



EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE OF THE EAST DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Project Number: 3016024

Address: 2203 Eastlake Avenue E

Applicant: Maria Barrientos, Barrientos LLC

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, May 14, 2014

Board Members Present: Natalie Gualy (Chair)
Michael Austin
Curtis Bigelow
Dan Foltz
Christina Orr-Cahall
Kevin Price

Board Members Absent: None

DPD Staff Present: Lindsay King

SITE & VICINITY

Site Zone: Split zoned Neighborhood Commercial One (NC1-P30) and Lowrise Two (LR2 RC)

Nearby Zones: North: LR2 RC
South: NC1P-30
East: NC1P-30
West: LR3

Lot Area: 12,296 sq. ft.

Current Development: Retail store and office building.



Surrounding Development: The subject site is located on the northwest corner of Eastlake Avenue E and E Boston Street. The subject lot is currently split zoned Neighborhood Commercial One with a Pedestrian Overlay (NC1P-30) and Lowrise Two multifamily with a Residential Commercial Overlay (LR2 RC). Lots to the south and east are zoned NC1P-30. Lots to the north are zoned LR2 RC. Lots to the west, across the alley are zoned Lowrise Three (LR3). The site contains two parcels with two existing commercial buildings. The site contains an approximately 10 foot grade change from the east to the west property line. The west lot line, along the alley, is the low point of the site. To the north is a two story motel. To the south is a one story restaurant and to the east is an office building and a multistory residential structure. To the west across the alley is a multifamily structure.

ECAs: None.

Neighborhood Character: This neighborhood, located within the Eastlake Residential Urban Village, includes multifamily housing, community services, restaurants and shopping. Eastlake Avenue E contains a number of multi-story multifamily mixed use structures and one story commercial structures. To the west, three blocks, is Lake Union. Two blocks to the east is Interstate 5. Uses along Eastlake Avenue Street are varied and include single family homes, multifamily apartment buildings, multi-story mixed used building and commercial structures. Zoning along Eastlake Avenue E is primarily Neighborhood Commercial with heights ranging from 30-40 feet. Pockets of Lowrise multifamily zoning are also located on Eastlake Avenue E particularly south of the Eastlake Avenue E and E Boston Street intersection. Zoning is almost entirely multifamily one half block to the east and west of the Eastlake corridor. The majority of buildings are between one and two stories with a few three and four story structures. Within walking distance from the site, services include a restaurants, grocery stores, shopping, and parks. Natural amenities in the area include Lake Union.

Eastlake Avenue E is a major Metro bus corridor providing service from Downtown Seattle to many districts north of Lake Union. Eastlake Avenue E provides connections to the Burke Gilman Trail. Eastlake Avenue E is designated as a principal arterial street.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Early Design Guidance application for a 4-story structure containing 46 residential units above 4 live-work units and 1,652 sq. ft. of commercial space. Parking for 36 vehicles to be provided within a garage off the alley. The existing structures will be demolished.

The project includes a contract rezone to change the entire site to Neighborhood Commercial One with a Pedestrian Overlay and a forty foot height limit (NC1P-40).

EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE MEETING: May 14, 2014

DESIGN PRESENTATION

The EDG packet includes materials presented at the EDG meeting, and is available online by entering the project number (3016024) 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 3016024), 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

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following comments, issues and concerns were raised during the public comment portion of the Early Design Guidance meeting:

- Would like to see the height of the structure reduced to maintain existing views.
- Would like to see the retail spaces located partially below grade to reduce the overall structure height.
- Felt an upper level setback should be provided on the south façade at 3rd floor level to preserve views adjacent to the right-of-way.
- Noted the building would benefit from an additional ground level setback on the south facade, adjacent to the sidewalk to provide additional landscaping.
- Felt proposal is out of scale with the existing structures.
- Concerned building will reduce available sunlight on Eastlake Ave E.
- Felt proposal should contribute to the historic character of the neighborhood by providing thoughtful streetscape, planting, signs, and lighting.

- Preferred high-quality materials used throughout the building.
- Preferred massing scheme one which is a story lower.
- Would like to see landscaping maximized at ground level.
- Would like to see a more traditional building and material application respectful of the surrounding neighborhood.

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 of highest priority for this project.

EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE May 21, 2014

1. **Massing.** The Board felt Massing Option 3 should move forward to MUP submittal with the following guidance:
 - a) The Board preferred Massing Option 3 which locates the central entry courtyard at the corner of Eastlake Avenue E and Boston Street. The Board agreed the corner courtyard promotes pedestrian activity, provides a gateway to the community, and sets a precedent for a more open intersection (CS2-C, PL1-A2, PL3-A2).
 - b) The Board noted Massing Option 3 was preferable with commercial uses on each street and live work uses wrapping onto the alley. At the Recommendation Meeting, the Board requested vignettes of each façade to show how the commercial spaces relate to the pedestrian experience (CS2-B2, PL3-B3).
2. **Eastlake Avenue.** The preferred massing proposal includes commercial space at ground level with residential units above.
 - a) The Board provided guidance to maintain a strong street wall along Eastlake Ave E to the north property line in the area of the required setback (CS3-A).
 - b) The Board also noted they were amenable to additional departure requests along the north setback. The Board felt the structure adjacent to Eastlake Avenue E should be located adjacent to the north property line. The Board provided guidance that further reduction in the north setback should facilitate a generous south setback to provide a larger courtyard space and landscape buffer along the south street property line (CS2).
 - c) The Board encouraged the applicant to consider an optional second EDG meeting to resolve any proposed changes to the massing location along the north and south property lines (CS2).
 - d) The Board provided guidance stating the ground level street façade must maintain a strong street edge, but that the upper levels should be setback. The Board felt the provided setback should provide relief from the large façade on Eastlake Ave E. The Board did not state a setback requirement but thought an investigation of successful

- upper level setbacks in the neighborhood could inform an appropriate setback (CS2-D4 and D5).
- e) The Board felt the applicant should investigate use of the setback as a private amenity feature for residents (CS2-B).
- 3. Entry Courtyard.** The preferred massing option locates a common entry courtyard at the corner intersection.
- a) The Board felt the courtyard provides the opportunity for the building to transition from the commercial Eastlake façade to the quieter more residential Boston street. At the Recommendation Meeting, the Board requested information on the design of the courtyard to create a quality open space activated by spillover of commercial uses and resident’s path of travel (PL1, PL3).
 - b) The Board noted the applicant should study existing neighborhood developments such as the Cloe and Eastlake lofts for examples of successful activation of space (PL3).
- 4. Boston Street.** The preferred massing option locates live work units at the ground level with residential units above.
- a) The Board noted the south façade needed a more successful transition to the residential neighborhood. The Board felt this transition could be achieved in a variety of ways, but felt the applicant should investigate an upper level setback above the live work units. Board provided an example of a two story live work base with a setback above as potential solution (CS2-D).
 - b) The Board noted the live work entry off Boston was important to break the up the ground level massing while providing additional opportunities to incorporate landscaping. At the Recommendation Meeting, the Board requested vignettes of the pedestrian experience and the live work entry treatment (PL3-B).
- 5. Roof.** The Board noted the overall grade transition down to Lake Union will provide views onto the roof surface.
- a) The Board felt the roof should be developed as a 5th façade. The Board noted that the addition of the green roof would help add visual interest to the roof plane (CS2)
 - b) At Recommendation, the Board would like to see additional detail on the development of the roof as a common amenity space maximizing the existing views to the lake (CS2-B).
- 6. Material and Architectural Context.** The Board felt the architectural and material concept should be informed by existing building context.
- a) The Board felt the proposed building should incorporate material cues, such as brick, to reference the existing context (CS3-A4, DC4-A).
 - b) The Board noted the application should include durable long lasting materials at the base. The Board requested complete material demonstration at the Recommendation Meeting (CS3-A-4, DC4-A).
 - c) The Board would like to see the architectural concept evolve to include large windows (DC2).

- d) At the Recommendation Meeting, the Board requested street level vignettes demonstrating the material application on Eastlake Ave E and Boston Street facades (DC4).

DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES

The priority Citywide and Neighborhood guidelines are summarized below. For the full text please visit the [Design Review website](#).

CONTEXT & SITE

CS1 Natural Systems and Site Features: Use natural systems/features of the site and its surroundings as a starting point for project design.

CS1-A Energy Use

CS1-C Topography

CS1-C-2. Elevation Changes: Use the existing site topography when locating structures and open spaces on the site.

CS2 Urban Pattern and Form: Strengthen the most desirable forms, characteristics, and patterns of the streets, block faces, and open spaces in the surrounding area.

CS2-A Location in the City and Neighborhood

CS2-A-1. Sense of Place: Emphasize attributes that give a distinctive sense of place.

Design the building and open spaces to enhance areas where a strong identity already exists, and create a sense of place where the physical context is less established.

CS2-A-2. Architectural Presence: Evaluate the degree of visibility or architectural presence that is appropriate or desired given the context, and design accordingly.

CS2-B Adjacent Sites, Streets, and Open Spaces

CS2-B-1. Site Characteristics: Allow characteristics of sites to inform the design, especially where the street grid and topography create unusually shaped lots that can add distinction to the building massing.

CS2-B-2. Connection to the Street: Identify opportunities for the project to make a strong connection to the street and public realm.

CS2-B-3. Character of Open Space: Contribute to the character and proportion of surrounding open spaces.

CS2-C Relationship to the Block

CS2-C-1. Corner Sites: Corner sites can serve as gateways or focal points; both require careful detailing at the first three floors due to their high visibility from two or more streets and long distances.

CS2-D Height, Bulk, and Scale

CS2-D-1. Existing Development and Zoning: Review the height, bulk, and scale of neighboring buildings as well as the scale of development anticipated by zoning for the area to determine an appropriate complement and/or transition.

CS2-D-2. Existing Site Features: Use changes in topography, site shape, and vegetation or structures to help make a successful fit with adjacent properties.

CS2-D-3. Zone Transitions: For projects located at the edge of different zones, provide an appropriate transition or complement to the adjacent zone(s). Projects should create a step in perceived height, bulk and scale between the anticipated development potential of the adjacent zone and the proposed development.

CS2-D-4. Massing Choices: Strive for a successful transition between zones where a project abuts a less intense zone.

CS2-D-5. Respect for Adjacent Sites: Respect adjacent properties with design and site planning to minimize disrupting the privacy of residents in adjacent buildings.

CS3 Architectural Context and Character: Contribute to the architectural character of the neighborhood

CS3-A Emphasizing Positive Neighborhood Attributes

CS3-A-4. Evolving Neighborhoods: In neighborhoods where architectural character is evolving or otherwise in transition, explore ways for new development to establish a positive and desirable context for others to build upon in the future.

PUBLIC LIFE

PL1 Connectivity: Complement and contribute to the network of open spaces around the site and the connections among them.

PL1-A Network of Open Spaces

PL1-A-1. Enhancing Open Space: Design the building and open spaces to positively contribute to a broader network of open spaces throughout the neighborhood.

PL1-A-2. Adding to Public Life: Seek opportunities to foster human interaction through an increase in the size and quality of project-related open space available for public life.

PL2 Walkability: Create a safe and comfortable walking environment that is easy to navigate and well-connected to existing pedestrian walkways and features.

PL2-B Safety and Security

PL2-B-1. Eyes on the Street: Create a safe environment by providing lines of sight and encouraging natural surveillance.

PL2-B-2. Lighting for Safety: Provide lighting at sufficient lumen intensities and scales, including pathway illumination, pedestrian and entry lighting, and/or security lights.

PL2-B-3. Street-Level Transparency: Ensure transparency of street-level uses (for uses such as nonresidential uses or residential lobbies), where appropriate, by keeping views open into spaces behind walls or plantings, at corners, or along narrow passageways.

PL3 Street-Level Interaction: Encourage human interaction and activity at the street-level with clear connections to building entries and edges.

PL3-A Entries

PL3-A-1. Design Objectives: Design primary entries to be obvious, identifiable, and distinctive with clear lines of sight and lobbies visually connected to the street.

PL3-A-2. Common Entries: Multi-story residential buildings need to provide privacy and security for residents but also be welcoming and identifiable to visitors.

PL3-A-3. Individual Entries: Ground-related housing should be scaled and detailed appropriately to provide for a more intimate type of entry.

PL3-A-4. Ensemble of Elements: Design the entry as a collection of coordinated elements including the door(s), overhead features, ground surface, landscaping, lighting, and other features.

PL3-B Residential Edges

PL3-B-3. Buildings with Live/Work Uses: Maintain active and transparent facades in the design of live/work residences. Design the first floor so it can be adapted to other commercial use as needed in the future.

DC2 Architectural Concept: Develop an architectural concept that will result in a unified and functional design that fits well on the site and within its surroundings.

DC2-A Massing

DC2-A-2. Reducing Perceived Mass: Use secondary architectural elements to reduce the perceived mass of larger projects.

DC2-B Architectural and Façade Composition

DC2-B-1. Façade Composition: Design all building facades—including alleys and visible roofs— considering the composition and architectural expression of the building as a whole. Ensure that all facades are attractive and well-proportioned.

DC4 Exterior Elements and Finishes: Use appropriate and high quality elements and finishes for the building and its open spaces.

DC4-A Exterior Elements and Finishes

DC4-A-1. 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.

DC4-A-2. Climate Appropriateness: Select durable and attractive materials that will age well in Seattle’s climate, taking special care to detail corners, edges, and transitions.

DC4-B Signage

DC4-B-1. Scale and Character: Add interest to the streetscape with exterior signs and attachments that are appropriate in scale and character to the project and its environs.

DC4-B-2. Coordination with Project Design: Develop a signage plan within the context of architectural and open space concepts, and coordinate the details with façade design, lighting, and other project features to complement the project as a whole, in addition to the surrounding context.

DC4-C Lighting

DC4-C-1. Functions: Use lighting both to increase site safety in all locations used by pedestrians and to highlight architectural or landscape details and features such as entries, signs, canopies, plantings, and art.

DC4-C-2. Avoiding Glare: Design project lighting based upon the uses on and off site, taking care to provide illumination to serve building needs while avoiding off-site night glare and light pollution.

DC4-D Trees, Landscape, and Hardscape Materials

DC4-D-1. Choice of Plant Materials: Reinforce the overall architectural and open space design concepts through the selection of landscape materials.

DC4-D-2. Hardscape Materials: Use exterior courtyards, plazas, and other hard surfaced areas as an opportunity to add color, texture, and/or pattern and enliven public areas through the use of distinctive and durable paving materials. Use permeable materials wherever possible.

DC4-D-3. Long Range Planning: Select plants that upon maturity will be of appropriate size, scale, and shape to contribute to the site as intended.

DC4-D-4. Place Making: Create a landscape design that helps define spaces with significant elements such as trees.

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 Early Design Guidance meeting, the following departure was requested:

1. Setbacks (SMC 23.47A.014 B1): The code requires a setback at the intersection of a side and front lot line in a residential zone. The setback is a 15 foot triangular area. The applicant proposed a zero-foot setback in this area.

The Board was inclined to grant the setback departure request. The Board felt the ground level façade at street level should be located at the property line continuing to the north property line to maintain a strong street wall. The Board felt the strong street wall better met the intent of CS2 Urban Pattern and Form. The Board did feel that an upper level setback should be provided particularly at the northeast corner of the site to provide a relief from the multistory building on Eastlake Avenue E and the adjacent site to the north per Design Guideline CS2-D.

BOARD DIRECTION

At the conclusion of the EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE meeting, the Board recommended moving forward to MUP application.