STAFF REPORT

DATE: June 11, 2021

RE: 210-216 Duval Street (Landscape Code Review)

FROM: Karen DeMaria, City of Key West Urban Forestry Manager

An application was submitted to the Planning Department for a major development plan to redevelop an existing structure. This review is to determine compliance to Sec 108 of the City Code regarding landscaping and buffer requirements. This review is based on the site plan submitted via email to the Urban Forestry Manager on May 26, 2021. The plan proposes the creation of two (2) planters containing shrubs along Charles Street and a request to pay into the City tree fund any additional required landscaping.

The property is an existing, historic structure that occupies most of the property. On two side there are roads (Duval and Charles Streets) and on the other two sides are existing historic structures that are zoned store combo and nightclub. Two planters currently exist on the Charles Street property line area and a narrow strip of land with weeds exists along the southern property line. On Duval Street there are two existing street planters on the City right of way containing a Sabal Palm and a Golden Blossom tree.



Google Earth aerial of property, dated February 2018.



Standing on Charles Street looking toward Duval Street at the northwest corner of the property.



Standing on Charles Street looking at the western property line. White fence indicates the rear property line area.



Standing on Charles Street looking toward Telegraph Lane.



Photo of the southern property line area/rear of the property.



Photo of the front of the property along Duval Street.

Review of Section 108:

- 1. Sec 108-347 bufferyards: The property is considered high intensity use with a zoning of store combo. The adjoining properties to the south and east are zoned store combo and nightclub both considered to be a high intensity use therefore, no buffer landscape is required.
- 2. Sec 108-412 minimum landscape requirements: Due to the existing conditions of the property with existing and historic structures built close to and abutting the property lines, this project can not meet the minimum landscape requirements of 20%. There is only approximately 300 square feet of property that is it not covered by a structure. This remaining area will become an exfiltration trench.
- 3. 108-413, landscape requirement along street frontages: This section of the code requires 40 plant units per 100 linear ft in a 10 ft wide landscape area. One tree equals 10 plant units and is defined by City landscape code as being 2.5 inch diameter and a minimum of 15 ft tall (Sec 108-382). A subcanopy tree or palm equals 3 plant units and a shrub equals 1 plant unit. Two street frontage areas exist;
 - A. Duval Street: the property is 85 feet long therefore, 34 plant units would be required
 - B. Charles Street: the property is 88 ft long therefore 35 plant units would be required.
- 4. There is no parking associated with this property therefore, Sec 108-414 and 415 do not apply to this project.

5. Sec 108-416, interior area landscaping. This section of code specifically looks at the planting of trees and requires that all areas not covered by buildings or hardscape will have grass, groundcover, shrubs or other landscaping materials. There is a small section in the rear of the property, approximately 3-4 ft wide, that currently has no structure or hardscape (approximately 300 square feet). This area is the location of an exfiltration trench and access to the rear of the structure and no vegetation is recommended to be planted in this area. Therefore, compliance not required to this section of code.

The applicant is proposing to create two planter boxes along Charles Street with shrubs. At this time it is not known if the existing planter boxes will be removed and rebuilt, what species of plants will be planted, or how many shrubs will be planted. The applicant has also proposed a donation to the City tree/landscaping fund.

Street buffer requirements equate to 3.4 trees for Duval Street and 3.5 trees for Charles Street. A tree by definition in the landscape code is at least 2.5 inches diameter. The City Tree Ordinance has a mitigation fee of \$200 per inch (Sec 110-327.7.a), therefore, each tree under the landscape code requirements would have a value of \$500 and the donation value for the Duval Street requirement would be \$1,700 and for Charles Street would be \$1,750 (not counting any shrubs) for a total donation of \$3,450.

Karen DeMaria

Urban Forestry Manager

City of Key West

