



October 7, 2015

Mr. Carlton Williams
Commissioner of Licenses and Inspections
Municipal Services Building, 11th Floor
1401 John F. Kennedy Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: Civic Design Review for 1901-1947 N. Park Avenue (Application No. 631175)

Dear Mr. Williams:

Pursuant to Section 14-304(5) of the Philadelphia Zoning Code, the Civic Design Review (CDR) Committee of the City Planning Commission completed the required review of a proposed library project for Temple University at 1901-1947 North Park Avenue.

The project's proposed location is on the northeast corner of a block bounded by W. Norris Street to the north, 13th Street to the east, W. Montgomery Street to the south, and Broad Street to the west. The site itself is bounded to the north by W. Norris Street, to the east by 13th Street, to the South by Polett Walk, and to the west by Liacouras Walk. The site is zoned SP-INS (Master Plan District – Temple University) and currently is occupied by a vacant four-story academic building undergoing demolition.

The site is 2.33 acres in size, and the proposal is for a single building housing a 215,840 square foot library for Temple University. The proposal includes a loading area along Norris Street, and various paved and unpaved open spaces around the perimeter of the building.

At its meeting of October 6, 2015, the Civic Design Review Committee offered the following comments, and voted to complete the CDR process:

1. Pinch Points along 13th Street

The CDR Committee noted that the presence of tree pits along 13th Street near Norris Street created several pinch points, slimming the walking zone to less than the required amount at this location. However, an adjacent proposed pedestrian plaza relieves the pinch points. The Committee supported the staff's recommendation that a five foot easement be included along 13th Street as part of the project, to guarantee that a future building doesn't reduce the actual walking zone to less than what is required.

2. Bicycle Parking

While pleased with the bicycle parking and bike commuter facilities proposed, the Committee noted that bicycle parking was somewhat distant from the facility's main entries. Some additional bicycle parking closer to the entries would improve the site design.

Gary J. Jastrzab
Executive Director

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However, the Committee also noted that entrance plazas to the building should be kept clear of objects and sculpture that could turn into impromptu bicycle parking locations. If bicycles became parked in an *ad hoc* manner, it would detract from the aesthetic beauty and general accessibility of the building.

3. Design of Liacouras Walk

The CDR Committee noted that the project submission did not include a great deal of information regarding the proposed new design for Liacouras Walk. The Committee recommends that a newly designed Liacouras should respond directly to the new library's architecture and entry points.

4. Traffic Calming Along 13th Street

The CDR Committee expressed concern that the location of the main entry to the library, coupled with the location of a new proposed green space across 13th Street, would lead to an increased number of people attempting to cross 13th Street on foot directly to the new entrance. The Committee recommended that the design team investigate strategies to calm traffic at this location, or to encourage a more directed and safe flow of pedestrians from one point to another across 13th Street.

In conclusion, the Civic Design Review process has been completed for this project. Please contact me if you have any questions about the Committee's action.

Sincerely,



Gary Jastrzab
Executive Director

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