

#### **AGENDA**

## **MILWAUKIE PLANNING COMMISSION** Tuesday September 14, 2010, 6:30 PM

## **MILWAUKIE CITY HALL 10722 SE MAIN STREET**

1.0	Call to Order - Procedural Matters					
2.0	Planning Commission Minutes – Motion Needed					
	2.1	July 13, 2010				

July 13, 2010

- 3.0 Information Items
- 4.0 Audience Participation - This is an opportunity for the public to comment on any item not on the
- 5.0 Public Hearings – Public hearings will follow the procedure listed on reverse
- 6.0 Worksession Items
  - 6.1 Summary: Land Use and Development Review Process Tune-Up: Continuation of discussion about variances and nonconforming uses and structures Staff Person: Susan Shanks
- 7.0 Planning Department Other Business/Updates
  - 7.1 Metro COO Recommendation overview
- 8.0 Planning Commission Discussion Items - This is an opportunity for comment or discussion for items not on the agenda.
- **Forecast for Future Meetings:** 9.0

September 28, 2010

- 1. Worksession: South Downtown Concept Plan
- 2. Worksession: Natural Resource Overlay project update

October 12, 2010

- 1. Public Hearing: AP-10-01 Appeal of Director's Determination re: LED signs in Downtown
- 2. Worksession: Land Use and Development Review Process Tune-Up: Review of draft amendments for revised Variances and Nonconforming Situations chapters and new Development Review chapter
- 3. Worksession: Comp Plan Thinking About, and Planning For, the Future

#### Milwaukie Planning Commission Statement

The Planning Commission serves as an advisory body to, and a resource for, the City Council in land use matters. In this capacity, the mission of the Planning Commission is to articulate the Community's values and commitment to socially and environmentally responsible uses of its resources as reflected in the Comprehensive Plan

- 1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS. If you wish to speak at this meeting, please fill out a yellow card and give to planning staff. Please turn off all personal communication devices during meeting. For background information on agenda items, call the Planning Department at 503-786-7600 or email planning@ci.milwaukie.or.us. Thank You.
- 2. PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES. Approved PC Minutes can be found on the City website at www.cityofmilwaukie.org
- 3. CITY COUNCIL MINUTES City Council Minutes can be found on the City website at www.cityofmilwaukie.org
- 4. FORECAST FOR FUTURE MEETING. These items are tentatively scheduled, but may be rescheduled prior to the meeting date. Please contact staff with any questions you may have.
- 5. TME LIMIT POLICY. The Commission intends to end each meeting by 10:00pm. The Planning Commission will pause discussion of agenda items at 9:45pm to discuss whether to continue the agenda item to a future date or finish the agenda item.

#### **Public Hearing Procedure**

Those who wish to testify should come to the front podium, state his or her name and address for the record, and remain at the podium until the Chairperson has asked if there are any questions from the Commissioners.

- 1. STAFF REPORT. Each hearing starts with a brief review of the staff report by staff. The report lists the criteria for the land use action being considered, as well as a recommended decision with reasons for that recommendation.
- 2. CORRESPONDENCE. Staff will report any verbal or written correspondence that has been received since the Commission was presented with its meeting packet.
- 3. APPLICANT'S PRESENTATION.
- 4. PUBLIC TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT. Testimony from those in favor of the application.
- NEUTRAL PUBLIC TESTIMONY. Comments or questions from interested persons who are neither in favor of nor opposed to the application.
- 6. PUBLIC TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION. Testimony from those in opposition to the application.
- 7. QUESTIONS FROM COMMISSIONERS. The commission will have the opportunity to ask for clarification from staff, the applicant, or those who have already testified.
- 8. REBUTTAL TESTIMONY FROM APPLICANT. After all public testimony, the commission will take rebuttal testimony from the applicant.
- 9. CLOSING OF PUBLIC HEARING. The Chairperson will close the public portion of the hearing. The Commission will then enter into deliberation. From this point in the hearing the Commission will not receive any additional testimony from the audience, but may ask questions of anyone who has testified.
- **10. COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION.** It is the Commission's intention to make a decision this evening on each issue on the agenda. Planning Commission decisions may be appealed to the City Council. If you wish to appeal a decision, please contact the Planning Department for information on the procedures and fees involved.
- 11. **MEETING CONTINUANCE.** Prior to the close of the first public hearing, *any person* may request an opportunity to present additional information at another time. If there is such a request, the Planning Commission will either continue the public hearing to a date certain, or leave the record open for at least seven days for additional written evidence, argument, or testimony. The Planning Commission may ask the applicant to consider granting an extension of the 120-day time period for making a decision if a delay in making a decision could impact the ability of the City to take final action on the application, including resolution of all local appeals.

The City of Milwaukie will make reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities. Please notify us no less than five (5) business days prior to the meeting.

#### Milwaukie Planning Commission:

Jeff Klein, Chair Nick Harris, Vice Chair Lisa Batey Teresa Bresaw Scott Churchill Chris Wilson Mark Gamba

## **Planning Department Staff:**

Katie Mangle, Planning Director Susan Shanks, Senior Planner Brett Kelver, Associate Planner Ryan Marquardt, Associate Planner Li Alligood, Assistant Planner Alicia Stoutenburg, Administrative Specialist II Paula Pinyerd, Hearings Reporter

1 2 3 4 5 6 7	CITY OF MILWAUKIE PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES Milwaukie City Hall 10722 SE Main Street TUESDAY, July 13, 2010 6:30 PM
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	COMMISSIONERS PRESENT Nick Harris, Vice Chair Lisa Batey Scott Churchill Teresa Bresaw Mark Gamba  STAFF PRESENT Katie Mangle, Planning Director Susan Shanks, Senior Planner Bill Monahan, City Attorney
15 16 17 18 19	COMMISSIONERS ABSENT Jeff Klein, Chair Chris Wilson
20 21 22 23	1.0 Call to Order – Procedural Matters Vice Chair Harris called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and read the conduct of meeting format into the record.
24	2.0 Planning Commission Minutes
25	2.1 May 11, 2010
26	Commissioner Batey replaced the "[inaudible]" on Page 23 Line 747 as follows, "especially in
27	light of the riparian restoration in the plan, it seemed like promoting goat trails for
28	nonmotorized access was inconsistent with that." She verified the application noted on
29	Page 28 Line 915 would formally return to the DLC to review some of the details of the plan
30	because of a condition of approval.
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32	Commissioner Bresaw moved to approve the May 11, 2010, Planning Commission
33	Meeting minutes as amended by Commissioner Batey. Commissioner Gamba seconded
34	the motion, which passed unanimously.
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36	2.2 June 22, 2010
37	Commissioner Gamba moved to approve the June 22, 2010, Planning Commission
38	meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Churchill seconded the motion which
39	passed 3 to 0 to 2 with Commissioners Bresaw and Batey abstaining.
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41	3.0 Information Items-None.

### 2.1 Page 2

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43 **4.0** Audience Participation –This was an opportunity for the public to comment on any item not on the agenda. There was none.

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## 5.0 Public Hearings

- 47 5.1 Summary: Pond House Deck and Landscaping
- 48 Applicant/Owner: Paul Shirey / City of Milwaukie
- 49 Address: 2215 SE Harrison St
- 50 File: WQR-10-02, CSU-10-06
- 51 Staff Person: Susan Shanks

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- Vice Chair Harris called the hearing to order and read the conduct of quasi-judicial hearing
- format into the record.

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- 56 **Susan Shanks, Senior Planner**, cited the applicable approval criteria of the Milwaukie
- 57 Municipal Code (MMC) as found on 5.1 Page 7 of the packet, which was entered into the
- record. Copies of the report were made available at the sign-in table.

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- Vice Chair Harris asked if any Commissioners had a conflict of interest or any ex parte
- 61 contacts to declare.

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- 63 Each Commissioner declared they had visited the site. No Commissioners, however, declared a
- 64 conflict of interest, bias, or conclusion from a site visit. No Commissioners abstained and no
- 65 Commissioner's participation was challenged by any member of the audience.

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- 67 **Commissioner Bresaw** declared her neighbor, who was on the Library Board, had spoken
- briefly with her regarding the deck area at the Pond House and commented that she hoped the
- 69 Commissioners would look at it in a favorable manner.
- She confirmed that her contact with her neighbor would not affect her judgment. She would not be biased and would be able to participate in this evening's hearing.
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- Vice Chair Harris stated he had briefly spoken with Chair Klein but their conversation did not
- involve anything germane to the application.

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- 76 Ms. Shanks presented the staff report via PowerPoint, responding to guestions and comments 77 from the Commission as follows:
- She noted the application was only to review the impervious improvements; the landscaping 79 improvements were allowed outright by the MMC.
- 80 She clarified the new stairs would be in approximately the same location as the old stairs, which would exit from the back door, turn, and head toward the north of the building. The 81 82 exit from the stairs would be a 5 to 6 ft wide egress path that would be created between the 83 house and retaining wall.
  - She deferred questions about the current condition of the egress to the Applicant, though she believed it was old gravel.
  - Staff believed it was desirable to maintain the second egress off the rear deck because the Pond House is a public facility. The Applicant's Water Quality Resource (WQR) consultant indicated a larger disturbance would occur to the WQR area. A different configuration for the stairs would likely require additional footings or extending the stairs further out over an established rock wall and through existing trees due to the required run and rise. Further clarification was deferred to the Applicant.
  - Improvements involving the footings and stepping stone path added approximately 39 sq ft of new impervious area. The plantings would total about 525 sq ft which staff believed would mitigate the disturbance to the WQR area.
  - The area where the plantings were installed had not been an impervious area, but primarily a grassy and weedy area not considered to be native. Some nuisance plants were removed. Brad Albert, Civil Engineer, had reviewed the application and many of the installed and proposed plants were listed on the stormwater facility list. These plants have a greater benefit of cleaning and managing stormwater before it enters the pond.
- 100 The window for the in-water work period would be July 15 to August 31, 2010.
- Correspondence regarding the Pond House proposal included a letter received tonight from 102 Kay Sweetland Bower, a member of Ledding Library Board and Friends of Ledding Library dated July 8, 2010 in support of the application. Copies of the letter were distributed to the Commission.

**Vice Chair Harris** called for comments from the Applicant.

Paul Shirey, Public Works Operations Director, stated the Pond House facility maintenance fell under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department. The Pond House is unlike other City-

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CITY OF MILWAUKIE PLANNING COMMISSION Minutes of July 13, 2010 Page 4

- owned buildings because of the number of people involved, including the Library Board and the Friends of the Library. The current principal function of the Pond House is to serve as the library book store, which was approved by the CSU, and it is a meeting place for City business and related community functions.
- Following the purchase of the Pond House, the Applicant anticipated that the Booktique application would require constructing the sidewalk to Downtown standards, which they were prepared to do. It was also discovered that the deck was close to collapsing and the decision was made to dismantle it.
- After the approval for the Booktique and learning that not as much money was needed for the sidewalk, the City Manager at the time asked that the deck be replaced. The driveway was effectively closed, providing the opportunity to replace the driveway, apron, and curb.
- The on-call carpenter, Steve Philps, was directed by Mr. Shirey to replace the deck without increasing its size. Mr. Philps determined the original footings were not safe, and poured expanded concrete footings without first consulting Mr. Shirey. This work immediately triggered the need for a Type III Review, delaying the project.
- The application also included small footings for the bench, a small footing for art work, and stepping stones, which would contribute to the overall esthetics of the Pond House.
- The mitigation for the addition of the impervious area was in the form of landscaping that had been completed. He noted the driveway was replaced with impervious pavers, which removed quite a bit of pervious surface, but was not included in the mitigation calculations.
- Mr. Shirey, along with consultant team members Anne MacDonald, Rivergrove Environmental
   Consulting, and Sarah Smith, Landscape Designer, responded to questions from the
   Commission as follows:
  - The recently poured footings had not been engineered and the depths of the footings were unclear; however, they were square, vertical footings, and sufficient to bear the deck's weight. Mr. Philps was licensed and bonded.
    - Ms. Shanks noted City Building Official, Tom Larsen, was satisfied with the current footings as stated in the attachment.
- The details on the deck style, including the handrails, had not been determined. The deck would be made with artificial decking material, such as Trex, with cedar, 2 ft by 6 ft capped, picket handrails and finishing trim.
- Ms. Shanks clarified that Facility Management Coordinator, Willie Miller, confirmed with the
   Mr. Larsen that the second egress was not required, so it did not trigger ADA accessibility

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- standards. A greater impact would occur to get the egress ADA accessible based on the house design and height of the second egress. The City's desire was to have the second egress be ADA accessible, however, that was not included in the proposal.
- The purpose of the deck was to provide a second egress and allow users of the Pond House to take advantage of the pond amenities and natural resources surrounding the facility.
  - About 6 people could occupy the deck at one time. The deck would be used for egress
    and entertainment, such as a guitarist performing for events occurring in the yard. The
    deck space would not provide a comfortable meeting place.
- **Mr. Shirey** clarified where the stairs would terminate onto the deck.
  - The area near the water's edge at the rear of the Pond House was important for accessibility, but was not a walk that would be made by choice because the walkway is very narrow; only 40 inches existed between the back of the retaining wall and the foundation of the Pond House.
    - The intent was to place gravel along the rear of the house for the walkway, but not along
      the side of the garage near the existing bookstore. That area along the garage was now
      just bark dust, and was so shaded grass could not grow.
  - The deck would be 8½ ft deep with the 36-in rail height as required by Code.
- The City budgeted \$20,000 for the deck. The Friends of the Library paid for the design,
  landscaping, and impervious elements. The cost of the deck included encapsulating, or
  wrapping, the deck's substructure to keep the pressure treated lumber from contaminating
  the pond. This was a specialized, labor-intensive approach. The artificial decking material
  was more expensive than wood, including cedar.
  - The encapsulation process involved "shrink-wrapping" a stretchy, clinging, heavy-duty material around the deck's substructure.

## **Commissioner Batey:**

- Asked if the long term plans existed for rebuilding the library or expanding the existing building. Her concern was spending City money now for the Pond House if the library intended to vacate its current site.
  - Joe Sandfort, Library Director, replied that no plans exist to tear down the current library. Plans did exist to expand the library pending City Council and City administration involvement. However, those plans were developed in 2003 and involved the library site itself, not the Pond House. At one time, relocating the library was considered. He had

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also heard a discussion about building a walkway over the pond. No discussion existed about tearing down or replacing the Pond House.

- **Ms. Shanks** stated that new construction on the site would definitely be reviewed under the WQR regulations.
- Asked the main reason for constructing the deck.
  - Mr. Sandfort explained several reasons existed for needing the deck, but ranking them was difficult. The community deserves a building that is competently designed and maintained. People visiting the library could see the current condition of the back of the Pond House, which was an eyesore. The community would be better served with the building completed. The Friends of the Library's idea of having music playing during summer events would be nice for the community. And the deck was needed to function as an egress. It was a very important project for the community.

**Commissioner Bresaw** asked about the proposed garbage can enclosure's description, which seemed to be a wooden box with a Sunbrella or outdoor equivalent canvas on one side.

- Mr. Sandfort replied that the intention was to utilize a trellis; however, the trellis had been stolen which prompted the new design for the enclosure. He deferred to the Applicant's landscape designer for further detail.
- Sarah Smith, Landscape Designer, The Gardensmith, explained the intent was to
  enclose the garbage can screen with wood on 3 sides with the fourth side made of a
  sliding, fabric curtain to hide the trash cans. The garbage enclosure was very visible to
  the public, and close to the front door of the Pond House. Swing-type doors would take
  too much space and the turf-block floor surface was difficult for the wheel-supported
  door to roll across.

#### **Commissioner Batey:**

- Asked the purpose of the path, where would it lead, and who would use it.
  - Ms. Smith replied there was a nice view along the proposed path's area. The path
    would lead to the existing stairs allowing access to the lower lawn area, which provides a
    nice view of the pond. The path would draw people through the landscape to an
    appropriate spot to view the pond, rather than cutting through across the grass.
  - The 2 vine maple trees on each side of the proposed stone path would grow to frame a view of the pond, and the path would draw people in to better experience the landscape.
  - The stepping path would provide access from the parking lot.

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- Expressed concern about the path encouraging people to cut across the lawn, circumventing the use of the sidewalk.
  - **Ms. Smith** said she did not envision the path as a shortcut to the library. The sidewalk was still a much more direct way to the library. She was not aware of any plan to restrict people from walking or using the lawn.
- Noted there was a difference between using the lawn for recreation versus creating a path through the lawn from foot traffic.
  - Ms. Smith stated she had seen people at the edge of the water and believed they
    walked down from the sidewalk to access the pond.
  - Mr. Shirey noted that using the stepping stone path was not a convenient way to reach the library.
- Vice Chair Harris called for public testimony in favor of, opposed, and neutral to the application. There being none, he called for additional comments from staff.
- Ms. Shanks clarified that questions regarding cost had no Code basis, as cost was not a WQR
  Code approval criteria. Those criteria regarded whether alternative designs were considered,
  and if a reasonable design was proposed that minimized and mitigated for its impacts, etc.
- Vice Chair Harris confirmed no Commissioners had any further questions for staff and that the
  Applicant had no rebuttal. He closed the public testimony portion of the hearing on WQR-10-02
  and CSU-10-06 at 7:37 pm.

## **Planning Commission Discussion**

- **Commissioner Batey** believed the Pond House would be a nice addition. She initially had concerns that the Pond House would not be a long term fixture, but now understood it would be here for a long time. She had no problem with the proposal.
- 241 **Commissioner Bresaw** said she was glad to see people care by volunteering and getting 242 involved with the improvements.
- 244 **Commissioner Churchill** said he strongly supported the application. It was wise of staff to 245 realize what had been done with the footings and require more appropriate review, but he

CITY OF MILWAUKIE PLANNING COMMISSION Minutes of July 13, 2010 Page 8 believed there was no apparent impact to the WQR zone. It would be inappropriate to leave the 246 247 Pond House unfinished. It was an asset not just to the library, but to the city of Milwaukie as a 248 whole. Completing the deck would provide the public an area to enjoy Milwaukie's water quality 249 resources. He noted a sign posted toward the library on the Harrison St side that stated, "Nature Area 250 Keep Out." It was absurd that people could not be respectful of the water quality resources 251 252 and enjoy them. He strongly supported the application. 253 254 Commissioner Churchill moved to approve WQR-10-02 and CSU-10-06 with staff's recommended findings and conditions of approval as found in Attachments 1 and 2. 255 256 Commissioner Gamba seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. 257 258 Motion passed 5 to 0. 259 260 Vice Chair Harris read the rules of appeal into the record. 261 262 The Commission took a short recess. 263 264 6.0 **Worksession Items** 265 6.1 Summary: Review Procedures Code Amendment project briefing part 2 Staff Person: Susan Shanks 266 267 Katie Mangle, Planning Director, noted that Serah Breakstone worked closely with Mary 268 269 Dorman of Angelo Planning Group and both were working as consultants for the City on the 270 Code Amendment Project. 271 272 Susan Shanks, Senior Planner, stated the first draft of the amended Zoning Code Title 273 19.1000 was attached to the staff report. This chapter was the essential component for how the 274 City did everything in Development Review, Zoning Administration, and Land Use Review. The 275 Commission would be familiar with this very important chapter because staff cited this chapter 276 during the quasi-judicial process at each hearing.

Ms. Shanks presented the staff report regarding Title 19.1000 amendments via PowerPoint.

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- Discussion points from the Commission and staff regarding key topics were as follows:
- Table of Contents, Chapter 19.1000 The proposed Table would be more focused, straightforward, and organized with a section of General Provisions and the 4 types of review processes. Also included would be preapplication conferences, application, public hearings, and appeals.
  - Items in the existing Table of Contents would be reorganized, or moved elsewhere but retained.
    - Some changes were proposed; for example, changing the number of review processes from 4 to 5, the actual number of City review processes; however, the basic procedural content would remain the same.
    - Review types in the draft were organized alphabetically, but the final Code Table of Contents would follow numerical format similar to other jurisdictions.
    - Providing examples according to the different types of review would be helpful.
- Serah Breakstone, Angelo Planning Group, reviewed key changes proposed for Chapter
   19.1000.
- 297 Comments and discussion regarding the following items was as follows:
- Time limits on land use approvals.
  - The next set of revisions would address consistency to better define time limits on public notices and notices of decision, and would include clarification on business days versus calendar days.
- Type II reviews will only go to a Type III hearing if appealed; and would no longer be 'bumped up' a level by the Planning Director or others.
  - No criteria exist for making the decision, resulting in a very arbitrary process. Different rules, timelines, costs, and processes were involved, but the criteria for approval were the same.
  - The responsibility should be placed on those appealing the decision or trying to make changes.
  - The appeal process should be clear; even the permitting process can be daunting.
  - The recently adopted fee schedule has 3 appeal fee categories:
    - No charge for Neighborhood District Associations (NDAs) that already have standing.
  - Type I or Type II appeals, involving the Planning Commission, cost \$500.

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- Appeals from the Planning Commission to City Council cost \$1,000, which typically involves staff enlisting the City Attorney's assistance, increasing expenses dramatically.
- Public Notice. The applicant would be required to post signs at the site and provide an affidavit stating they posted the sign in an appropriate place in a timely manner.
  - The affidavit affirms the applicant had posted a sign a minimum number of days prior to the hearing or decision. It was the onus of the applicant to follow through with this process, ensuring the sign had not blown away, been removed, etc.
  - Not meeting this posting requirement would be treated like not meeting a Code standard. It could be reason for denial or to have the applicant waive the 120-day land use clock.
- Map Amendments. Proposed changes would result in the Planning Commission making more decisions on map amendments.
  - Because Comprehensive Plan maps are adopted by ordinance, Ms. Breakstone would verify whether small changes would be governed by some type of ordinance.
    - It was discussed that Commission decisions would be the accepted decisions and Council could adopt the ordinance on the Consent Agenda. Council would not redo the hearing, but would review an item for adoption. Council could always pull the item for discussion.
    - Questions regarding how maps are adopted would be clarified for the final amendments.
- Public noticing in newspapers. Recommended replacing this requirement with more effective practices, such the City's website and bigger noticing signs.
  - The City's website will be used for paying utility bills by next year, creating more common traffic, and providing a more effective public noticing tool.
  - Newspaper noticing was a useful way to get public notices out, but with multiple, lengthy listing requirements and a \$4,000 per year expense, newspaper notices was considered inefficient.
  - Reducing the size of the newspaper notices was suggested, such as the content included on the public notice sign.
- No changes would be made to Type III and Type IV public noticing. Written notices 343 would still be required to be sent out by mail to property owners within 300 ft of a Type III 345 quasi-judicial and 400 ft for a Type IV legislative procedure. This distance was measured from the outside edge of the property.

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- Legislative Code Changes. The next set of revisions being considered would allow staff to
   initiate a Type IV application; currently the Code allowed anyone to submit a Type IV
   application.
  - Applicants that continually run into Code issues could also apply to change it.
  - Concerns were expressed that allowing anyone to initiate a Type IV application could require extensive staff time. However, the current legislative application fee is \$3,500, requiring people to consider the expense of changing the Code if they did not like a City decision.
    - NDAs would be required to pay the fee; however, most NDAs contact the Commission, Council, or staff about a change being a City project.
  - Some applicants were willing to help staff with the legwork involved and pay the fee. No
    one should be eliminated from proposing a good change for the community.
  - The City would ultimately have control of the actual language adopted. The Commission and Council would still have to approve the change.
  - The applicant would have to demonstrate that a public benefit would result from changing the Code.
  - All applications would still be subject to the approval process, and applicants must address all the applicable criteria. Are the criteria stringent enough to weed out obviously bad ideas?
  - Time Limits for Preapplication (6.1 Page 24). Should the more informal preapplication meeting have an expiration date?
    - The preapplication meeting was a more informal process involving just a staff member with no other City department and did not require written notes; similar to an over-thecounter application meeting.
      - A preapplication meeting would be offered when it was not required to complete a full
        application or when the City authorized that the preapplication conference be waived.
      - Preapplication conferences (6.1 Page 26, Section 19.106.5) currently had an 18month time limit.
    - A 1-year maximum time limit was suggested for preapplication conference because standards may change; a sunset should exist.
- New language under the Purpose Statement was proposed to clarify that if the
   standards had changed between when an application was submitted and the
   preapplication conference, the Code in place at the time the application was submitted

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would apply. The applicant would be notified of Code changes in advance to assist them in the planning stages.

- Appeal Section (6.1 Page 35) Proposed language was consistent with State law, yet clarified how the appeal process works, who can appeal, and when an appeal can be made.
  - Type II decision can be appealed by the applicant or any party that feels they have been aggrieved by the decision. This language was from the Oregon State statute and would also be a de novo hearing before the Commission.
  - Type III decisions can be appealed by the applicant or any person having official standing, meaning they provided comment during the public comment period or at the initial hearing.
  - In Section 19.1009.1.A.2, should the term "party" be defined or clarified?
    - The language probably should be revised, especially for the Type II process where
      the appellant did not necessarily need to be a party per se; they could be an
      aggrieved party rather than someone who testified.
    - The Type II appeal process has no hearing, but does have a public comment period.
       One would not have had to provide comment to be considered an aggrieved person.
       Appeal must still be based on approval criteria, but a party does not need to be a person of standing to be an aggrieved party.
  - The language regarding aggrieved parties should also be carried into the Type III appeal process.
    - Discussion clarified that a legal basis and a formal effort stating a clear objection should be made for a person to be considered an aggrieved party to the appeal process. Comments could be received by letter, email, or even a phone call to staff.
    - All parties affected by an application receive written notice 20 calendar days before
      the hearing, which describes the appeal rights and the process to appeal. Written
      notices of decision are mailed out the next day after the hearing.
  - The City's website could be used to notify citizens that an application has been received.
     The website could include a map indicating land use application sites. The applications should need to be searchable by certain key words.
  - The NDAs and Land Use Committees (LUCs) are able to get the word out about applications quickly. The LUC and relevant NDA Chair of where the property is located are notified and receive information within 2 days of an application being deemed complete. A 2-week comment period is allowed for NDAs.
  - Staff currently responds to all questions and concerns in any contact format, and informs

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- 414 those individuals about the requirements to be a person of standing in case of appeal.
  - The Oregon State statue was clear about who has standing to appeal for a quasi-judicial procedure. It does not imply a minimum, but any changes would need to be reviewed by legal counsel for ramifications.
  - Applications Procedures and Summary Table (6.1 Page 39).
    - The Design and Landmarks Committee (DLC) should not be the review authority on Downtown Design Review applications; the DLC reports to the Commission.
      - Further clarification about Minor, Moderate, or Major Downtown Design Review was requested.
    - One topic for discussion to revisit in the future was how DLC hearings are conducted; staff does public notice for the Commission, but did not want to redo the work done by the DLC, which sets up a strange process.
    - The table would be revisited with the Commissioners' suggestions and comments taken into consideration and presented in a more complete form at the next worksession.
    - Application time limits and extensions of approvals. Issues associated with land use approvals that do not expire were reviewed (6.1 Pages 2 and 3). Staff sought input from the Commission about:
      - Better clarification of the vague term, "substantial construction," which is commonly
        used but better defined in other jurisdictions' codes. Is "substantial construction" the
        appropriate threshold?
      - What problem was the City trying to solve by limiting or not limiting, extending or not extending approvals for all types of land use approvals? Should current limitations and extensions apply to all applications?
      - Should extensions require approval by the Commission, or should straightforward criteria be developed so staff could approve extensions, or should only certain extensions be reviewed by the Commission.
      - Time limits would help with applications that have multiple conditions about remedial plantings, for instance. Changes in personnel after such long time lapses create inefficiencies in implementing the application and enforcing conditions of approval, resulting in a project that may not be completed to the Commission's expectations.
      - There were reasons to consider not having time limits.
        - The Southgate Park and Ride project was a CSU, which have no time limits, and would not have been completed if a 2-year time limit was implemented. The project had to wait to receive stimulus funding. Going through the permitting process would

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CITY OF MILWAUKIE PLANNING COMMISSION Minutes of July 13, 2010 Page 14

- not have prevented the project from being built because it would not have met the stimulus funding criteria.
  - Consideration should be given for the larger public projects, like the Riverfront Park.
     Having too stringent of time limits may leave projects without ways to get extensions.
  - Establishing unlimited extensions was mentioned. However, the applicant would need to demonstrate an understanding of the conditions and why the extension was needed.
     The applicant should be able to do the project as originally envisioned.
    - The applicant would have to verify that certain conditions, like traffic or water quality resource areas, have not changed, or that the project would not really impact those items. Some level of review would be needed to verify that the project should proceed.
  - Written records should be very clear as to not be affected by a change in staff.
    - While engineering conditions of approval are often clear cut, only some planning conditions, such as those regarding setbacks, are clear. Other planning conditions can be unclear, like those involving benefits, mitigation, or intent, even though every effort is made to avoid ambiguity.
    - Staff has been diligent about keeping clean records and being disciplined to retain
      the last, most recently approved plan. Most items can be digitally recorded, but many
      materials cannot be included in a digital format for the record.
  - "Substantial construction." Legal precedent was found in a case in upstate New York.
     The previous definition was not satisfactory to the Commission.
    - The definition for "substantial completion" which regarded occupancy was preferred to using "substantial construction." 10% of construction should not be considered "substantial construction."
    - The term or definition used needs to identify the problem the City was trying solve.
       Was it to ensure the project was done and ready for occupancy? What if construction is not involved? Was it to prevent unintended impacts?
    - "Substantial construction" is difficult to implement even with a clear definition, primarily because removing the applicant's ability to finish a project could leave a half-finished project. When should a project be stopped?
  - The land use application process does not verify proof of the applicant's ability to fund a
    project. Generally, the Commission reviews applications that are at 60% completion, so
    the applicant has a lot more work to do, but wants to get approval before moving
    forward.

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- Applicants should be required to prove that funding was available/in place before any
   work could be done on the project, like tree removal, grading, etc.
  - A mechanism was suggested to deny the occupancy permit if a project did not reach
     100% completion after approval is given.
    - Some applications involve allowed use permits.
    - One approach might be to differentiate between applications that do or do not include structures, or for those involving new construction.
    - Sometimes it takes a long time for applicants to submit the required materials for
      their building permit application, lowering staff's confidence that the project could be
      constructed in a timely manner. Staff could determine an application has been
      incomplete too long and the applicant must start over and resubmit a new
      application. This would occur during the post-approval process.
  - Opportunities for extensions or a more generous time period were preferred to using
    "substantial construction," which is a bad policy idea. The idea is to get projects finished.
    Having 2- or 4-year time limits with a possible 2-year extension was a consideration;
    although costs and the process requirements may make applying for an extension less
    appealing.
    - The applicant must prove nothing has changed as far as the original application approval.
  - Making Code for extraordinary situations was not desired, but maybe exceptions should be allowed for publicly funded projects; projects involving more than a specific number of acres or dollar amount could involve different time limits.
  - Clear and consistent deadlines should be set for at least 80% to 90% of the projects in the city.
  - Currently, applicants are subject to the Code in place at the time the application was submitted. If an extension is denied, the application would have to be resubmitted and therefore subject to the most recent Code.
    - That process can be quite costly, and not necessarily result in a different conclusion.
       Both staff and the applicant go through the time, money, and energy of reprocessing the application, but no different analysis results, which is not good public policy.
  - Extension requests should consider any Code changes from the initial application submission. There are too many struggles, research efforts, and ramifications on projects being "grandfathered" in.

- Flag lots were subject to special regulations implemented decades ago, creating real challenges for staff. The current Code cannot be applied.
  - The extension process did not apply to land divisions, which operate under a separate set of ORS rules.

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- **Commissioner Gamba** sought clarification in the future about how an application is categorized as a conditional land use. The term "land use" needs to be clearly defined to consider past and present philosophies for more sustainable lifestyles.
- Staff explained that all zones have a list of allowed and conditional uses that has evolved
  over time. Some zones having a prohibited use list. Decisions were needed about which
  uses should and should not be allowed to coexist.
  - Future meetings would include further discussion about use zones, including how they
    related to the Willamette Greenway being an automatic conditional use, the upcoming
    residential standards project, and a broad consideration of the Comprehensive Plan over
    the next 2 years.

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- The Commission consented that it was generally appropriate to have time limits and extensions for all applications, not just conditional uses and variances. Discussion continued as follows:
- "Substantial construction" did not make sense as an appropriate threshold in many situations. Perhaps another type of threshold could be used that was appropriate for all situations.
  - Large commercial projects require a completion bond, but this was not appropriate for private development. Currently, the City utilizes completion bonds for public facilities improvements and to allow for temporary occupancy on private projects.
  - Again, the goal was to get the project completed or cancel the application.
- Should some applications, like more sensitive CSU projects, be singled out for things like extended deadlines?
- The only real benchmark would be substantial completion, but no milestone existed to tie to completion. Judging the level of completion is difficult; 10% did not seem like enough, but also needed clarification. Was it 10% of the value?
- "Substantial completion" was defined by AIA and essentially meant that a certificate of occupancy could be obtained, which provides time to close out and get a final inspection.

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- In doing variance research and talking with Mr. Larsen, staff discovered that a project could be really close to completion, but still get occupancy. Bonds had been secured for completing a parking lot or water quality resource mitigation.
  - Construction case law involving litigation about substantial completion regarded the ability to get pay applications approved. Connecting substantial completion to the beginning of a construction project was difficult.
- "Substantial completion" was more palatable than the term "substantial construction."
  - Issues arose with Harmony Mini-Storage when substantial completion of one building meant substantial completion of the whole project.
  - Phasing was an important factor to consider.
    - If an applicant decided to build only the first building of a multi-building project, they should reapply for the second building.
    - Perhaps a more abbreviated or less expensive process could be used than the original application process.
  - Development involving multiple parcels or buildings, like a small university, would have a
    master plan involving phases of completion. Approval of the master plan would occur and
    then each project/phase of that master plan would be reviewed.
    - The City was contemplating a master plan application process for the future. Would that
      process be similar to the master plans adopted for parks, which was a legislative, more
      policy approach? The applicant essentially returned for individual land use development
      approvals for each portion of the project, but had some certainty about the approvals
      given.
  - Phasing was simpler than a master plan. An applicant developing an apartment complex could decide to complete only 2 of 3 buildings. Phasing would allow them to build what made sense for the project without losing their approval because they did not build the third building.
    - Phasing made sense. Water quality areas, transportation, or other conditions might change, requiring staff review, but that would not necessarily need to come back to the Commission.
      - Industry standards applied to wetland delineations, which are good for 5 years, and traffic studies, which are good for 3 years.
- For extensions, staff discussed having a staff level review to confirm that conditions had not substantially changed to allow the applicant to move forward. If new development had occurred or a transportation condition changed, then the applicant would need to return for

- another approval.
  - Certain standards are never grandfathered in and applicants are required to comply with current standards, such as the Public Works Standards.
  - Changing the City's standards so much as to not allow development would affect the development rights of the applicant.
  - Project changes that might harm the environment were another issue of concern if an applicant was not held to the standard of Code changes.

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- 590 **Ms. Shanks** reminded that in addition to revamping the Review Procedures Chapter, Ms.
- 591 Breakstone and Ms. Dorman already evaluated the Code's basic structure and found missing
- basic aspects of the review process, such as a clear development review structure and process,
- and even having development review as an application type to do things like site plan review, or
- modification of an approved plan. Given these needed changes, potential opportunity existed to
- 595 change the Code's actual structure similar to the Table of Contents for the Review Procedures
- 596 Chapter.
- The proposal was to essentially overhaul the entire structure of Title 19 in the MMC while retaining most of the content. This restructuring would allow for the appropriate insertion of a development review chapter and application type, while also clearly grouping the City's applications all in one place.
  - Discussion on the Review Procedures Code Amendment project would continue, and a detailed restructure of Title 19 would be presented to the Commission in late August, particularly regarding development review.

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7.0 Planning Department Other Business/Updates—None

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8.0 Planning Commission Discussion Items—None

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- 9.0 Forecast for Future Meetings:
- July 27, 2010 1. Public Hearing: CPA-10-01 North Clackamas Park North Side
- Master Plan
- August 10, 2010 1. Worksession: Natural Resources Overlay project update
- 613 tentative

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**Ms. Mangle** reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule with these additional comments:

Jeff Klein, Chair

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She was uncertain whether the July 27<sup>th</sup> hearing would require a continuance. Some 616 comments had been received. The application was sent to the Lake Road NDA and the 617 618 Community Planning Organization in Clackamas County, with limited response from either 619 entity. Notice was sent out to those within the 300-ft radius, which resulted in only some 620 clarifying questions. Staff was preparing for a long, complex hearing, but no signs for such 621 were being seen. The application included the area north of Camas Creek and west of the 622 Milwaukie Center. Assuming the Master Plan is not continued, the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting would include two 623 worksessions, the Natural Resources Overlay project, which was being prepared for public 624 625 hearing in early fall, and the land use hearings training. 626 Meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m. 627 628 629 630 Respectfully submitted, 631 632 633 634 635 Paula Pinyerd, ABC Transcription Services, Inc. for Alicia Stoutenburg, Administrative Specialist II 636 637 638 639 640



To: Planning Commission

From: Katie Mangle, Planning Director

Susan P. Shanks, Senior Planner

Date: September 7, 2010 for September 14, 2010 Worksession

Subject: Land Use and Development Review Process Tune-Up

**Code Amendment Project Briefing #4** 

#### **ACTION REQUESTED**

None. This is a briefing for informational purposes only. Staff is seeking feedback from the Commission on the proposed chapter reorganization of Title 19 and on the proposed changes to variance and nonconforming situation provisions to guide the development of new draft chapters. This is a continuation of the Commission's August 24 discussion on these matters.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Please refer to the August 24, 2010 staff report for more detail.

#### A. History of Prior Actions and Discussions

- August 2010: Briefing #3 on Land Use and Development Review Process Tune-Up Project (formerly Review Procedures Code Amendment Project), with a focus on variances and nonconforming situations.
- **July 2010**: Briefing #2 on Review Procedures Code Amendment Project, with a focus on time limits and extensions of land use approvals.
- May 2010: Briefing #1 on Review Procedures Code Amendment Project, with a focus on project goals and the City's code history and current review procedures.
- March 2010: Staff provided the Commission with a copy of the intergovernmental
  agreement between the City and the State of Oregon that commits the City to prepare
  draft code amendments based on priorities that were identified in the 2009 Smart
  Growth Code Assessment Final Report.
- October 2009: Staff presented the 2009 Smart Growth Code Assessment Final Report to Council. Council concurred with the code amendment priorities identified in the report and requested that staff move forward with the next phase of the project.
- **September 2009**: Design and Landmarks Committee held a worksession to discuss the residential design standards element of the code assessment project.

Planning Commission Staff Report – Briefing #4 Land Use & Development Review Code Project Page 2 of 2

- August 2009: Planning Commission reviewed and provided concurrence on the Action Plan presented in the 2009 Smart Growth Code Assessment Final Report.
- August 2009: Planning Commission held a worksession to discuss the consultant's code assessment findings prepared during Phase I of the Smart Growth Code Assistance project.
- July 2009: Planning Commission held a worksession to discuss the consultant's code assessment findings prepared during Phase I of the Smart Growth Code Assistance project.

#### B. Discussion Items

Since this is a continuation of the discussion from the Commission's last work session, please read and come prepared to discuss the packet materials from the August 24 session and this session. If you have not already done so, it would also be helpful to read the Variances (Chapter 19.700) and Nonconforming Uses (Chapter 19.800) chapters.

#### **Variances**

Based on the discussion at the August 24 work session, staff prepared a draft outline for the new variance chapter (Attachment 1) to facilitate further discussion on specific provisions of the existing variance chapter, specifically Sections 19.701 – 19.704. This outline does not include the remaining sections in this chapter because staff proposes to retain the existing use exception provisions, i.e. Sections 19.705 – 19.706, and delete the home improvement exception provisions, i.e. Sections 19.707 – 19.709. As you will see, some of the language from the home improvement exception provisions has been incorporated into the new draft variance approval criteria. This is because staff proposes to replace the existing home improvement exception process with the new Type II variance process.

To aid in the discussion, staff has also prepared a table (Attachment 2) that shows the base zone development standards that staff proposes could be reviewed through a Type II review process.

#### **Nonconforming Situations**

See August 24 staff report and attachments for detail.

#### **Code Reorganization**

See August 24 staff report and attachments for detail.

### C. Next Steps

Planning Commission to review and discuss Variances, Nonconforming Situations, and Development Review draft chapters in October 2010. Commission to also review minor amendments to the Conditional Use and Amendments chapters at this time.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachments are provided only to the Planning Commission unless noted as being attached. All material is available for viewing upon request.

- 1. Variances Draft Chapter Outline (attached)
- 2. Base Zone Development Standards (attached)

Worksession September 14, 2010

# VARIANCES Draft Chapter Outline

#### I. Purpose Statement

The purpose of the variance provisions is to provide relief from specific code provisions that have the unintended effect of preventing reasonable development or imposing undue hardship. Variances may be granted for the purpose of fostering reinvestment in existing buildings, allowing for creative infill development solutions, avoiding environmental impacts, and/or precluding an economic taking of property. Variances shall not be granted that would be detrimental to public health, safety, or welfare.

#### **II. Review Procedures**

Variance proposals to be reviewed through the Type II and Type III review process.

## III. Applicability

- Type II review to allow for small variations to base zone development standards up to the percentage or dimension listed below:
  - o 10% variation to lot width, depth, and area standard
  - o 25% variation to front, rear, and street side yard setback standard
  - o 40% variation to side yard setback standard
  - 1/2-story or 5-foot variation to height standard
  - o 10% variation to lot coverage and minimum vegetation standard
  - 10% variation to lot area per dwelling unit standard
  - 10% variation to frontage standard
- Type III review to allow for variations to all other development or design standards not allowed through the Type II review process.
- Variances shall not be allowed in the following situations:
  - To allow a use that is not permitted, either city-wide or in a specific zone. Use exceptions may be granted through the Use Exception provisions of this chapter.
  - o To adjust any restrictions on development or uses that contain the word "prohibited."
  - To allow an increase to the residential density of a zone.
  - o To adjust a threshold for review such as those contained in applicability sections.
  - o To adjust a procedural step or change the required review procedure type.
  - To adjust a definition or classification.
- Statement about how this chapter will coordinate with other variances and adjustments in other code provisions (e.g. Sign Ordinance, Water Quality Resource chapter, and Off-Street Parking chapter) and outright allowed exceptions in the Supplementary Development Regulations chapter.

#### IV. Type II Variance Approval Criteria

- The proposed variance will not be detrimental to surrounding properties, natural resource areas, or the public health, safety, or welfare.
- The proposed variance will not preclude or interfere with future improvements to any public transportation facility or utility.

Attachment 1 – Variances: Draft Chapter Outline Page 2 of 2

- Where multiple variances are proposed, the cumulative effect will be consistent with the intent of the property's zoning designation.
- Where site improvements already exist, the proposed variance will sustain the integrity of or enhance an existing building or site design. A Building Code violation cannot be used to justify the integrity of an existing design.
- Impacts from the proposed variance will be mitigated to the extent practicable.

## V. Type III Variance Approval Criteria

## **Discretionary Relief**

- Other alternatives were considered and the proposed variance was determined to be the
  best approach because it avoided or minimized impacts, had desirable public benefits,
  and/or responded to the existing built or natural environment in a creative and sensitive
  manner.
- Where multiple variances are proposed, the cumulative effect will be consistent with the intent of the property's zoning designation.
- Impacts from the proposed variance will be mitigated to the extent practicable.

#### Economic Hardship

- Due to unusual site characteristics and/or other physical conditions on or near the site, the variance is necessary to allow reasonable economic use of the property or a use that is substantially similar to other uses in the surrounding area.
- The proposed variance is the minimum variance necessary to allow for reasonable use of the property.
- Impacts from the proposed variance will be mitigated to the extent practicable.



## **Base Zone Development Standards**

Milwaukie Municipal Code September 2010

	Minimum Lot Dimensions					Minimum %		Setbacks	Maximum	
Non-Downtown Zones	Lot Area	Area/Unit	Lot Width	Lot Depth	Frontage	Lot Cover	Veg	F/R/S/S/SS <sup>1</sup>	Building Height	
R10	10,000	7,000	70	100	35	30%	35%	20/20/10/10/20	2.5 or 35 ft	
R7	7,000	7,000	60	80	35	30%	30%	20/20/10/5/20	2.5 or 35 ft	
R5	5,000	5,000	50	80	35	35%	25%	20/20/5+/5+/15	2.5 or 35 ft	
R3	5,000	3,000	50	80	35	40%	35%	15/15/5+/5+/15	2.5 or 35 ft	
R2.5	3,000	2,500	40	75	35	40%	35%	15/15/5+/5+/15	35 ft	
R2	5,000	2,500	50	80	35	45%	35%	15/15/5+/5+/15	3 or 45 ft	
R1	5,000	1,400	50	80	35	45%	35%	15/15/5+/5+/15	3 or 45 ft	
R1B	5,000	1,400	50	None	35	50%	15%	15/15/5+/5+/15	3 or 45 ft	
ROC	5,000	1,400	50	80	35	50%	15%	15/15/5+/5+/15	3 or 45 ft	
CN	5,000	NA	50	80	35	40%	20%	15/10/5+/5+/15	2.5 or 35 ft	
CL	None <sup>2</sup>	None <sup>2</sup>	None <sup>2</sup>	None <sup>2</sup>	35	None	15%	None	3 or 45 ft	
CG	None	NA	50	80	35	85%	15%	None	3 or 45 ft	
ccs	None	NA	None	None	None	None	20%	Site Specific	3 or 45 ft	
M	None	NA	None	None	None	None	15%	F=20; SS=10	45 ft	
ВІ	None	NA	None	None	None	None	15%	F=20; SS=10	3 or 45 ft	
$PD^3$	2 acres	None	None	None	None	None	None	Site Specific	None	

- (1) F/R/S/S/SS = Front/Rear/Side/Side/Street Side
- (2) No lot dimension requirements except for residential uses.
- (3) Site design and development standards determined on a case-by-case basis during PD adoption process.

Downtown	Lot Area	Veg		Setbacks		Bldg	Height
Zones	Min.	Min.	Front & S Min.	treet Side Max.	Side & Rear	Min.	Max.
DS	750	None	0 ft	10 ft	None	35 ft	45-55 ft
DC	10,000	10%	O ft	50 ft	None	25 ft	55 ft
DO	5,000	None	O ft	10 ft	None	25 ft	65 ft
DR	750 or 5,000 <sup>1</sup>	15%	0 ft	None	15 ft <sup>2</sup>	None	45-65 ft
DOS	None	20%	0 ft	None	None	None	None

- (1) Townhouse lots may be as small as 750 sq. ft. All other lots shall be a minimum of 5,000 sq. ft.
- (2) Setbacks are required only where the DR zone abuts a lower-density residential zone.