

MIAMI BEACH

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
Staff Report & Recommendation

Design Review Board

TO: DRB Chairperson and Members

DATE: September 10, 2021

FROM: Thomas R. Mooney, AICP
Planning Director

SUBJECT: DRB21-0681
1235 West Avenue

An application has been filed requesting Design Review Approval for the construction of a new 6-story multifamily building on a vacant site.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval with conditions.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Lot 11, Block 82, Bay View Subdivision, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 9, Page 110, of the public records of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

SITE DATA:

Zoning: RM-2
Future Land Use: RM-2
Lot Size: 75,000 SF

Proposed Parking: 6 Spaces
Grade: +6.56' NGVD
Base Flood Elevation: +8.00' NGVD

Existing FAR: Vacant
Proposed FAR: 14,997 SF | 1.99
Maximum FAR: 15,000 SF | 2.0
Proposed Height: 63'-9" / 6-story
Maximum Height: 65'
CMB Grade: 6.56' NGVD

Adjusted Grade: +7.75' NGVD

SURROUNDING PROPERTIES:

West: 15-story RM-3 Residential
North: Five-Story RM-2 Residential
South: Five-Story RM-2 Residential
East: Two-story Commercial

New Units: 15 Units

THE PROJECT:

The applicant has submitted revised plans entitled "1235 WEST APARTMENTS", by **Shapiro Associates**, dated, signed, and sealed July 7, 2021. The applicant is requesting Design Review approval for the construction of a new six-story multi-family building on a vacant site.

COMPLIANCE WITH ZONING CODE:

A preliminary review of the project indicates that the application, as proposed, appears to be inconsistent with the applicable sections of the City Code.

- URBAN HEAT ISLAND ORDINANCE Sec. 142- 1132. g) Driveways. (4) Driveways and parking areas that are open to the sky within any required yard shall be composed of porous pavement or shall have a high albedo surface

consisting of a durable material or sealant, as defined in section 114- 1 of this Code. (5) Driveways and parking areas composed of asphalt that does not have a high albedo surface, as defined in section 114- 1 of this Code, shall be prohibited.

- The proposed driveway shall comply with the minimum required driveway width of 18'-0".
- Proposed fences shall comply with Section 142-1132 (h) *Fences, walls, and gates*.

COMPLIANCE WITH DESIGN REVIEW CRITERIA:

Design Review encompasses the examination of architectural drawings for consistency with the criteria stated below with regard to the aesthetics, appearances, safety, and function of the structure or proposed structures in relation to the site, adjacent structures and surrounding community. Staff recommends that the following criteria are found to be satisfied, not satisfied or not applicable, as hereto indicated:

1. The existing and proposed conditions of the lot, including but not necessarily limited to topography, vegetation, trees, drainage, and waterways.
Satisfied
2. The location of all existing and proposed buildings, drives, parking spaces, walkways, means of ingress and egress, drainage facilities, utility services, landscaping structures, signs, and lighting and screening devices.
Satisfied
3. The dimensions of all buildings, structures, setbacks, parking spaces, floor area ratio, height, lot coverage and any other information that may be reasonably necessary to determine compliance with the requirements of the underlying zoning district, and any applicable overlays, for a particular application or project.
Satisfied
4. The color, design, selection of landscape materials and architectural elements of Exterior Building surfaces and primary public interior areas for Developments requiring a Building Permit in areas of the City identified in section 118-252.
Satisfied
5. The proposed site plan, and the location, appearance and design of new and existing Buildings and Structures are in conformity with the standards of this Ordinance and other applicable ordinances, architectural and design guidelines as adopted and amended periodically by the Design Review Board and Historic Preservation Boards, and all pertinent master plans.
Satisfied
6. The proposed Structure, and/or additions or modifications to an existing structure, indicates a sensitivity to and is compatible with the environment and adjacent Structures, and enhances the appearance of the surrounding properties.

Satisfied

7. The design and layout of the proposed site plan, as well as all new and existing buildings shall be reviewed so as to provide an efficient arrangement of land uses. Particular attention shall be given to safety, crime prevention and fire protection, relationship to the surrounding neighborhood, impact on contiguous and adjacent Buildings and lands, pedestrian sight lines and view corridors.

Satisfied

8. Pedestrian and vehicular traffic movement within and adjacent to the site shall be reviewed to ensure that clearly defined, segregated pedestrian access to the site and all buildings is provided for and that all parking spaces are usable and are safely and conveniently arranged; pedestrian furniture and bike racks shall be considered. Access to the Site from adjacent roads shall be designed so as to interfere as little as possible with traffic flow on these roads and to permit vehicles a rapid and safe ingress and egress to the Site.

Satisfied

9. Lighting shall be reviewed to ensure safe movement of persons and vehicles and reflection on public property for security purposes and to minimize glare and reflection on adjacent properties. Lighting shall be reviewed to assure that it enhances the appearance of structures at night.

Satisfied

10. Landscape and paving materials shall be reviewed to ensure an adequate relationship with and enhancement of the overall Site Plan design.

Satisfied

11. Buffering materials shall be reviewed to ensure that headlights of vehicles, noise, and light from structures are adequately shielded from public view, adjacent properties and pedestrian areas.

Satisfied

12. The proposed structure has an orientation and massing which is sensitive to and compatible with the building site and surrounding area and which creates or maintains important view corridor(s).

Satisfied

13. The building has, where feasible, space in that part of the ground floor fronting a street or streets which is to be occupied for residential or commercial uses; likewise, the upper floors of the pedestal portion of the proposed building fronting a street, or streets shall have residential or commercial spaces, shall have the appearance of being a residential or commercial space or shall have an architectural treatment which shall buffer the appearance of the parking structure from the surrounding area and is integrated with the overall appearance of the project.

Satisfied

14. The building shall have an appropriate and fully integrated rooftop architectural treatment which substantially screens all mechanical equipment, stairs and elevator towers.
Satisfied
15. An addition on a building site shall be designed, sited and massed in a manner which is sensitive to and compatible with the existing improvement(s).
Satisfied
16. All portions of a project fronting a street or sidewalk shall incorporate an architecturally appropriate amount of transparency at the first level in order to achieve pedestrian compatibility and adequate visual interest.
Satisfied
17. The location, design, screening and buffering of all required service bays, delivery bays, trash and refuse receptacles, as well as trash rooms shall be arranged so as to have a minimal impact on adjacent properties.
Satisfied
18. In addition to the foregoing criteria, subsection [118-]104(6)(t) of the City Code shall apply to the design review board's review of any proposal to place, construct, modify or maintain a wireless communications facility or other over the air radio transmission or radio reception facility in the public rights-of-way.
Not Applicable
19. The structure and site complies with the sea level rise and resiliency review criteria in Chapter 133, Article II, as applicable.
Satisfied

COMPLIANCE WITH SEA LEVEL RISE AND RESILIENCY REVIEW CRITERIA

Section 133-50(a) of the Land Development establishes review criteria for sea level rise and resiliency that must be considered as part of the review process for board orders. The following is an analysis of the request based upon these criteria:

1. A recycling or salvage plan for partial or total demolition shall be provided.
Not Satisfied; a recycling or salvage plan shall be submitted at permitting.
2. Windows that are proposed to be replaced shall be hurricane proof impact windows.
Satisfied
3. Where feasible and appropriate, passive cooling systems, such as operable windows, shall be provided.
Satisfied
4. Resilient landscaping (salt tolerant, highly water-absorbent, native or Florida friendly plants) shall be provided, in accordance with Chapter 126 of the City Code.
Satisfied

5. The project applicant shall consider the adopted sea level rise projections in the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Action Plan, as may be revised from time-to-time by the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact. The applicant shall also specifically study the land elevation of the subject property and the elevation of surrounding properties.

Satisfied

6. The ground floor, driveways, and garage ramping for new construction shall be adaptable to the raising of public rights-of-ways and adjacent land and shall provide sufficient height and space to ensure that the entry ways and exits can be modified to accommodate a higher street height of up to three (3) additional feet in height.

Satisfied

7. In all new projects, all critical mechanical and electrical systems shall be located above base flood elevation. Due to flooding concerns, all redevelopment projects shall, whenever practicable, and economically reasonable, move all critical mechanical and electrical systems to a location above base flood elevation.

Satisfied

8. Existing buildings shall be, where reasonably feasible and economically appropriate, elevated up to base flood elevation, plus City of Miami Beach Freeboard.

Not Applicable

9. When habitable space is located below the base flood elevation plus City of Miami Beach Freeboard, wet or dry flood proofing systems will be provided in accordance with Chapter of 54 of the City Code.

Satisfied

10. In all new projects, water retention systems shall be provided.

Not Satisfied

11. Cool pavement materials or porous pavement materials shall be utilized.

Not Satisfied

12. The project design shall minimize the potential for a project causing a heat island effect on site.

Not Satisfied

ANALYSIS:
DESIGN REVIEW

The proposed new structure, which is 6 stories in height and contains 15 residential units with six (6) parking spaces, is on a rectangular site fronting West Avenue and abutting Alton Court at the rear. The proposed building features a lobby and parking on the ground floor and five residential levels above, which contain a mix of one-, two- and three-bedroom units.

The new building is modestly designed with modern architectural gestures inspired by the Art Deco history of Miami Beach and incorporating contemporary accents that include aluminum screening, mosaic clad tile walls and aluminum trellis structures. While the design is simple,

the well-proportioned and symmetrical building volume is enhanced with undulating stucco relief on the stair tower and a landscape planter at the rooftop that allows for landscaping to drape down the front façade, providing color, warmth and texture.

It is important to note that based upon the minimum lot width of the site, no parking is required, provided that secure parking for alternative modes of transportation is provided. The applicant is providing a series of exterior bicycle racks under the first habitable floor near the enclosed lobby. However, in order to provide a greater level of security, staff would recommend that an enclosed area be provided, as noted in the draft conditions of approval for the project. This could be accomplished by expanding the enclosed lobby and incorporating the bicycle parking within the overall lobby volume.

In summary, staff recommends that the application be approved with the recommendations and conditions noted herein, and in the attached draft order.

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the foregoing analysis, staff recommends the application be **approved** with conditions, subject to the conditions enumerated in the attached Draft Order, which address the inconsistencies with the aforementioned Design Review and Sea Level Rise criteria.

EXHIBIT 'A'

PARCEL I:

Lot 7 and the South 1.00 feet of Lot 6, in Block 43, of ALTON BEACH BAYFRONT SUBDIVISION, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 4, at Page 125, of the Public Records of Dade County, Florida.

PARCEL II:

Lot 6, less the South 1.0 feet, in Block 43, of ALTON BEACH BAYFRONT SUBDIVISION, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 4, at Page 125, of the Public Records of Dade County, Florida.

Parcel III:

Together with any and all right, title and interest of the insured as a lessee under that certain Sovereignty Submerged Land Lease No. 130004286 by and between The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida, as Lessor, and Morton Towers Apartments, a Florida general partnership, as Lessee, filed August 20, 1990, at Official Records Book 14671, at Page 573, as modified and renewed by Sovereignty Submerged Land Lease Renewal No. 130004286 by and between The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida, as Lessor, and Morton Towers Apartments, a Florida general partnership, as Lessee, filed June 14, 1994, at Official Records Book 16401, at Page 2756, of the Public Records of Dade County, Florida; as further modified by Modified Sovereignty Submerged Land Lease No. 130004286 by and between the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund of the State of Florida, as Lessor and Morton Towers Apartments, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership, as Lessee, filed September 19, 1997 in Official Records Book 17797, at Page 4825, which Lease demises the following described property:

ALSO DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

ALSO MARINA AREA "A", a parcel of land in Biscayne Bay contiguous to the Westerly line of parcel 1 of the above described property and described as follows:

Commence (P.O.C.) at the Southeasterly corner of Lot 7 referenced above, said Southeasterly corner of Lot 7 being the Northwest corner of Bay Road and 14th Street in the City of Miami Beach, Florida; thence run N 1°33'30" W along the Westerly line of Bay Road, along the Easterly line of said Lot 7, a distance of 780.91 feet; thence run S 48°37'57" W across Lot 7, a distance of 678.89 feet to a point on the Westerly face of a concrete bulkhead cap on the Westerly line of Lot 7 on the Easterly shore of Biscayne Bay, said point being the POINT OF BEGINNING (P.O.B.) of Marina Area "A"; thence run Northwesterly meandering the face of said bulkhead cap along the Easterly shore of Biscayne Bay, along the Westerly line of said Lot 7, a distance of 184.00 feet; thence run S 62°57'00" W in Biscayne Bay, a distance of 135.00 feet; thence run

S 27°03'00" E in Biscayne Bay, a distance of 184.00 feet; thence run N 62°57'00" E in Biscayne Bay a distance of 135.00 feet, more or less to the POINT OF BEGINNING (P.O.B.). Marina Area "A" contains 24,840 square feet more or less or 0.570 acres, more or less.

ALSO MARINA AREA "B", a parcel of land in Biscayne Bay contiguous to the Westerly line of parcel 1 of the above described property and described as follows:

Commence (P.O.C.) at the Southeasterly corner of Lot 7, referenced above, said Southeasterly corner also being the Northwesterly corner of Bay Road and 14th Street in the City of Miami Beach, Florida; thence run N 1°33'30" W along the Westerly line of Bay Road, along the Easterly line of Lot 7, a distance of 780.91 feet; thence run S 48°37'57" W across Lot 7, a distance of 678.89 feet to a point on the Westerly face of a concrete bulkhead cap on the Westerly line of said Lot 7 on the Easterly shore of Biscayne Bay; thence meandering the

Westerly face of said bulkhead cap along the Westerly line of said Lot 7, run Southerly a distance of 96.60 feet to a POINT OF BEGINNING (P.O.B.) of Marina Area "B" described as follows; thence run S 57°46'30" W into Biscayne Bay, a distance of 135.00 feet to a point; thence run S 32°13'30" E in Biscayne Bay, a distance of 115.00 feet to a point, thence run N 57°46'30" E in Biscayne Bay, a distance of 135.00 feet, more or less to the face of the said concrete bulkhead cap on the westerly line of said Lot 7; thence meandering the Westerly face of said bulkhead cap along the Westerly line of said Lot 7, run Northerly, a distance of 115.00 feet, more or less to the POINT OF BEGINNING (P.O.B.) Marina Area "B" contains 15,525 square feet, more or less or 0.356 acres, more or less.