

MIAMI BEACH

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
Staff Report & Recommendation

Design Review Board

TO: DRB Chairperson and Members

DATE: June 7, 2022

FROM: Thomas R. Mooney, AICP
Planning Director



SUBJECT: DRB22-0819
4635 Alton Road

An application has been filed requesting Design Review Approval for the construction of a new two-story single-family home, including one or more waivers, to replace an existing architecturally significant pre-1942 residence.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Lot 4, Block 5, NAUTILUS ADDITION OF MIAMI BEACH BAY SHORE CO., according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 8, Page 130, of the Public Records of Miami Dade County, Florida.

SITE DATA:

Zoning:	RS-4
Future Land Use:	RS
Lot Size:	6,027 SF
Lot Coverage:	
Proposed:	1,703 SF / 28.2%
Maximum:	1,808.1 SF / 30%
Unit size:	
Proposed:	3,003 SF / 49.8%
Maximum:	3,013.5 SF / 50%
Height:	
Proposed:	24'-0" flat roof
Maximum:	24'-0" flat roof

Grade:	+3.68' NGVD
Base Flood Elevation:	+8.0' NGVD
Adjusted Grade:	+5.84' NGVD
First Floor Elevation:	+9' NGVD (BFE+ 1' fb)

EXISTING PROPERTY:

Year:	1940
Architect:	Robert M. Little
Vacant:	No
Demolition:	yes

SURROUNDING PROPERTIES:

East:	One-story 1936 residence
North:	Two-story 1934 residence
South:	One-story 1936 residence
West:	One-story 1939 residence

THE PROJECT:

The applicant has submitted plans entitled "New Single Family Residence – DRB22-0819 Final Submittal", as designed by **Calil Architects**, signed, sealed, and dated April 5, 2022.

The applicant is requesting the following design waivers:

1. A waiver to reduce the additional 5'-0" set back required for the second-floor along the front elevation when the lot coverage for a two-story home is 25% or greater in accordance with Section 142-105(b)(4)c.
2. A waiver to reduce the additional 5'-0" set back required for the second story along a side elevation facing a street elevation when the lot coverage for a two-story home is 25% or greater in accordance with Section 142-105(b)(4)c.

COMPLIANCE WITH ZONING CODE:

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

- Subject to the review and approval of the Design Review Board the following applies to the second story elevation of two-story homes with a lot coverage of 25% or greater:
 - At least 35% of the second floor along the front elevation shall be setback a minimum of five feet from the minimum required setback.
 - At least 50% of the second floor along a side elevation facing shall be setback a minimum of five feet from the minimum required setback.

The above noted comments shall not be considered final zoning review or approval. These and all zoning matters shall require final review and verification by the Zoning Administrator prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.

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; However, the applicant is requesting two design waivers from the Board.
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; However, the applicant is requesting two design waivers from the Board.

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; However, the applicant is requesting two design waivers from the Board.
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; However, the applicant is requesting two design waivers from the Board.
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.
Not Satisfied; a lighting plan has not been submitted.
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; However, the applicant is requesting two design waivers from the Board.
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.
Not Applicable
14. The building shall have an appropriate and fully integrated rooftop architectural treatment which substantially screens all mechanical equipment, stairs and elevator towers.
Not Applicable
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).
Not Applicable
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.
Not Applicable
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.
Not Applicable
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.
See below

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; applicant will provide a recycle/salvage plan for demolition at time of 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.
Not applicable to the scope of work
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.
Satisfied
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.
Not Applicable
10. In all new projects, water retention systems shall be provided.
Not Satisfied; additional information will be required at the time of building permit in order to demonstrate compliance.
11. Cool pavement materials or porous pavement materials shall be utilized.
Satisfied; additional information will be required at the time of building permit in order to demonstrate compliance.

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

Satisfied: additional information will be required at the time of building permit in order to demonstrate compliance.

ANALYSIS:

The applicant is proposing to construct a new two-story residence on a corner lot located on the eastern side of Alton Road at West 47th Street that will replace an existing pre-1942 architecturally significant home. The design floor elevation of the new residence is proposed at base flood elevation (8' NGVD) plus 1' of free board, or 9' NGVD.

The architect is proposing a modern two-story residence that is clad in limestone and stucco and accented with large bronze windows detailed with horizontal muntins. The design is influenced by Art Deco with details that include expansive eyebrows, a rounded garage volume and prominent metal railings. The formal entrance of the home is proposed along its side facing a street elevation, or West 47th Street, due to the constraints of the home's corner location. The lot's width of 65' is greatly compromised at the front of the site with a 50-foot radius.

The applicant is requesting two design waivers to reduce the required length of the second-floor façade on the front elevation and side facing a street elevation when the lot coverage is 25% or greater. As per Sec. 142-105(b)(4)(c) of the City's Land Development Regulations, at least 35 percent of the second floor along the front elevation and at least 50% of the second floor along the side elevation facing a street shall be set back a minimum of five feet from the minimum required setback. This regulation applies to two story homes with an overall lot coverage of 25 percent or greater. The front second-story elevation features a nine-foot-wide staircase at the required 40' setback with the remaining portion of the elevation setback 3'; while more than 50% of the second-floor elevation facing the side street is setback 1' to 2' from the required 15' setback. Staff is not opposed to the requested waivers given the inherent constraints of the lot that include its small size, increased side setbacks resultant of its side facing a street location, and the 50-foot radius of its corner.

As proposed, staff is supportive of the design and recommends its approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

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