



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: 3019245
Applicant Name: Jeffery Wegener
Address of Proposal: 4418 31ST AVE W

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

Land Use Application to subdivide one parcel into two parcels of land in an environmentally critical area. Proposed parcel sizes are: a) 4,201 sq. ft. and b) 3,802 sq. ft. Existing structures to be removed.

The following approval is required:

SEPA Environmental Determination (SMC Chapter 25.05)

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

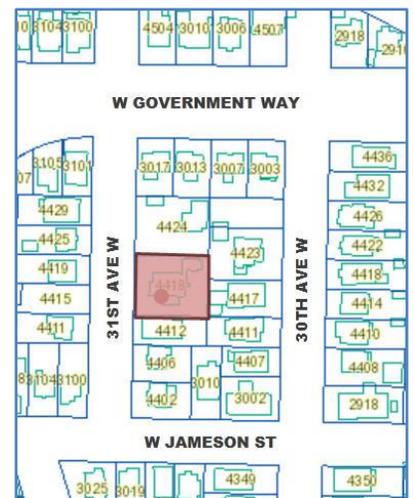
SEPA DETERMINATION:

Determination of Non-significance

- No mitigating conditions of approval are imposed.
- Pursuant to SEPA substantive authority provided in SMC 25.06.660, the proposal has been conditioned to mitigate environmental impacts.

Site and Vicinity

Site Zoning: Single Family (SF 5000)
Nearby Zones: Single Family (SF 5000), Neighborhood Commercial (NC1-40)
Existing Use: Single Family residence
Lot Area: 8003 sq. ft.
Site Characteristics: The site is mapped as an Environmentally Critical Area (ECA) wildlife habitat/heron management area



Project Description:

The applicant proposes to subdivide one parcel into two parcels and future construction of two single family structures.

Public Comment:

No written comments were received during the public comment period ending on January 25, 2015.

I. 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 zone 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. 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 have been provided for each lot and service is assured, subject to standard conditions governing utility extensions.

Several trees are located along the perimeter of the subject property. The trees can be preserved, depending upon the location of any future construction, vehicular access, the extent of the root systems and the overall health of the trees. Additionally, the DPD Planner reviewed the current proposed plat configuration submission to DPD (dated March 12, 2015) and the DPD planner has determined that the proposed plat is designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. Future construction will be subject to the provisions of SMC 25.11.050 which sets forth exceptional tree determination and protection requirements in Single-family zones.

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.**

II. ANALYSIS - SEPA

The proposal site is located in a mapped environmentally critical area (ECA) wildlife habitat/heron management area. SMC 25.05.908 provides that the scope of environmental review of projects within critical areas shall be limited to: 1) documenting whether the proposal is consistent with the City's Environmentally Critical Areas (ECA) regulations in SMC 25.09; and 2) evaluating potentially significant impacts on the critical area resources not adequately addressed in the ECA regulations. This review includes identifying additional mitigation measures needed to protect the ECA in order to achieve consistency with SEPA and other applicable environmental laws.

The initial disclosure of the potential impacts from this project was made in the environmental checklist submitted by the applicant and signed December 30th, 2014. The information in the checklist, pertinent public comment, and the experience of the lead agency with review of similar projects form the basis for this analysis and decision. The Department of Planning and Development has analyzed and annotated the environmental checklist submitted by the project applicant; reviewed the project plans, including site survey, and any additional information in the file. As indicated in the checklist, this action may result in adverse impacts to the environment. However, due to their temporary nature and limited effects, the impacts are not expected to be significant.

The SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 25.05.665) clarifies the relationship between codes, policies and environmental review. Specific policies for each element of the environment, and certain neighborhood plans and other policies explicitly referenced, may serve as the basis for exercising substantive SEPA authority. The Overview Policy states, in part, “*Where City regulations have been adopted to address environmental impact, it shall be presumed that such regulations are adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation*” subject to some limitations. Under such limitations or circumstances (SMC 25.05.665 D) mitigation can be considered. Thus, a more detailed discussion of some of the impacts is appropriate. Short-term and long-term adverse impacts are anticipated from the proposal.

Short Term Impacts

The following temporary or construction-related impacts are expected: temporary soil erosion; decreased air quality due to increased dust and other suspended air particulates during excavation, filling and transport of materials to and from the site and increased noise and vibration from construction operations and equipment. Compliance with applicable codes and ordinances will reduce or eliminate most adverse short-term impacts to the environment.

Mitigation for short term impacts is subject to the SEPA Overview Policy. Due to the project’s location with the Great Blue Heron Management Area (all areas within 500 feet of a colony nesting area) the applicant is required to provide a Great Blue Heron Management Plan in compliance with Director’s Rule 5-2007 prior to issuance of a building and demolition permit.

Long Term Impacts

Long term or use-related impacts on the environmentally critical area are also anticipated as a result of this proposal, including: increased surface water runoff due to greater site coverage by impervious surfaces; and loss of plant and animal habitat. Compliance with applicable codes and ordinances will reduce or eliminate most adverse long-term impacts to the environment.

No further conditioning or mitigation is warranted pursuant to specific environmental policies or the SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 25.05.665).

DECISION – SEPA

This decision was made after review by the responsible official on behalf of the lead agency of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the responsible department. This constitutes the Threshold Determination and form. The intent of this declaration is to satisfy the requirement of the State Environmental Policy Act (RCW 43.21.C), including the requirement to inform the public of agency decisions pursuant to SEPA.

- Determination of Non-Significance. This proposal has been determined to not have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. An EIS is not required under RCW 43.21.030(2) (c).

CONDITIONS – SHORT SUBDIVISION

None required.

CONDITIONS - SEPA

Prior to issuance of a building and/or demolition permit

- 1) A Great Blue Heron Management Plan with the following elements is required:
 - a) Any clearing, grading or outside construction shall be done outside of the nesting season (February 1st though July 31st).
 - b) All 22 inch diameter breast height (dbh) or larger screening trees shall be retained during the nesting season so as to block visual disturbance to the colony. Screening trees are those trees that are within direct line of sight of the nesting area or block line of sight to the structure.
 - c) If the parcel abuts the colony nesting area there shall be a minimum 15 foot building setback. The setback shall be vegetated in a manner that screens activities on the parcel from the colony nesting area.

Signature: retagonzales-cumentubby for _____ Date: April 6, 2015
Magda Hogness, Land Use Planner
Department of Planning and Development

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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.