City of Seattle
Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Department of Planning and Development
D. M. Sugimura, Director

CITY OF SEATTLE
ANALYSIS AND DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Application Number: 3018254

Applicant Name: Dave Biddle

Address of Proposal: 4151 California Avenue SW

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION

Land Use Application to subdivide one parcel into three parcels of land. Proposed parcel sizes are: A) 866 sq. ft., B) 1,375 sq. ft. and C) 1,843 sq. ft. Project also includes unit lot subdivision of Parcel C into two unit lots. The construction of the residential and live-work units has been approved under Project #6387740. The subdivision of Parcel C is only for the purpose of allowing sale or lease of the unit lots. Development standards for Parcel C will be applied to Parcel C as a whole and not to each of the new unit lots.

The following approval is required:

Short Subdivision - to subdivide one existing parcel into three parcels of land.
(Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 23.24)

Unit Lot Subdivision – to create two unit lots.
(SMC 23.24.045)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Zoning: NC1 - 40

Uses on Site: Four Single Family homes, and one commercial structure. These buildings will be demolished per future permits.

Site Description: This 4,084 square foot (sq. ft.) project site is located in a Neighborhood commercial zone in the at the corner of SW Genesee St and California Ave SW within the West Seattle Junction Hub Urban Village. The lot is rectangular. The existing structure is to be legally demolished.

There is a row of trees along the property lines dividing the two existing lots. Two additional trees stand in between the two existing homes of the southern half of the parcel. None have been identified and exceptional or significant. During future building permit application for both parcels, the applicant will be required to provide additional tree planting/preservation plans. The subject site is not located within any identified or designated Environmentally Critical Areas.

California Avenue SW is an improved street with a paved roadway, curbs, gutters, planting strips, street trees, and sidewalks. Surrounding properties are zoned NC1-40, to the north, south, and east, and single family 5000 to the west. There are multiple Lowrise and Neighborhood Commercial zone to the south on the southern side of SW Genesee St. Development in the area consists of primarily multi-family residences and a few single family residences of varying ages and architectural styles, and medium to low impact commercial development. Area lot sizes vary widely, with primarily smaller rectangular lots in the single family zones, and several significantly larger lots which are shaped to accommodate commercial establishments.

Public Comment

No public comments were received during the 14-day comment period that ended on October 8, 2014.

ANALYSIS – SUBDIVISION

General short subdivision standards: Pursuant to SMC 23.24.040, the Director shall, after conferring with appropriate officials, use the following criteria to determine whether to grant, condition, or deny a short plat:

1. *Conformance to the applicable Land Use Code provisions, as modified by this chapter;*
2. *Adequacy of access for pedestrians, vehicles, utilities and fire protection as provided in Section 23.53.005, Access to lots, and Section 23.53.006, Pedestrian access and circulation;*
3. *Adequacy of drainage, water supply and sanitary sewage disposal;*
4. *Whether the public use and interests are served by permitting the proposed division of land;*
5. *Conformance to the applicable provisions of Section 25.09.240, Short subdivisions and subdivisions, in environmentally critical areas;*
6. *Whether the proposed division of land is designed to maximize the retention of existing trees;*
7. *Conformance to the provisions of Section 23.24.045, Unit lot subdivisions, when the short subdivision is for the purpose of creating separate lots of record for the construction and/or transfer of title of townhouse, rowhouse, and cottage housing developments as permitted in Single-Family, Residential Small Lot, and Lowrise zones and for single-family dwelling units in Lowrise zones, or any combination of the above types of residential development, as permitted in the applicable zones; and;*
8. *Conformance to the provisions of Section 23.24.046, Multiple single-family dwelling units on a single-family lot, when the short subdivision is for the purpose of creating two or more lots from one lot with more than one existing single-family dwelling unit.*

9. *Every lot except unit lots and lots proposed to be platted for individual live-work units in zones where live-work units are permitted, shall conform to the following standards for lot configuration, unless a special exception is authorized under subsection 23.24.040.B:*

    a. *If a lot is proposed with street frontage, then one lot line shall abut the street for at least 10 feet; and*

    b. *No lot shall be less than 10 feet wide for a distance of more than 10 feet as measured at any point; and*

    c. *No proposed lot shall have more than six separate lot lines. The lot lines shall be straight lines, unless the irregularly shaped lot line is caused by an existing right-of-way or an existing lot line; and*

    d. *If the property proposed for subdivision is adjacent to an alley, and the adjacent alley is either improved or required to be improved according to the standards of Section 23. 53.030, then no new lot shall be proposed that does not provide alley access, except that access from a street to an existing use or structure is not required to be changed to alley access. Proposed new lots shall have sufficient frontage on the alley to meet access standards for the zone in which the property is located.*

Conclusion

Based on information provided by the applicant, referral comments from DPD and other City Departments, and review and analysis by the Land Use Planner, the above criteria have been met. The short subdivision meets all minimum standards or applicable exceptions set forth in the Land Use Code because the parcels were recognized as existing platted lots prior 1957. A legal site letter site was also submitted with this application. This short subdivision will provide pedestrian and vehicular access (including emergency vehicles), and public and private utilities. Adequate provisions for drainage control, water supply and sanitary sewage disposal will be provided for each lot and service is assured, subject to standard conditions governing utility extensions. The proposed plat maximizes the retention of existing trees. The public use and interest are served by the proposal since all applicable criteria are met and the proposal creates the potential for additional housing opportunities in the City.

DECISION –SHORT SUBDIVISION

The proposed Short Subdivision is **GRANTED.**

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL PRIOR TO RECORDING

None.

Unit lot subdivision standards: The unit lot subdivision must conform to the provisions of Section 23.24.045, Unit lot subdivisions, when the short subdivision is for the purpose of creating separate lots of record for the construction and/or transfer of title of townhouses, cottage housing, clustered housing, or single-family housing.

A. *The provisions of this section apply exclusively to the unit subdivision of land for townhouses, rowhouse and cottage housing developments as permitted in Single-Family, Residential Small Lot, and Lowrise zones, and for single-family dwelling units in Lowrise zones, or any combination of the above types of residential development, as permitted in the applicable zones.*

B. *Except for any site for which a permit has been issued pursuant to Section 23.44.041 or 23.45.545 for a detached accessory dwelling unit, sites developed or proposed to be developed with dwelling units listed in subsection 23.24.045 A above may be subdivided into individual unit lots. The development as a whole shall meet development standards applicable at the time the permit application is vested. As a result of the subdivision, development on individual unit lots may be nonconforming as to some or all of the development standards based on analysis of the individual unit lot, except that any private, usable open space or private amenity area for each dwelling unit shall be provided on the same unit lot as the dwelling unit it serves.*

C. *Subsequent platting actions, additions or modifications to the structure(s) may not create or increase any nonconformity of the parent lot.*

D. *Access easements and joint use and maintenance agreements shall be executed for use of common garage or parking areas, common open space (such as common courtyard open space for cottage housing), and other similar features, as recorded with the Director of the King County Department of Records and Elections.*

E. *Within the parent lot, required parking for a dwelling unit may be provided on a different unit lot than the lot with the dwelling unit, as long as the right to use that parking is formalized by an easement on the plat, as recorded with the Director of the King County Department of Records and Elections.*

F. *The facts that the unit lot is not a separate buildable lot, and that additional development of the individual unit lots may be limited as a result of the application of development standards to the parent lot shall be noted on the plat, as recorded with the Director of the King County Department of Records and Elections.*

The unit lot subdivision conforms to applicable standards of SMC 23.24.045. Structures reviewed under a separate building permit, conform to the development standards at the time the permit application was vested *to Code.*

DECISION – UNIT LOT SUBDIVISION

The proposed Unit Lot Subdivision is **GRANTED with Conditions**.

CONDITION OF APPROVAL PRIOR TO RECORDING

1. Add an easement or covenant to allow for the proper posting of address signage for all lots that do not have street frontage.

Signature: *Betty Galarosa for* Date: April 13, 2015
Jeremy Smith, Land Use Planner
Department of Planning and Development

JS:bg

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ISSUANCE OF YOUR MASTER USE PERMIT

Master Use Permit Expiration and Issuance

The appealable land use decision on your Master Use Permit (MUP) application has now been published. At the conclusion of the appeal period, your permit will be considered "approved for issuance". (If your decision is appealed, your permit will be considered "approved for issuance" on the fourth day following the City Hearing Examiner's decision.) Projects requiring a Council land use action shall be considered "approved for issuance" following the Council's decision.

The "approved for issuance" date marks the beginning of the **three year life** of the MUP approval, whether or not there are outstanding corrections to be made or pre-issuance conditions to be met. The permit must be issued by DPD within that three years or it will expire and be cancelled. (SMC 23-76-028) (Projects with a shoreline component have a **two year life**. Additional information regarding the effective date of shoreline permits may be found at 23.60.074.)

All outstanding corrections must be made, any pre-issuance conditions met and all outstanding fees paid before the permit is issued. You will be notified when your permit has issued.

Questions regarding the issuance and expiration of your permit may be addressed to the Public Resource Center at prc@seattle.gov or to our message line at 206-684-8467.