be used. A materials board was requested for the Recommendation Meeting.

At the Initial Recommendation Meeting, the Board stated they want a full materials Board presented at the next meeting.

The Board expressed their approval of the design of the street facing elevations and advised that all facades be well detailed and use higher quality materials that will age well. The project should provide a concept and consistency with materials. The north façade should use materials that are informed by and respectful of the wood structures to the north. It was noted that good design is a benefit to the public.

At the Second Recommendation Meeting, the Board expressed their support of the material changes that were presented. A large portion of the north and west elevations will be lapped cedar siding. The materials presented at the meeting should be maintained.

At the Final Recommendation Meeting, the Board expressed their approval of the materials and stated they should remain as shown. They agreed that the color and construction of the underside of the red-framed decks are important to reinforce this architectural accent element, and should have a strong presence as viewed from the pedestrian standpoint.

D. Pedestrian Environment

- D-2 Blank Walls. Buildings should avoid large blank walls facing the street, especially near sidewalks. Where blank walls are unavoidable they should receive design treatment to increase pedestrian comfort and interest.**

At the Early Design Guidance Meeting, the Board indicated they don't want the north façade treated as a blank wall and it should provide visual interest. The four story elevation should be considered a gateway into the commercial neighborhood and encouraged windows.

At the Initial Recommendation Meeting, the Board noted that the "feature façade" at the location of the proposed community book exchange needs further refinement and detailing.

At the Second Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not discuss this guideline.

At the Final Recommendation Meeting, the Board discussed the location and alignment of the wall at the NE corner (along the sidewalk) in relation to the building, but declined to recommend changes. The Board agreed that the vertical landscaping is a critical element to be preserved and carefully designed.

- D-6 Screening of Dumpsters, Utilities, and Service Areas. Building sites should locate service elements like trash dumpsters, loading docks and mechanical equipment away from the street front where possible. When elements such as dumpsters, utility meters, mechanical units and service areas cannot be located away from the street front, they should be situated and screened from view and should not be located in the pedestrian right-of-way.**
- **Consolidate and screen dumpsters to preserve and enhance the pedestrian environment.**

At the Early Design Guidance Meeting, the Board asked how garbage pickup would be handled. They stated their concern that solid waste receptacles should not clutter the sidewalks on pick-up days.

At the Initial Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not address this guideline.

At the Second Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not address this guideline.

At the Final Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not address this guideline.

- D-7 Personal Safety and Security. Project design should consider opportunities for enhancing personal safety and security in the environment under review.**

Capitol Hill-specific supplemental guidance:

- **Consider: pedestrian-scale lighting, but prevent light spillover onto adjacent properties; architectural lighting to complement the architecture of the structure; transparent windows allowing views into and out of the structure—thus incorporating the "eyes on the street" design approach'**

- **Provide a clear distinction between pedestrian traffic areas and commercial traffic areas through the use of different paving materials or colors, landscaping, etc.**

At the Early Design Guidance Meeting, the Board was concerned that the space between the proposed structure and existing laurel hedge could create a safety issue if used by transients or other trespassers.

At the Initial Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not specifically address this guideline.

At the Second Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not address this guideline.

At the Final Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not address this guideline.

D-9 Commercial Signage. Signs should add interest to the street front environment and should be appropriate for the scale and character desired in the area.

At the Early Design Guidance Meeting, the Board did not discuss this guideline but indicated it was of highest importance.

At the Initial Recommendation Meeting, the Board supported the presented commercial signage.

At the Second Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not specifically address this guideline.

At the Final Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not address this guideline.

D-10 Commercial Lighting. Appropriate levels of lighting should be provided in order to promote visual interest and a sense of security for people in commercial districts during evening hours. Lighting may be provided by incorporation into the building façade, the underside of overhead weather protection, on and around street furniture, in merchandising display windows, in landscaped areas, and/or on signage.

At the Early Design Guidance Meeting, the Board did not discuss this guideline but indicated it was of highest importance.

At the Initial Recommendation Meeting, The Board supported the proposed commercial lighting.

At the Second Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not address this guideline.

At the Final Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not address this guideline.

D-11 Commercial Transparency. Commercial storefronts should be transparent, allowing for a direct visual connection between pedestrians on the sidewalk and the activities occurring on the interior of a building. Blank walls should be avoided.

At the Early Design Guidance Meeting, the Board did not discuss this guideline but indicated it was of highest importance.

At the Initial Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not specifically address this guideline.

At the Second Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not address this guideline.

At the Final Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not address this guideline.

D-12 Residential Entries and Transitions. For residential projects in commercial zones, the space between the residential entry and the sidewalk should provide security and privacy for residents and a visually interesting street front for pedestrians. Residential buildings should enhance the character of the streetscape with small gardens, stoops and other elements that work to create a transition between the public sidewalk and private entry.

At the Early Design Guidance Meeting, the Board did not discuss this guideline but indicated it was of highest importance.

At the Initial Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not specifically address this guideline.

At the Second Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not address this guideline.

At the Final Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not address this guideline.

E. Landscaping

E-1 Landscaping to Reinforce Design Continuity with Adjacent Sites. Where possible, and where there is not another overriding concern, landscaping should reinforce the character of neighboring properties and abutting streetscape.

At the Early Design Guidance Meeting, the Board did not fully discuss this guideline but they did indicate they thought that retaining the existing laurel hedge along the north property line was limiting development options. They discussed trimming or removing the hedge and noted that the hedge will most probably not survive as long as the proposed structure.

At the Initial Recommendation Meeting, the Board questioned the survival of a tree on the neighboring west parcel during construction. DPD's response is that protection of the tree will be required as part of building permit review.

At the Second Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not address this guideline.

At the Final Recommendation Meeting, the Board was most concerned with the preservation of the trees at the west property line as a privacy buffer to the west and declined to make any recommendations for the tree at the NW corner.

E-2 Landscaping to Enhance the Building and/or Site. Landscaping, including living plant material, special pavements, trellises, screen walls, planters, site furniture, and similar features should be appropriately incorporated into the design to enhance the project.

At the Early Design Guidance Meeting, the Board did not fully discuss this guideline, but they did imply that landscaping along the street frontage should enhance the street experience.

At the Initial Recommendation Meeting, the Board was pleased with the proposed arbor over the driveway ramp. There were no other comments about the proposed landscape plan.

At the Second Recommendation Meeting, the Board did not address this guideline.

At the Final Recommendation Meeting, the Board agreed that the proposed vertical green wall landscaping in front of the blank wall along the sidewalk at the NE portion of the east elevation is a critical element to be preserved and carefully designed.

DEVELOPMENT STANDARD DEPARTURES

The Board's recommendation on the requested departure(s) will be based upon the departure's potential to help the project better meet these design guideline priorities and achieve a better overall design than could be achieved without the departure(s). The Board's recommendation will be reserved until the final Board meeting.

At the time of the Final Recommendation meeting, six departures were requested.

- 1. Setback requirements for lots abutting residential zones (SMC 23.47A.014.B1):** The Code requires a 15' by 15' triangular area setback where a NC zoned lot abuts the intersection of a side and front lot line of a lot in a residential zone. The applicant is proposing a portion of the structure to be in the triangle setback, 4'-10" by 4'-10", no closer than 10'-2" from the west lot line, for the upper stories.

This departure would provide an overall design that would better meet the intent of Design Review Guideline C-2 by providing a structure massing more in keeping with the existing neighborhood character and an elevation that better interacts with the streetscape.

The Board voted unanimously to grant this departure.

- 2. Setback requirements for lots abutting residential zones (SMC 23.47A.014.B.3.a&b):** The Code requires structures along a rear or side lot line that abuts a residential zoned lot to be setback 15' for portions of the structure above 13' in height up to 40', and an addition 2' for every ten feet of height above 40'. The applicant proposes a 10'-2" setback for portions of the structure along the west lot line for the ground and upper stories.

This departure would provide an overall design that would better meet the intent of Design Review Guidelines A-5, A-7 and E-1. The design provides opportunities for ground level landscaped patios instead of elevated patios, and a landscaped trellis along the parking access ramp instead of a high blank wall along the west property line. The design will help preserve an existing tree on the neighboring property.

The Board voted unanimously to grant this departure.

- 3. Parking Standards – Sight Triangles (SMC 23.54.030.G.3):** The Code requires sight triangles to be kept clear of obstructions in the vertical space between 32 and 82 inches above ground. The applicant is proposing a 6" by 6" column intersect this area.

This departure would provide an overall design that would better meet the intent of Design Review Guidelines C-2 and E-1. The narrow column will support a landscape trellis that will screen the parking access ramp along the west property line and align with another column to provide architectural consistency.

The Board voted unanimously to grant this departure.

- 4. Setback requirements for lots abutting residential zones (SMC 23.47A.014.B.1):** The Code requires a 15' by 15' triangular area setback where a NC zoned lot abuts the intersection of a side and front lot line of a lot in a residential zone. The applicant is proposing a portion of the structure to be in the triangle setback, no closer than 5'-6" at the ground level and 12'-2" at levels 2 and 3, to the north lot line.

This departure would provide an overall design that would better meet the intent of Design Review Guideline C-2 and D-7, by providing a structure massing more in keeping with the existing neighborhood character and an elevation that better interacts with the streetscape. By having the structure abut the existing laurel hedge, pedestrian access into the site at this point will be eliminated.

The Board voted unanimously to grant this departure.

- 5. Setback requirements for lots abutting residential zones (SMC 23.47A.014.B.3.a&b):** The Code requires structures along a rear or side lot line that abuts a residential zoned lot to be setback 15' for portions of the structure above 13' in height up to 40', and an addition 2' for every ten feet of height above 40'. The applicant proposes a 5'-6" setback from the north lot line at ground level, and a 10' setback at the second and third levels.

This departure would provide an overall design that would better meet the intent of Design Review Guidelines A-5, B-1 and E-1. The design preserves the existing laurel hedge which will provide some privacy with the adjoining property. The tiered massing along the north elevation creates a transition to the lower height residential zone.

The Board voted unanimously to grant this departure.

- 6. Driveways (SMC 23.54.030. D.3):** The Code requires that no portion of a driveway exceed a slope of 15%. The applicant is requesting a driveway with a maximum slope of 20%.

This departure would provide an overall design that would better meet the intent of Design Review Guidelines A-7. The steeper slope will allow for larger residential patios above the ramp.

The Board voted unanimously to grant this departure.

RECOMMENDATIONS

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendation summarized below was based on the design review packet dated December 18, 2013 and the materials shown and verbally described by the applicant at the December 18, 2013 Design Recommendation Meeting. After considering the site and context, hearing public comment, reconsidering the previously identified design priorities and reviewing the materials, the five Design Review Board members recommended APPROVAL of the subject design.