CITY OF JACKSONVILLE
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD MEETING

Proceedings held on Thursday, December 10, 2020,
commencing at 2:00 p.m., Jacksonville Public Library, Multipurpose Room, 303 North Laura Street, Jacksonville, Florida, before Diane M. Tropia, FPR, a Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at Large.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
TREVOR LEE, Chairman.
CHRISTIAN HARDEN, Board Member.
MATT BROCKELMAN, Board Member.
FREDERICK JONES, Board Member.
CRAIG DAVISSON, Board Member.
WILLIAM J. SCHILLING, JR., Board Member.
BRENNA DURDEN, Board Member.
JOSEPH LORETTA, Board Member.

ALSO PRESENT:
GUY PAROLA, DIA, Operations Manager.
INA MEZINI, DIA, Marketing and Communications
LORI RADCLIFFE-MEYERS, Redevelopment Coordinator LORI RADCLIFFE-MEYERS, Redevelopment Coord

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THE CHAIRMAN: Everybody, welcome to the DDRB meeting for December 10th, 2020.

I'm going to call to order our meeting.
The first action item on the list today is the approval of the November 12, 2020, DDRB regular meeting minutes. We'll go ahead and do that.

And I'm going to be repeating motions for approval and seconds and also the votes by board members for those online and also for the minutes.

And if we're not speaking into the microphone, if you can't hear us recording, wave your hand.

THE REPORTER: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: So, board members, when you're speaking, please remove your mask, speak into the microphone. I think that will help everybody involved.

For those who will be speaking, give your name and address before you begin addressing the board. That will help us along as well.

So back to the approval of the meeting
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minutes. Is there any discussion on the meeting minutes from the previous meeting?

BOARD MEMBER SCHILLING: Move to approve.
THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion to approve by Mr. Schilling.

BOARD MEMBER BROCKELMAN: I'll second.
THE CHAIRMAN: A second by Mr. Brockelman.
Thank you.
All those in favor?
BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?
BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Great. We have an approval by Mr. Brockelman, Mr. Loretta, Mr. Harden. We have an abstention [sic] by Ms. Durden; Mr. Schilling approved; Mr. Davisson approved; and Mr. Jones -- welcome -- approved.

We'll move right into DDRB 2020-022, the Central Fire Station, conceptual approval. The applicant is Brooke Robbins.

Before we hear from the applicant, could we have a staff report from Ms. Radcliffe-Meyers?

MS. RADCLIFFE-MEYERS: Thank you, Chairman Lee.

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My name is Lori Radcliffe-Meyers with the Downtown Investment Authority, and I will be presenting the staff report for the Central Fire Station.

DDRB application 2020-022 seeks conceptual approval for an adaptive reuse of the Central Fire Station located at the corner of Adams Street and Ocean Street. The site is 0.12 acres in the Cathedral Core Overlay District. The site is bounded to the north by the Grand Lodge of Free \& Accepted Masons of Florida, to the east by Ocean Street, to the south by Adams Street, and to the west by 29 East Adams.
(Board Member Durden enters the proceedings.)

MS. RADCLIFFE-MEYERS: The proposal is to historically renovate the Central Fire Station at 33 East Adams Street into an office/restaurant space. The applicant worked with the City of Jacksonville Historic Preservation office and staff regarding the Certificate of Appropriateness to ensure that the renovations meet the historic requirements. The application for the Certificate of Appropriateness was heard and approved with

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conditions on October 28, 2020.

Based on the foregoing, the Downtown Development Review Board staff supports conceptual approval of DDRB application 2020-022 with the following recommendations: Prior to submittal for final review, the developer shall meet with staff to identify any deviations sought. At final review, the developer shall provide enough detail so as to illustrate that the Pedestrian Zone meets the definition of such in the ordinance code. Streetlights, benches, and street furnishings shall be placed in the amenity area, and redesign of the streetscape along Adams Street to include retaining the Quercus virginiana and the addition of a second shade tree which meets the definition of such.

This concludes the staff report. Staff is available for questions.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Radcliffe-Meyers. Appreciate that.

Now maybe we can hear from the applicant?
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
AUDIENCE MEMBER: So I'm Brooke Robbins,
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architect with Robbins Design Studio, 40 Adams Street, Suite 4, Jacksonville, 32202.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
MS. ROBBINS: I brought my own copy in case the clicking gets off.

So, again, we're here to talk about the Central Fire Station, which was constructed in 1902. It is a certified historic landmark building. And -- make sure we're on timing together here.

Okay. So, again, the building was built in 1902. It is two stories, plus an attic space, comprised of approximately 9,600 square feet. The scope of work is predominantly exterior repairs in code compliance within the building, so new ADA elevator lift, a new secondary egress stair, exterior facade repairs, new roofing, and then core HVAC and plumbing systems for the building.

Again, as Ms. Radcliffe-Meyers said, we're at the corner of Ocean and Adams Street, the northwest corner of that intersection. So just the adjacent properties -- to the southwest is the Jessie Ball DuPont Center. To the northwest, adjacent, you have 29 East Adams

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Street, also a two-story building, and then Burrito Gallery is on the other side of that. To the northeast you have Bedell law firm. To the southeast is the old Burro Bar, and then, northeast, kind of standing adjacent to the property is a local church. Facing west is the Masons' Lodge.

So, again, the existing elevations; the building is two stories, as you can see, with the attic space over approximately 45 feet to the peak of the building. And as you can see, there's the large oak tree in front.

So exterior repairs; the second-story windows were replaced in the late '90s, so we are, again, proposing to replace those as part of this renovation as they have some need of -are in need of repair and that sort of thing.

The first floor, we're going to replace the roll-up doors, which we'll show you when we get to the new elevations as well. The east facade going down Ocean Street, again, it's stucco. New windows on the second floor. The first-floor windows, the small -- the three small windows you see behind the tree, those are the ones that were part of the COA

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application to repair instead of replace, so we will do that as part of this renovation as well.

The north facade is really -- there's a small, 5-foot-wide, kind of back-of-house alleyway, so there are existing glass block windows on the first floor that will be maintained and repaired and new windows on the second floor. The west facade, you really only see the back sliver there where the brick is hatched. The rest of it is the adjacent to the 29 East Adams Street building.

So moving to the new elevations, the south -- the front entry to the building, essentially. So what we're doing is repairing the building for future tenants to come in. We're looking at potentially two tenants on first floor and then -- of restaurant, kind of retail component on the level one, and then an office component for the second floor.

So we are taking the existing roll-up doors and the two on the right-hand side will remain full roll-up doors. The one on the left-hand side will be split, so you'll have a personnel door for egress and entry into that

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1 suite where the right-hand side of that will be 2 a roll-up door. The small door there on the 3 left that is shaded red is an existing be a full roll-up door; the door on the left

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will be the combo personnel door and roll-up door.

So you actually have a 2-foot height differential within the building from the back half of the suite on the first floor and front half as you move down Ocean Street. So you actually enter on grade at that -- the back side there, and then off of Adams Street you also enter on grade. So the interior of the building, we have a 2 -foot height difference.

The north facade just gets exterior repairs, so touch-up of the stucco and repainting. And then, the same with the west facade, the existing brick gets repainted.

So streetscape, this is the existing streetscape. So the photo on your left is Adams Street where you have the large tree -existing tree and the front facade of the building. On Ocean Street you have existing crape myrtles that are -- we're proposing to maintain.

So as we move into the site plan -- do you guys see this on your screen? Is it clear? Because I know it's a little blurry up there to read.

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space that it needs. So what we're proposing Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300

So moving -- so we'll start with Ocean Street. So Ocean Street, we're proposing the two trees remain. We'll put the Flexi-Pave around that as required by the streetscape standards and incorporate the brick pavers and the concrete stamping to comply with the standards. In addition, providing a new City of Jacksonville standard streetlight and the benches and trash receptacles along that facade.

Adams Street, we are proposing to remove that existing oak tree. It is within 5 feet of the water main. It's buckling the sidewalk. There's an ADA parking space just next to that tree. So what we have proposed are two trees -- crape myrtles is what we have on the drawings, but we've done a little research on that. The frontage of the building is only 49 feet wide, so separation of a live oak to another live oak, we don't have the width there between the existing location of the tree and the corner of Adams and Ocean, which -- trying to keep a tree away from that corner with, you know, the growth pattern of a live oak and the
are shifting the trees -- providing two new trees in lieu of the existing tree and shifting them down so they are more in line and proportioned with the building.
(Library announcement over the public address system.)

MS. ROBBINS: Okay. So we're in code green.

So with that, as I mentioned, our proposal is to get -- we had suggested crape myrtles as they match the existing trees along Ocean Street. Twenty-nine East Adams, the existing building to the west of the property, also has a crape myrtle. The Bedell law firm, across Ocean Street, has crape myrtles. So I understand, you know, there's concern over the shade from a crape myrtle and that sort of thing as far as creating, you know, the streetscape.

So we did go through the proposed trees for the Downtown district and evaluated with all of our constraints of the 10 -foot setback from the water main, 15 -foot setback from the corner, growth patterns of trees, how far they should be spaced apart, and the other

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options -- the palm trees within the suggested trees, obviously, that doesn't provide shade. The elm tree and the laurel oak, the other options, also require a greater separation distance and kind of growth distance from the building than what we have.

So there was -- within the intra-district options, there was a Drake elm, which is a smaller-height tree, and they can be placed a little bit closer together. And then we also have a suggestion for maybe a holly tree because that could be pruned and shaped to provide shade, but also keep it down within proportion to our two-story building.

A lot of these trees, the oaks and those such, in relation to a high-rise building, they make sense, you know, an 18 -story building. We have a small, two-story building that you don't see the, you know -- currently, you can't read the "Central Fire Station," which is a predominant feature of the building. It was one of the first buildings built after the fire, so it would be nice to maintain that.

So we've thrown out a few other options for trees that we'd like, you know, to be up

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for discussion as far as that goes. We are, you know -- the thoughts of the first floor are also for it to become a restaurant, so that there would be outdoor patio seating, shade umbrellas and that sort of thing once a restaurant comes on board for that space.

And that is the end of our presentation.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Robbins.
I appreciate that.
Do we have any public comments on this item?
Ms. Mezini, any hands raised?
MS. MEZINI: No.
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Hearing none, I'll move to board comments.

We'll start with Mr. Brockelman.
BOARD MEMBER BROCKELMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you for the presentation. I think, overall, this is a really exciting project to see move forward. As I was reading through the staff report, I was really glad to hear you talk about the oak tree, and really kind of want to hear, maybe from the staff's perspective if that's appropriate, what their reaction is to the three issues you mentioned

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1 related to that oak, being the 5 feet from the

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you know, for signage, per se, so -- but I think -- I think we can follow up with the LA for the City of Jacksonville, so --

BOARD MEMBER BROCKELMAN: I appreciate that, and that would certainly be helpful.

Assuming this moves forward today toward final approval, I think, before I personally would be comfortable with the removal of the healthy tree, kind of getting a better context of, in similar situations, what's happened in the past. And perhaps, if these issues that they have listed are legitimate issues but are issues that might be best addressed by the City, to help with some sidewalk consideration or perhaps moving an ADA spot if the access is the issue, maybe we can approach it from that regard.

But definitely, I would not support removing the oak without more context and discussion, but curious what everyone else thinks.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Brockelman.
Mr. Loretta.
BOARD MEMBER LORETTA: I appreciate the presentation. It's a great project. I look forward to it being redeveloped. I've not

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physically walked out there to see the root growth that was discussed. I understand that element, which is an area of concern I have throughout all of downtown. A Drake elm would be a fine alternative if staff deems that you can remove the live oak.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Loretta. Mr. Harden.
BOARD MEMBER HARDEN: I have no comments. Looks like a great project.

Thanks.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Ms. Durden.
BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Do we take this off?
THE CHAIRMAN: While you're speaking, yes.
BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Thank you,
Mr. Chairman.
I would agree with the earlier comments in regards to the oak tree. It's so hard to get the shade trees, and we're really working hard to have more shade trees, so the idea about taking out a healthy one is -- kind of rubs -is just the opposite of what I know the board and staff and our guidelines are seeking. So I would -- I would -- I would agree also with

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Ms. Radcliffe-Meyers' comment about working with the landscape architect, the City's LA, to come up with a solution.

You know, I would even consider -- and, Mr. Chairman, one of the recommendations in $D$ is -- in regards to this tree, and it says, "the addition after the second shade tree." You know, I could even see keeping this tree, relocating the handicapped space, and maybe not mandating a second shade tree as a solution because of the location where this one is currently.

So I would agree with moving forward with the recommendations that are set forth in the staff report.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Durden. Mr. Schilling.
BOARD MEMBER SCHILLING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And I'll echo a couple of my former board members here, Ms. Durden and Mr. Brockelman. I agree on the tree, and I'll quote one the landscape architects in our office, and that is, You can't buy time with trees. And anything -- any new tree that we put in would

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pale in comparison to this existing tree.
I'm a little interested to know about the water main because -- I guess my question there is -- typically, they run in parallel with the road, so I guess my question is, would we have the same issue even if we're just moving or putting in a new tree, you know, 10, 20 feet further down the road? I'm assuming there's still a water main conflict.

MS. ROBBINS: Well, that's where it ties in -- out to the street to the building is right there within 5 feet of the tree, so it runs, you know, perpendicular across the sidewalk. So we're trying -- what our proposal was, was to remove that tree, place two trees back in lieu of the existing one, and move them further down so that they are, you know, within that -- over 10 ten feet away from that existing connection, because that -- that's one of the reasons across the street at the DuPont Center that we have palm trees, is all of the tree roots from the oak trees had gotten into the water lines and was causing a bigger maintenance issue than the buckling of the sidewalk.

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So that was -- you know, it's multiple reasons. We agree that shade should be there. It's just the location of this particular tree is causing multiple issues, so we were trying to resolve that with putting trees back but just in a shifted-down location for that.

BOARD MEMBER SCHILLING: Okay. So it's the service coming into the building?

MS. ROBBINS: Correct.
BOARD MEMBER SCHILLING: All right. That helps me understand. Thank you.

And not to be overly witty, but not to lose sight of the forest from the tree, I mean, the important thing here is -- I think this is a great project and certainly support it. I think what I've heard so far is there is support, and I would just recommend -- I recognize today's conceptual and not final, but would love if there is a way for the applicant to work with staff and find a way to do something with that existing tree would be great.

Thank you.
MS. ROBBINS: Okay.
BOARD MEMBER DAVISSON: Thanks for the
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presentation. I object to the tree removal as well. Other than that, I have no other comment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Davisson. Mr. Jones.
BOARD MEMBER JONES: Thank you.
Again, I appreciate the level of detail
that you consistently put into your
applications as well. Looking forward to this, you know, reactivating this building. It's a gem, so very excited about that.

And, again, I would just defer to the staff recommendation, that we continue to work with the City and come up with an appropriate solution with respect to the tree. I would naturally defer to keeping the tree as is unless there's some extenuating circumstances that we could at least mitigate, somehow, the shade.

That's all.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Jones.
Thank you for the presentation. I appreciate it. I think, too, it's a wonderful project, and happy to be seeing it move forward.

I did have a couple of questions. On
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THE CHAIRMAN: Now we have balconies. Are you planning on keeping those or --

MS. ROBBINS: We are keeping those and we'll restore them. There are currently French doors behind that as well, so those doors will be replaced as part of the window replacement, so those will be maintained.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you.
And I'd also add to everyone else's comments about the oak, doing everything we can to try to keep it. I understand there are issues with it and some may not be able to be overcome, but we should save that one as first position.

MS. ROBBINS: Mr. Grainger, did you want to say something?

Mr. Grainger is one of the owners. I just want to have him speak.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Name and address, please.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Farley Grainger, 1238
Windsor Harbor Drive, Jacksonville, 32225.
Thank you, guys, for your service for downtown. We appreciate it and certainly

The one thing I would say about the tree, because we talked for months about it, is that it has kind of taken over the world right there. Nobody has maintained it. Nobody has looked after it. It's actually -- the top of it you can see is growing into the building, in addition to tearing up the sidewalk. So the roots are probably a good 6 inches above the sidewalk and growing into the curb as well. If there's a way around that, certainly happy to hear it and consider it. We just haven't found one.

Secondly, it just has not been trimmed very well over the years either, so it's starting to grow into the top of our building, and kind of has lost scale there as well. I certainly don't want to put, you know, over a couple million dollars in a project and that be part of sidewalk improvements, too, that just in a couple of years gets rooted up because a tree continues to grow through it.

So if we can find a way, happy to work with staff to do that, but I can tell you we have thought about it. It wasn't just a passing, let's tear it down.

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THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Grainger. MR. GRAINGER: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Appreciate those comments. BOARD MEMBER LORETTA: May I ask one question?

THE CHAIRMAN: Please, Mr. Loretta. BOARD MEMBER LORETTA: Are you going to need to increase or change the water size line coming in?

MS. ROBBINS: Yes.
BOARD MEMBER LORETTA: And then, where is the main at? Is it in the roadway?

MS. ROBBINS: It's in the middle of Adams Street.

BOARD MEMBER LORETTA: Okay. So you're going to have to do a cut all the way into the middle of Adams Street, right?

MS. ROBBINS: Correct.
BOARD MEMBER LORETTA: So then there's nothing that's prohibiting you from, let's say, moving the new connection to be 15 feet to the right?

MS. ROBBINS: Except we have historic terrazzo floors inside the building that was part of the COA. We're restoring those, so

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that would be cutting a trench through historic flooring; concrete, you know, through historic terrazzo, because the first floor of the building has not been renovated.

So the building was converted to an apartment in the late '90s, so the second floor is a 4,500-square-foot, single-family home at the moment, and the first floor are old fire truck bays for the firehouse. So where it comes in currently is right through that double -- that door that you saw, the left-hand side, where the old firehose shoot is, so that is not historic flooring. It's bare. You know, it's coming in through there. So we're really trying to minimize damage to the remaining historic character of the building by cutting up those terrazzo floors as little as possible.

BOARD MEMBER LORETTA: I mean, I think there's maybe some other ways possibly. It probably just would require additional money and cost because -- but at the same time, if you're going to be redoing the entire sidewalk, you know, maybe you make the landscape pit larger and put some -- Civicell underneath the

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sidewalk and allow more room for the roots to grow into the future. You know, the success of that is a whole other thing, though, too, so -I think there is at least some you can explore, but I understand what you just stated, and I just ask that if that's the stance you take, document that for the final.

MS. ROBBINS: Okay.
THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Davisson.
BOARD MEMBER DAVISSON: Not to belabor this tree, but, you know, although it hasn't been maintained, you know, I wish most of our trees in Jacksonville had this problem. Typically, it's rare to see a tree in a downtown sidewalk that's gone this full. And, you know, typically, in these -- well, when we had a previous DDRB board member, landscape architect, that called them death pits that nothing can grow in, and this one is growing. So I think --

MS. ROBBINS: It is growing?
BOARD MEMBER DAVISSON: -- I think sidewalk remediation is minimal, even if we have to do that again in five years. That's my final comment on that.

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s Mr. Schilling.

BOARD MEMBER SCHILLING: Mr. Chairman, I was going to ask if the board members felt the staff recommendation about the tree was adequate to address the concerns of the board members. And I'm flipping to the -- I see Item $D$ is included as a staff recommendation, so I think that covers that. Sorry for the interruption.

THE CHAIRMAN: Which is what?
BOARD MEMBER SCHILLING: Which is -- one of the conditions is that $D$, which is redesign of the streetscape along Adams Street, to include retaining -- I'm going to pronounce

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that wrong -- basically, the tree and the
addition of a second shade tree which meets the definition of such.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. All right. So let's move forward with a vote.

So all those in favor for approving DDRB
2020-022 conceptual say aye.
BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?
BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
We have an aye from Mr. Brockelman, aye from Mr. Loretta, aye from Mr. Harden, aye from Mr. Lee, aye from Ms. Durden, aye from
Mr. Schilling, aye from Mr. Davisson, and aye from Mr. Jones.

Thank you.
MS. ROBBINS: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We'll move on to DDRB 2020-018, 600 Park Street, conceptual approval.

Ms. Lori Radcliffe-Meyers, could we hear a staff report, please?

MS. RADCLIFFE-MEYERS: Thank you, again, Mr. Lee.

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THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
MS. RADCLIFFE-MEYERS: My name is Lori Radcliffe-Meyers with the Downtown Investment Authority, and I'll be providing the staff report for 600 Park Street, Home2 Suites hotel.

DDRB application 2020-018 seeks conceptual approval for a new six-story hotel with associated surface parking lot located at 600 Park Street. The site is 1.2 acres in the Brooklyn Overlay District. The site is bounded to the north by Rosselle Street, to the east by Park Street, to the south by Jimmy John's, and to the west by Chelsea Street. The proposal is to construct a new six-story,
10,720-square-foot hotel with 100 rooms and associated service parking. The project proposes to incorporate a restaurant space with outdoor seating, along with a 20 -foot-wide linear park along Chelsea Street.

As currently presented, the proposal does not meet the ordinance code regulation for off-street parking. Per the ordinance, new surface or expansion of existing surface parking is prohibited in the Central Core, and in districts other than the Central Core, new

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or expansion surface parking of more than six spaces for nonresidential uses, whether accessory or on-site, is prohibited unless interior to the parcel and wrapped by a building on the street frontage.

The applicant will need to redesign the proposed hotel to wrap the surface parking lot along the street frontage. The code does allow for a deviation from the restrictions on new on-site surface parking; however, the deviation request must demonstrate that construction of a parking garage on-site or wrapping the surface parking with a building is not feasible on the site due to site-specific conditions not generally found within downtown. And, two, there is a demonstrated shortage of available parking within a one-quarter-mile radius of the site.

So based on the foregoing, the Downtown Development Review Board staff denies conceptual approval of DDRB application 2020-018 due to the following: As presented, staff cannot support the proposal because it does not conform to the Downtown Overlay Zone and Downtown District Use and Form Regulations,

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Subsection K, Off-Street Parking.
The applicant will need to redesign the project to conform to the regulation or request a deviation.

This concludes the staff report. Staff is available for questions.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you,
Ms. Radcliffe-Meyers.
Could we hear from the applicant?
(Ms. Trimmer approaches the podium.)
MS. TRIMMER: Thank you so much.
Cyndy Trimmer, 1 Independent Drive, Suite 1200, on behalf of the applicant.

So we spent the time since we were last here at the workshop working on incorporating the feedback that we got from everybody. We've looked at things in terms of the space planning, site planning, building massing, materials, things along those lines.

The ground floor has been reconfigured so that we made sure that we had the active uses visible from the streetfront, took the rooms off, moved everything up so that that part will be transparent.

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We were able to wrap the corner -- I'll let Erik get more into that and walk you through the details -- but we were successful in getting through all of those.

Site-planning-wise, we were able to incorporate feedback we got for Rosselle in terms of making sure there was more hardscape, the more urban feel connecting out to that pedestrian parking.

At this point, I'm going to let Doug walk through the changes in the site plan and the feedback that we got on Chelsea and what we've done to incorporate it. We'll turn it over to Erik to kind of walk you through the elevations. I know staff has concerns in terms of whether we'll meet deviation criteria and the wrapping and that part, but I'll address that after we get through the slides.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Trimmer.
(Mr. Skiles approaches the podium.)
MR. SKILES: Doug Skiles, 4446-1A Hendricks Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32207.

And I guess I've got to go to the site plan. When we met last, we had a -- we received several comments, probably -- to me,

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the most predominant were, let's see a more urban streetscape along Rosselle and Park. What we had before was, I would say, more of a -- just a concept of just, hey, we're going to redo this. Now we've put some more thought into it, and what you'll see is the same pattern that exists throughout downtown. We're following the downtown standards. We're not asking for any deviations there.

One of the comments that was brought up was, try to provide some hard access -sidewalk, hard access to parking spaces. It makes it a lot nicer when you get out of your car if you've got something other than landscaping to walk into, and it's obviously better for the landscaping as well. So we are proposing trees at the recommended spacing along Rosselle and then again along Park Street. This drawing doesn't show it, but we are going to extend the pattern across our driveway on Park Street, basically to our property line.

Then there was a comment about the interior. Now, we had -- where the drop-off is and that row where you see the handicapped

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space is, we didn't have any landscaping there. We were asked to soften this up because you will be able to see into the parking lot when you drive by, so we widened that to fit some landscaping in there. And then we've got a sidewalk for the handicapped parking spaces to make it easier for them to get in.

And then we started looking at Chelsea, and we did talk a little bit about Chelsea because we had several meetings with not only the traffic engineer but the City engineer about what type of parking we could use on Chelsea. We originally proposed perpendicular parking on Rosselle, but they felt like that was too much of a thoroughfare, wouldn't be safe, so we went with parallel parking on Rosselle. They did feel that Chelsea was more of a -- it's almost like a parking lot that everybody else is using. Most of the people park perpendicular on Chelsea. All of the other businesses, a lot of them are parking on the grass and crossing the sidewalk, so they gave us the approval to put in perpendicular parking on Chelsea.

We did put a sidewalk up against the
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parking because what we feel will happen is, the majority of people will be guests of the hotel. They will get out of the car and they'll have a nice, wide sidewalk to get on. And then, if you notice, there's a gray rectangle there -- gray square, where -- that will be an urban space with some benches, and it will lead into the sidewalk and a crosswalk through the site that takes you to the hotel, right into the hotel lobby.

The space between the sidewalk and the curb, what we are proposing is a bioswale there. And if any of you have driven by the San Marco library -- and this was about ten years ago, there was some big oak trees there, and the City said, We're taking them down because they're not safe; they're falling. The Council member at the time, Lori Boyer, came to San Marco Preservation Society and said, Hey, let's figure out what to do.

We got with the Riverkeeper, they had some grant money from Coca-Cola. We said, let's do a bioswale. We got the guy from the zoo, made it a community project. It is beautiful. Ten years -- I know it takes a lot of time, but it

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1 doesn't take forever, fortunately. And I 2 encourage some of you -- it's right across from
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Hurricane -- take a look at that bioswale there. What we're proposing is something that would be very similar to there. And we would take the stormwater runoff from the parking lot, sheet flow it into this swale, and provide some extra treatment.

I don't think there's anything else -- I think that really covers it. I mean, obviously, I'll answer questions, but I think Erik is going to do his part of the proposal next.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Skiles.
(Mr. Kasper approaches the podium.)
MR. KASPER: Hey, good afternoon.
Erik Kasper, 10175 Fortune Parkway, Suite 701, Jacksonville, Florida 32256.

As in our last workshop, we did talk about adding glazing to the entire street frontage, so we were able to relocate the exit stair to the inboard on the parking side and then also inboard, so we were able to achieve that -those requests.

And we also worked on the color scheme and
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the massing. So we have shifted that main tower, which was on this corner to the opposite corner, added glass to the tower, which you'll see, and then we're able to divide the building massing into multiple volumes by accentuating the center entrance element all the way up through, dividing the main building into two, and then dividing those massings further with color schemes and other bandings.

Also, the outdoor engaging the pedestrian on the street level with the outdoor dining at this restaurant, and then the covered trellis along that restaurant area for shading. And then, as you see, the additional glazing along both street frontages.

Here's the relocated tower with the glass element on top (indicating), a variety of materials and finishes, and then that's the small linear park on Chelsea.

And I believe that's it. So I'll land on -- leave that image, and I'm available for any questions.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Kasper. Appreciate that.

Are there any public comments?
Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300 of project. And I do have Kelley Slay with me,

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who is an established hotel operator with a background in appraisal work and all of these types of things. He knows the industry. He knows the product. He knows, basically, the margins that are available and what they can do and the price-point challenges of our market versus other markets, and some of the images that were brought to you in the staff report and things along those lines.

Looking at our specific area of Brooklyn, we are starting to get structured parking in Brooklyn, and that's fantastic. We've reached out to different operators for different projects to see if it's possible to partner with them and get access to those spaces, so if there was excess capacity -- and there is not. And they are not interested in having discussions of anything along any of those lines. When you have a hotel, you really need to be as close to that one-to-one ratio as you can on parking.

I do want to give Kelley an opportunity to come up and let you know in terms of what he's done in talking to different operators and what our options are for that, but I do want to

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remind you, this is conceptual. We do have the opportunity to come back at final and request that deviation and go through the criteria and we'll do our narrative and address those issues, but this site really wants to be a hotel, and it's just not going to be possible to have a hotel that fronts all three frontages on here, so we will be asking for that deviation.

Kelley.
(Audience member approaches the podium.)
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good afternoon.
I'm Kelley Slay, 1984 River Road, Jacksonville, 32207.

As Cyndy said, I'm a hotel
developer/owner/operator. We have properties in Miami, Atlanta, Tallahassee. Sadly, nothing here in Jacksonville yet, and I'm trying to change that.

The -- we've worked with Erik and with Doug trying to come up with a way to wrap the parking. We understand the intent of the guidelines, and we're trying to reach that as best we can. Unlike multifamily or office where you could basically build a parking
structure in the center and then build leasable space on the outside edges, hotels just don't work that way with a design. We have to have a core go down the middle. We have to have rooms on both sides with windows on both sides, so if we tried to build a parking structure in the center and then wrap our hotels around it, we would only have hotels on the outside because we wouldn't have any windows to the inside. So it's just, unfortunately, not feasible to build a property like this. If we were building 4or 500 rooms, that would be a different story, but we're not. We're trying to make -- this is an extended-stay brand, mid-price point, and we just could never achieve the average daily rates we would need to overcome the obstacle of structured parking in the middle of the lot.

And I'm available for any questions if anybody has any.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Slay. Appreciate that.

MR. SLAY: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: If there are no further comments from the applicants, we'll take public comments.

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seem like they are going to do that tomorrow either. The dialysis clinic has surface parking on Park Street, if I remember right, and the Residence Inn has surface parking on three sides of the building.

You know, this one, on the other hand, keeps the primary two corridors, Rosselle and Park, and addresses them well. It has a restaurant at the corner. And as the Downtown Overlay says, we need to keep -- you know, make sure corners stay well preserved with a restaurant use.

And the other thing is, the land on Chelsea Street and that land behind Park there isn't really going to be vested to be a large surface area when it's surrounded on three sides by I-95, I-10, and its related ramps. You know, if this project was on Forest Street, I think it would be a different issue because, obviously, there would be a defined core, a little different than we have in Brooklyn.

And related to that, I think we need to be realistic about the streets and understand that Chelsea Street is never going to be Park Street; it's never going to be Laura Street.

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You know, certain streets in a modern, urban core are always going to end up being more service-type streets. And I think that the goal should be to keep streets like Park and Rosselle and Forest and Riverside -- you know, really hold them on high regard and get that absolutely right and don't have deviations on those. But on streets like Chelsea Street, I just don't understand the need there.

Thank you for your time.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Congro. Ms. Mezini, any further comments?
MS. MEZINI: Yes. We have one from Manish
Kothari.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. This is Manish Kothari from Jax Federal Credit Union, 562 Park Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32204.

Although we like the concept and idea of the (inaudible) in Brooklyn, the -- since we are right next to that Rosselle intersection and all of our signage will be blocked by the property, six stories high, we would like to have, you know, from 95 or exiting the ramp -we need to make sure that our building is not completely hidden, so don't -- don't know

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architecturally what you can do or if you can push it back. I'm not saying don't do the development, but please don't block us.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Ms. Mezini, any more comments?
MS. MEZINI: No additional public
comments.
THE CHAIRMAN: We'll close the public comment section and move to board comments.

Mr. Jones, how about you first?
BOARD MEMBER JONES: Again, this has always been an ongoing challenge in this particular district. And, you know, we've had this sort of discussion of the Jacksonville market as, you know, not mature enough or, you know, there's still that suburban typology that is going to work best; it's tried and true. I do think, at some point, we've got to move away from some of that.

Recognizing that, I do understand sort of the challenges in this space, but I do -- you know, I think I probably would like to just have a greater exploration of just this parking-particular issue because I, you know,

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have a tendency to agree a little bit with staff here on this.

But, you know, can we show a demonstrated shortage? I've never heard of a shortage of parking in Jacksonville, personally, so I think that's -- other than that, I mean, the building is great. I don't have an issue. I love the fact we're seeing this kind of momentum, but -I don't know, at some point, where we are going with the amount of surface parking that's driving most of the decision-making in this market is an issue.

That's all I have.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Jones.
Mr. Davisson.
BOARD MEMBER DAVISSON: You know, in a perfect world, you know, there would be -- in a hotel, you know, you would have a porte cochere drop-off and a valet taking cars off-site somewhere that are never seen, but this is not that project. And it's a hundred-room hotel, and you just don't take a hundred-room hotel and wrap four sides of a block and put parking in the middle. It just doesn't work. So considering the task and the design challenge,

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I think they have done a pretty good job as far as buffering, you know, three sides of the site, and they have also made a pretty good move of putting glass -- making some rearrangements on grade.

My comment would be -- putting the site aside, because I think the task at hand, they have done a good job on the site. My comment would be, I've looked at some of the Home2 hotels that are on the boards and, you know, that are proposed and some of their other marketing materials, and this looks like -my -- when I look at what's being done by Home2, this looks like the Home2 budget motel. And I'd like to hear a comment with regard to articulation and materials on the building. It looks like it's not up to the standard of what I've seen on other Home 2 hotels.

That's all.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Davisson.
I'll give the applicant a chance to
respond once they have heard all the board comments.

Mr. Schilling.
BOARD MEMBER SCHILLING: Thank you,
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Mr. Chairman.
Just wanted to share, so I see that the applicant is Kelco Management and Development, Inc., but I do see the Corner Lot Development Group is also listed on all the documents we've been provided. And I know that my firm, while not related to this project, is providing professional services to Corner Lot Development Group. I am going to abstain from voting on this item just to ensure that there's no conflict.

The only thing that I would add, and I know it's a comment I made in the workshop -and I'll agree with Mr. Davisson, and I'll definitely defer to the architect on the board, but I would say I agree entirely that, to me, the finish on the hotel does not look -- it looks like it could come a lot further and look a lot better. And so I just ask, if there's anything that could be done there before getting to final, I think that would go a long way.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Schilling. Ms. Durden.
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BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Admittedly, this is a difficult circumstance and, yes, in the past we have -- in responding to one of the speakers, we have made decisions that were very troubling and difficult to make. You know, I think that -- I think that the group did listen to some of the things that we said last time, in particular in regards to the transparency in that particular corner of Rosselle and Park Street. And I was very concerned about the transparency there and openness. I think, if I remember correctly, it had its -- concrete slab came all the way down to the street level. So they made some changes there.

You know, I'm pretty familiar with that San Marco swale. And Mr. Skiles is correct, it is a nice improvement there; it seems to work. You know, what I actually was wondering is -you know, is that the best use of that Chelsea Road frontage? Is it too far away from the main building for there to be more activity in there? That was one thing that I thought that might be able to soften -- and when I say "activity," I mean pedestrian amenities -- to soften that and to kind of do what the intent

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1 is, which is to not see from the street the surface parking lots.

And, you know, we have so many, and it's -- it's kind of like the tree beforehand, on the prior project. You know, at some point, we have to decide, this is, no, we're not going to allow these any more and -- because it will stay here for a long, long time. Especially a brand-new project, we get to do -- you know, basically, you all get to design it from scratch.

So, you know, I was looking at the recommendation to deny this decision. It's always hard as a board member to actually deny somebody. That's always a hard decision, I believe. I wonder -- and at some point perhaps this is a question for staff, but is there -is there an opportunity rather than actually voting to deny, just asking them to go back to the drawing board and come back -- or maybe even, you know, have another discussion about that Chelsea Road frontage?

I will say that I do really like the Rosselle. You know, in a way, I wish that we could do some of that Rosselle, maybe along

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Chelsea. Maybe that's an option.
I would also echo that I'm not impressed by the architectural style. You know, we have a lot of rectangular-shaped buildings that are going to -- in 20 years or even in 10 years, going to be, Oh, yeah, that was the style back in, you know, the -- late 2015, 2020, and it's going to look -- in my mind, it's going to look very dated. I think there are ways to -- and materials to use that can have a more universal time frame and not be kind of this particular style.

What I would encourage is the board to consider, rather than voting on it, asking the applicant to go back, take our comments again and go back and reconsider it, bring it back for another conceptual.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Durden.
Mr. Harden.
BOARD MEMBER HARDEN: So I would agree with a few of my colleagues about the parking treatment of Chelsea Street. No disrespect to staff, because I know they're doing their jobs with the guidelines that are set forth, but I don't have an issue with the way that it's

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structured and with the parking.
And I think that the number of parking spaces are up to the developer. And they've got to sell rooms, and if they don't have enough parking for their customers, then that's their issue. And we've made a real push to reduce that. The treatment of it, I don't have an issue given what's -- the industrial-type buildings on the other side of Chelsea Street.

I do also agree with what other board members have said about the architecture. And I noticed in the packet, in the application, there was a couple of examples of some of the Home2 Suites that are clearly of a higher -- it was sort of confusing when I went back to see -- they're of a higher caliber, I think, designwise and finishwise and the differentiation of materials and the way the building is designed.

So I think that's probably worth going back and looking at again because this is at a critical juncture, and this is at a location that -- you know, this board didn't have a chance to opine on, you know, the Self Storage that's right off the intersection, right off

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the interstate, but this is where anybody coming from I-10 or I-95 South would enter Brooklyn or Riverside, so we want to get this right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Harden.
Mr. Loretta.
BOARD MEMBER LORETTA: Thank you.
What's interesting is, when I was working with staff, looking at both projects for today, I was a bit perplexed, similar to the first public speaker today, I think it's Mr. Cogno [sic]. It's -- quite frankly, I would look at potentially a recommendation for -- opposition for a different project, not this one.

One of the elements I think we really need to understand is Chelsea Street appears to be a dead end, you know, a half a block, another couple hundred feet past this property, and so it's really the back side of everything there. So if you go back to, like, (inaudible) A and B Streets, or something like that, they're really following the model of making Park Street the street of, you know, intensity and Rosselle the second.

I also look at, like, the Lofts of Monroe
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that was done by Vestcor, although maybe it is different because it's residential, based on what staff's comment was, but, you know, they -- they basically wrapped two corners of a four-corner lot, and -- and then what they basically did to attempt to appease a little bit was put a -- the southwest corner, kind of bike storage, slash, dumpster. I mean, it's -it's possible -- that is something, if you guys could remove a few more spaces, maybe you move the dumpster around and add a little bit more storage or create a bicycle rental program there or something of that nature and, you know, maybe you can create another little wing wall, wrap it around, something of that nature.

But, you know, I think from a site planning perspective, if -- if this was in the Urban Core or even, you know, closer into Brooklyn, there would be a significant difference of opinion on my end, but, you know, we really need to look at site-specific elements here. And so from my opinion, the location of this, you know, does allow me to recognize that we should provide a little bit of deviation from the standard.

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I think, again, probably in this next case, it's -- it's -- something that's not a deviation right now really should be.

So thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Loretta.
Mr. Brockelman.
BOARD MEMBER BROCKELMAN: I think my colleagues have summed up the feelings of the board pretty well, so I -- I kind of just have a couple of questions, and perhaps this is for Ms. Grandin because this kind of deals with the letter of the law a little bit.

If I understand it correctly, this parking issue is really based on new parking or expanded parking versus what's currently on site; is that correct, Ms. Grandin?

MS. GRANDIN: I might actually defer to Lori Radcliffe-Meyers on this because I don't have it right here in my head, but the parking --

BOARD MEMBER BROCKELMAN: Or Mr. Parola, if you want to --

MS. GRANDIN: Or Mr. Parola, yes.
MR. PAROLA: Thank you.
Through the Chair, I'm going to make it
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1 easy on you, Mr. Brockelman. The only permit
2 on that property, if you were going to the

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wrapped with a chain-link fence. It's got a gravel parking lot because when they tore down the previous buildings on there -- it might have been a McDonald's at one time. And then they laid gravel down and I think half of it may have pavement. That existed to serve the use prior to that, but we never enforced it. I could not tell you why. We're not Code Enforcement. I can just tell you the permits don't substantiate that it's a parking lot.

BOARD MEMBER BROCKELMAN: Okay. So that answers one thing.

And then, you know, the second thing with respect to -- hypothetically in the future, if this board were to consider a deviation, how strict are the deviation guidelines? Because when I read sort of our ability to grant a deviation potentially in the future, it seems like it's pretty well limited to two conditions with -- which have to simultaneously exist. And that is, you know, what we mentioned earlier, about the site-specific conditions being something that's not generally found within downtown and a demonstrated shortage of available parking within the one-quarter-mile

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radius. Is that pretty prescriptive? So, in other words, do we not have much discretion as far as determining what that means? Is that kind of one plus one equals two? And if it doesn't, then we can't grant a deviation, even if perhaps we might see -- because of the project and the -- where it is, we might want a little bit more discretion? Do we even have that discretion to consider?

MR. PAROLA: Through the Chair, you said -- and Ms. Grandin's the attorney here, so I'll try not to trip over my feet here a little bit, but, you know, you'll get the findings and make a decision accordingly. Staff will provide you with a staff report and our findings and then you get it from the applicant.

As to the discretion, I mean, you have to make the findings, and hopefully they stand up on competent substantial evidence. I don't know -- and I think I'd -- if the Chair would let me ask Ms. Grandin, when -- when this body hears deviations, are they in a quasi-judicial fashion?

MS. GRANDIN: Yes.
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MR. PAROLA: So you're sort of judge and jury there, sir.

BOARD MEMBER BROCKELMAN: Got it. Thank you.

And I'll just kind of quickly sum up. I think if some of the concerns that the other board members raised around materials and things of that nature could be refined a little more, I would certainly hope that we would be able to work with you on the project because I do think that, on balance, it would be a worthwhile project. And I appreciate the work you've done to try to stay true to the spirit and the intent of the regulation. And I don't think that Chelsea Street, not having a fully wrapped building around it, necessarily should prevent this from moving forward, but that's it for now.

Thanks, Mr. Chairman.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Brockelman.
I appreciate the board's comments. I'll make a comment before I give the applicant a chance to respond as well.

I think, too, that the site plan is really in pretty good shape. I know that this is a

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difficult project. I think it's a project that this area needs. I think it is important, and I think we should try to find a way to move forward with it without too much obstruction.

I would also agree with Mr. Davisson that the area of this project, in my opinion, that needs the most work is the kind of budget -architectural we're getting, and as much as possible should be elevated to some of the examples that I've also seen and that staff has provided in their report. So I would encourage the applicant to, again, reconsider the architecture and elevate it.

In terms of the site plan, I think that the bioswale on Chelsea is an excellent option for that area and for that side of the project. I think it could become almost like an urban park, not only for visitors but for individuals that are parking there for other uses.

So I think the site plan, in my opinion, is okay and I would be comfortable moving forward with it.

Does the applicant wish to respond to any of the comments?
(Ms. Trimmer approaches the podium.)
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MS. TRIMMER: I'm going to let Kelley address the architecture more.

I can say from the rumblings I'm hearing amongst the crew, we hear you and we will do better. I just wanted to take a minute to say, we had worked with staff. We heard the concerns, and that's why we workshopped last time, to see if we were in the right direction, if there was an appetite to look at this site for the uniqueness of it and where we are in Brooklyn and what's around us and the particular use and the challenges we were facing. So that's why we workshopped before, and we did take that feedback and -- not quite on the mark yet, but we've got time between now and final.

So if there are still concerns and they rise to the level of needing to be a condition, I would ask that we receive conceptual approval with conditions that you absolutely have to deal with these things before you come back. And if we're feeling like we're having challenges, we can always schedule another workshop, but I don't want to get held up today and told just to come back for conceptual again

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when I feel like we really have made a lot of progress and we've dealt with a lot of the issues, and I do believe that we would qualify for a deviation at final, to come back and deal with that.

So I will let Kelley come up and address the rest of the comments that came on that front.
(Mr. Kasper approaches the podium.)
MR. KASPER: Do I have to say my name again?

Erik Kasper.
Appreciate the comments. And so I just want to say that I think we -- we did focus on the massing and the volume of the building and how it held the corner and how it created kind of an urban environment. We did, unfortunately, it appears, purposely, go with a more simplistic articulation of the elevation. We did want to break up the building and the different volumes, which we think we did by moving them in and out with the color.

The guidelines do talk about facade articulations not being too busy or too dull, so we felt that we were in the middle, but --

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so -- but I've heard you loud and clear, and I do believe that we can definitely add a more richer diversity of materials to the framework that I think we already have.

So I think we've been successful on the volumes and now we just need to add another -or a layer or two of materials. So maybe some wood-like materials, maybe some additional metal materials, maybe even an additional color -- I think we have, you know, another color besides white, gray or black.

So I definitely think it's doable, and I'll, I guess, ask Cyndy for guidance or maybe you guys for guidance of how we can get through today with a conditional approval and -understanding that we can add the diversity of materials that you're asking for to get to the architecture level that you want.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Kasper.
Mr. Jones, a comment?
BOARD MEMBER JONES: I just had one other comment. And, again, I mean, this is probably just one of these issues that we're going to continue to face as projects happen here
because we have a set of standards. And, you
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let's program the space with -- you know, I know you mentioned some bicycle storage or something like that. Maybe some more trees and maybe a passive park or something. Is there a way to look at programming the space if we absolutely cannot look at getting a building there? You know, just really activate Chelsea even more.
(Mr. Skiles approaches the podium.) MR. SKILES: I'd like to answer that, if I could.

Doug Skiles.
And I was going to respond to Board Member Durden's comment as well.

Right now on our drawing we show a plain concrete sidewalk. That was probably a mistake on my part. I mean, I -- as we were going to continue to go through this, we're likely going to bring the brick banding around, make it more cohesive, look like it's part of the entire project. So we can certainly do that.

And that sidewalk in itself, I mean, we can provide the standard 4-foot amenity. I think it's 5 to 8 feet of a pedestrian space.
I mean, we can -- we can dress that up.
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I still would like to keep the bioswale. I don't need quite that much room. I can skinny it up and, you know, we can -- we can put some things in there that would draw interest to it. We could explain what it is. The one that I used as an example in San Marco has a sign that talks about low-impact development and the benefits that it offers to an urban environment.

So we -- we can do things on a program side with that area. My hope is that we could show you all of those wonderful things at the final because we are still -- still conceptual, still receiving feedback. So we'll go back and we'll dress this up and make it look nicer.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Skiles.
(Mr. Slay approaches the podium.)
MR. SLAY: Hi. Kelley Slay again.
I just wanted to point out that I -- I did see the renderings that were in the staff's packet, and I'm sure that those came from very dense urban locations. I think one of those is New York, I think one is Chicago, I think one is Boston perhaps. I've seen those. So we

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can't build that here, right? So what we can do is try to make it -- we can get as close in that direction as we can. We know this is a -this is a very highly visible corner. We want it to be as eye-catching as possible from I-95, but I wanted to temper your expectations about what we can afford to build based on what was in your packet.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Slay. BOARD MEMBER LORETTA: Can I ask one more question?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Loretta.
BOARD MEMBER LORETTA: Mr. Slay, I'm going to ask you a quick question, especially as we have Manish Kothari on the call who owns Jax Federal Credit Union just to the north and has surface parking full wrapping around.

Have you talked to him in regards to, you know, the potential of utilizing some of his surface parking? Obviously, he's not using that in the peak times that you need to use that and it could become a little bit of an opportunity to accomplish maybe a little bit what Fred just mentioned, reducing some parking on site but still truly having, within a

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200-foot walk to your building, ample parking.
MR. SLAY: We have not spoken to him. We certainly would. If we were to entertain an arrangement like that, we'd probably have to put in valet parking per Hilton brand requirements. We can't have guests parking that far away from the building without providing valet, which is something that we would consider.

BOARD MEMBER LORETTA: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Loretta.
Are there any further board comments before we start board discussion?

BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: There are a couple of things that came up that we probably ought to consider. One of them was Ms. Durden's request for a potential deferment. I heard a lot of board members suggest that going ahead with conceptual approval with conditions might be okay rather than make them defer -- or defer them to another conceptual round. I'd like to get some -- a little bit of discussion on where we think we're going to land with that.

BOARD MEMBER DAVISSON: I would suggest
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the conditions, moving forward with conditions.
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.
BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Mr. Chairman.
THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Durden.
BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Thank you.
The only concern I have about that is that
we would be asking the applicant to expend a
great deal of time and energy and money to come
back to a final, with a final application. If
we were to do the conceptual with a lot of conditions, that I'm not sure will -- I'm not sure will be -- reach the degree, especially in the -- and in the realm of the architecture, will reach the degree that the board has been referencing. You know, I'm -- I could go with that, but I just would have some concerns about approving conceptual with conditions and then the applicant coming back and still finding that the board is not happy.

I would wonder, if they came back in kind of a workshop mode next month and proposed some arch- -- in particular the architectural issues, and then move forward from there or the conceptual again.

I just am really concerned about whether
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or not they're just going to come back and we're still going to be unhappy, and I'd hate to do that to the applicant. So, you know, maybe the devil is in the details, if the conditions are clear enough, but I think that I would certainly prefer to see, in a conceptual, what their proposal is for the architecture in particular, as well as for the changes that are being discussed in regards to Chelsea.

In that -- by the way, in regards to the Chelsea side, I don't know what it would look like. I heard somebody say get rid of all the parking spaces there. Maybe that's another option for going to parallel and it becomes not as dense with that number of parking spaces.

The other thing that I want to add in response to the comments from Mr. Slay, in regards to the sharing of the parking, which -I'm a big fan of that. You know, rather than maybe consider it being for valet parking, maybe it's for staff, you know, and that -- so that it would not be for guest parking, just if you do end up talking to the Jacksonville Federal Credit Union.

So, you know, I'm -- I think I could go
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either way, but I'm really concerned that I don't know what we're going to see back as far as an architectural, and I wouldn't want to end up having a denial of a final because we weren't happy with the architecture, so --

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Durden. Appreciate those comments.

Mr. Harden.
BOARD MEMBER HARDEN: So I think that, for me, the only -- the only item that we would leave as a requirement for final would be to address the architecture, is to address -- and I think that we could talk about how we define that, that we want it to be improved, that it's a -- of a higher caliber, you know, with the use of materials. And I think that it's subjective, and so we want to leave it to the architect to make those decisions, but we see good examples, and so we'd like to elevate it towards those examples, not at -- at that level.

But other than that, I don't have any other requirements that I would leave, so I would -- I would just ask the board if there are those, we should state them to try to move

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on.
THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Brockelman.
BOARD MEMBER BROCKELMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I agree with Mr. Harden simply because I think the Chelsea Street resolution, whatever that looks likes, it sounds like, based on Mr. Parola's comments, it's going to have to be a deviation either way. And, to me, whether we approve conditionally -- or, I'm sorry, approve conceptual with conditions or defer, the types of things we will expect to see next time they come around are the same, so, to me, they're going to have to spend the same amount of time and energy either way trying to make us a little happier about this, and so the question really is -- you know, if you don't support conceptual today, then I think that probably means you just -- you may not support the project itself being at this location. And if that's your position, that's -- that's fine, but I think we need to be clear what the developer -- whether or not we believe that they can resolve our concerns going forward, and assuming that we think they can, I support

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Mr. Harden's comments.
THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Davisson.
BOARD MEMBER DAVISSON: When I made the comment, it had nothing to do with the style of the architecture, per se. You know, I don't -you know, and I probably want some more definition of what -- at least what I'm trying to say is that it's -- it's a level of development.

If you come back, I'm not expecting -- I wouldn't expect you to come back with Spanish Mission or Klutho. That's irrelevant. It's your building, it's your site, do it well. And it's developing what you have to a higher level. That was -- would be my definition of condition.

Again, the site, I've -- I made my comment. I think it's -- it's done. If I were doing this task and this were put in front of me, I don't think I would have done much better as far as what the program is and how they're responding to each street.

That's all.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Davisson.
I think the --
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MS. GRANDIN: Mr. Chair.
THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, Ms. Grandin. MS. GRANDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Have you finished with all the committee members' comments?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, I'd like to just make one more comment real quickly in response to Ms. Durden. And that's, you know, some of the protections we have in place, in my opinion, are -- we have staff. I think that's a very valuable resource. They've heard our comments. The applicant has heard our comments. And my hope is that staff will look critically at the final application before it gets to us, if we were to approve conceptual today.

And the second part is that final approval is at the risk of the applicant. If they can't get there, then it's in our privy to deny it, and that's going to be something that they'll have to take into consideration. If they don't feel like they're there, they have the chance, as Ms. Trimmer said, to come back and workshop with us before final.

Ms. Grandin.
MS. GRANDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
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Whether or not you guys decide to approve the conceptual and move it on with conditions, I just want to make sure that everybody understood -- and Mr. Brockelman's question actually got me thinking about this. It not only has to meet the two -- I'm talking about the parking, about the building not wrapping the parking. That was a big deal in the development of the overlay and the redesign of it.

So the deviation has to not only meet the two criteria that Ms. Radcliffe-Meyers pointed out, but it also has to meet the general deviation criteria, which includes a non-self-imposed hardship, which is a pretty tough thing to meet.

So I just wanted to kind of put that out on the record, that when they come back for final, if that's the deviation you're going to grant, it has to go through all the general criteria as well as these two specific ones.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for that information.

MS. GRANDIN: And they're in -- just in case you want to see, it's in Section

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656.361.8(B).

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
Mr. Jones.
BOARD MEMBER JONES: Just to, you know -I don't want to belabor that issue, but, again, when we're talking about Chelsea Street, is there a way that you can -- I mean, that would be one of the conditions I would be comfortable with, is even beyond architectural or raising the level there, but just exploring the discussion with the adjacent owner about shared parking, and if there's something we can do to -- and I'm fine with the perpendicular spaces on Chelsea. I'm talking about the interior spaces that are there, the 12 -- or the 15 that are there, can that -- you know, we can eliminate those and create an active park or something like that that might get us, you know, closer to that sort of desire to have program space throughout the parcel. And I don't know how we might want to impose that as a condition or an exploration because --

And, again, if you're going to meet the definition, you've got to demonstrate that there's a shortage. If you can get rid of

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that, you may be okay, but that's just a question that I have, could that be a condition, or part of the conditions in the final if that's where we go.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. I've heard two conditions start to bubble to the top. One is about further developing the Chelsea Street line.

BOARD MEMBER JONES: Yes. So, again, just sort of activating the interior space there, the existing 12 to actually 15 spaces on the site to enhance the bioswale.

THE CHAIRMAN: Right. And there have been options provided, but the applicant -- it's at their discretion to come up with further options that would reinforce that boundary to meet the guidelines as best they can.

And then we have a condition to elevate the design. I think that's probably about as best as we can say it.

So with those two conditions as a part of a motion to approve, do we have any support?

BOARD MEMBER DAVISSON: Motion.
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. I have a motion from Mr. Davisson to approve with the two

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conditions.
BOARD MEMBER HARDEN: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: A second from Mr. Harden.
All those in favor say aye.
BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
(Board Member Schilling abstains from
voting.)
THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?
BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: We have one abstention, Mr. Schilling. We have approval from
Mr. Brockelman, approval from Mr. Loretta, approval from Mr. Harden, approval from Mr. Lee, approval from Ms. Durden, approval from Mr. Davisson, an approval from Mr. Jones with the two conditions.

Thank you very much.
MS. TRIMMER: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: We'll move on to DDRB 2019-016, Independent Life, final approval.

Ms. Radcliffe-Meyers, could we have a staff report?

MS. RADCLIFFE-MEYERS: Thank you, Chairman Lee.

I will be presenting the staff report for
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the Independent Life adaptive reuse project.
DDRB application 2019 [sic] seeks final
approval for the adaptive reuse of the Independent Life building. The site is 0.78 acres in the Central Core Overlay District. The site is bounded to the north by Church Street, to the east by the Baptist building and Sweet Pete's, to the south by Duval Street, and to the west by Julia Street.

At the meeting on November 14th, 2019, the Downtown Development Review Board voted for conceptual approval of application 2019-16 subject to the following recommendations: Prior to submittal for final review, the developer shall meet with staff to identify any deviations sought; at final review the developer shall provide enough detail so as to illustrate the Pedestrian Zone meets the definition of such in the Ordinance Code and meets the various requirements and design amenity features; at final review the developer shall provide enough detail so as to illustrate that screening and landscaping of surface parking meets the definition of such in the Ordinance Code and meets the square footage and

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1 depth required; street lights, benches, and

2
3
4 street furnishings shall be placed in the amenity area; street furnishings shall be in accordance with the Downtown Streetscape Design Guidelines.

The applicant met with staff to discuss deviations sought. The applicant is requesting the following deviation: Deviation to Section 656.361.6.2(I), screening and landscaping of surface parking, trash, storage, and loading areas, to allow for a reduction in the landscape area linear footage required.

Staff reviewed the applicant responses to the required deviation criteria and found the deviation request is consistent with the objectives, policies, design and intentions of the BID plan and meets the criteria for the deviation laid out under Section 656.361.6.2(I) of the Ordinance Code.

The project proposal is to historically renovate the Independent Life building built in 1955 to accommodate 140 apartments on Floors 2 through 16, to add a commercial/retail space on the ground floor, and a sky lounge, bar and pool amenity space on the 19th floor.

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The project received conditional approval from the National Park Service and currently holds a conditional Certificate of Appropriateness from the City of Jacksonville Historic Preservation office.

The applicant is working with the National Park Service and the City of Jacksonville Historic Preservation office to complete the required conditions prior to permitting the scope of work covered.

Based on the foregoing, the Downtown Development Review Board staff supports final approval of DDRB Application 2019-16 with the following condition and deviation:

The condition, if any further changes to the exterior of the building are required by the National Park Service, Historic Preservation Commission or Historic Preservation staff, the requirements will not be considered administrative and the project will be brought back to DDRB for approval.

A deviation to Section 656.361.6.2(I), screening and landscaping of surface parking, trash, storage, and loading areas, to allow for a reduction in the required square footage of

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landscape provided from 10 feet of landscape for every linear foot of street frontage to 3.45 feet of landscape provided along Duval Street and 2.6 [sic] of landscape provided along Church Street.

This concludes the staff report and staff is available for questions.

Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Radcliffe-Meyers.

Could we hear from the applicant?
(Audience member approaches the podium.) AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you, everybody. My name is Tom Hurst. I'm an architect with Dasher Hurst Architects at 1022 Park Street, Suite 208, Jacksonville, 32204.

We're really excited to be part of this project, the restoration and the adaptive reuse of the old Independent Life building. We really do feel like this is one of the hidden architectural gems in Jacksonville, or most unappreciated architectural gems in Jacksonville. It sat dormant now for about 25 years and we're excited to help bring it back to life.

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As Lori mentioned, the project is primarily an interior renovation project. The exterior skin will be restored and renovated according to the National Park Service and the Secretary of the Interior standards. As she mentioned, we've been back and forth working with them to get the necessary approvals, and we have received conditional approval from the National Park Service at this point.

The project includes ground level retail in the -- the retail space facing Duval Street and Julia Street, and then apartments on Levels 2 through 16.

As she mentioned, the project was built in 1955 and does include a dramatic sky lounge on the 19th floor of the building. Our plans include adapting that space to become a new restaurant and amenity space as well as the 17th floor, converting it to be a public amenity. I should say a resident amenity, including a pool deck.

I think most of you are familiar with the site bounded by Duval, Julia, and Church Streets, with several different architectural landmarks in the area, including the Federal

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the north and south side, and then, where we can, against our neighbor.

The primary issue that we have with the -in requesting the deviation is the -- the fact that our handicapped parking and our accessibility, our spaces, are going to be on each of those ends. The only way to provide access to the building -- most of that access is from the street, so we have to provide a path through that area, which really restricts it down. When you start to talk about averages, every time you cut through something, you're -- the only way you can get your average is you just keep going deeper and deeper and deeper into the site.

The downtown code is also a little bit unique from the rest of the City's code. The rest of the city has -- has the average requirement, but you do not include the width of your driveways, so you really just look at what you're screening when you're talking about providing an average buffer.

Downtown, the driveway width is included. And I'm not arguing against that, but it just makes it very difficult in what you end up

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with. Sometimes it would be a 30 -foot deep section when I think all that was really intended was to be between 5 and 10 feet because you do want to have that -- that parking there.

We will be screening the -- we will provide the landscaping to screen it. We will have the fence to screen it. We will be providing the amenities around the perimeter, on the streetscape side.

Happy to answer any questions.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Skiles. MR. HURST: I can continue to walk you through the rest of the presentation maybe --

THE CHAIRMAN: Sure.
MR. HURST: -- before we get to the questions, if that's okay.

We did include the site electrical plan. I know there were questions about illumination and where and what type of lighting. We are providing the City's standard double-acorn lights along the street, and then internal parking on the -- lighting along the parking lot is a combination of -- of a pole light and -- of some wall-mounted light fixtures.

As we mentioned, the ground floor is not residential space. It's primarily shell retail space. It's not part of our scope. We will build this out to a -- an empty light shell for future tenants. We do have the main building lobby and the leasing space, as well as a loading dock on the northeast side of the building, on the ground floor.

Level 2 through -- 2 and 3, as shown on this plan, is an L-shaped building. It's what we call the "podium" of the building. It's residential in nature with a few amenity lounges and things of that nature in the center of the building.

Level 4 is one of the most interesting levels of the building because it does have the perimeter balconies facing both Duval and Julia Street, which offers a great resident amenity on that -- on that level. For those who might have been in the building before, that was once the corporate cafeteria and board room for JEA.

Level 5 through 16, that is what we call the "tower." Those are typical -- it's a much smaller footprint, and that rises, like I said, from Level 5 up to Level 16.

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And the top of the building, Level 17, 18, and 19, is the resident amenity levels.

As I mentioned earlier, the skin, the -the scope of work on the exterior and the skin of the building is pretty limited. The building is in remarkably great condition for a building built in 1955. It's a real testament to the quality of construction.

We are selectively replacing broken pieces of glass. We're repairing the window sashes and making them operable again. The windows had a bi-folding action on the tower portion of the building.

The ground floor storefronts are a combination of aluminum storefront and stainless steel storefronts and doors. We will be restoring those features that are significant there. We are replacing some of the storefronts along Julia Street that are historically insignificant and kind of dilapidated aluminum storefronts.

Actually, let me go back. The one -- the one feature that was mentioned -- we received our conditional approval from the National Park Service, which is the historic reviewer on the

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job. They gave us 13 conditions, the vast majority of which were related to interior historic features that they wanted to confirm we were preserving, which we were.

The only really significant exterior feature is the windows on the east side of the building, which you can see on the left side of the current image on the screen. When we first presented to them, we were showing new windows in that location because we're -- we're creating a studio apartment in what was formerly a blank facade where it's all limestone and brick. So we're inserting new windows.

In the preliminary conceptual approval, our presentation we made to you, we showed a vertical curtain wall rising from Level 5 to Level 16 in that area, mimicking some of the -the glass curtain wall systems elsewhere in the building. Their comment to us was they would prefer us to do something that was more neutral, that would blend in. So we're -we're specifying a custom-painted aluminum frame and glazing that is intended to blend in as much as possible with the buff-colored brick

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that's in that area and try to make it kind of disappear into the existing architecture as much as possible.

We've received positive feedback from them. At this point, we're waiting on the formal approval of that approach.

And I think that -- well, one final thing. We are restoring the missing Independent signage on the south side of the tower, as well as re-illuminating the spire at the top of the building that exists. It's a stainless -- for those of you that don't know, it's a stainless steel, L-shaped spire that had neon lighting on it initially. We're going to replicate that with new LED lighting and clean it up and reactivate it as part of the new design, including the new -- replacing the Independent signage that's been missing now for 30 years or so, and that becomes part of the branding of the project.

And I think that concludes the presentation and I welcome your questions.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hurst.
Ms. Mezini, do we have any public
comments?
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MS. MEZINI: No.
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. No public comments, so I'll look for board comments.

Mr. Brockelman.
BOARD MEMBER BROCKELMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I don't have any comments.
Thanks, Mr. Hurst.
THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Loretta.
BOARD MEMBER LORETTA: Thank you.
I just want to say, I fully support the project; however, this is an example of where maybe Fred talked about code. And, to me, somehow we're meeting code here, but this is significantly more egregious of an issue on this site plan versus the last parcel where -I don't believe we have anywhere in downtown, especially what -- what we've approved, where we have two driveways simultaneously side by side accessing a main street here in town. This is kind of in the Urban Core. It just doesn't seem like this at all is anything that should be within a -- I mean, this is something that really needs to be removed -- or added -added to our code to not be allowed.

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I don't think that we should approve this based on that reason alone. So, at this point, I'm going to recommend denial because, quite frankly, you can try to use that for your loading, but you're not utilizing it for loading because you have handicapped parking there.

And so, you know, maybe you could try to create a gate, all sorts of stuff, but based on the fact that you're trying to get the extra parking spaces, it's -- it's still not going to work with a gate there or a really unique type situation, and so I'm going to recommend denial -- or, you know, deny the project and ask that staff pay close attention to this while you're working on your redo and no longer allow this sort of situation in the future. If this was a DOT roadway, this would not be approved.

Thank you.
MS. RADCLIFFE-MEYERS: Chairman Lee?
THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.
MS. RADCLIFFE-MEYERS: May I respond?
THE CHAIRMAN: Please.
MS. RADCLIFFE-MEYERS: Through the Chair
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to Mr. Loretta --
BOARD MEMBER BROCKELMAN: And while you're doing that, could you pull that slide up? So we could look at that site plan again for reference. I don't quite understand the issue, so I want to understand it better as well.

BOARD MEMBER LORETTA: So if I may, before
Ms. Radcliffe-Meyers -- and I understand she's
likely to say that Kelsey Cox, senior engineer downtown, stated that this is fine. And that may be the case, but what you see is -- the building that's the L-shaped building on the left, they have a concrete driveway that's going to be their loading zone, has a couple of parking spaces off that, and then they have their other driveway to the right.

Again, in no instance on any project that we've ever approved is there two driveways side by side going into it. In any sort of the commercial development anywhere in suburbia, you wouldn't have that approved either, and so -- even if you look at large surface parking lots in downtown Jacksonville, this does not occur. So why we're contemplating approving it based on that here, it is very confusing to me.

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Sorry, Ms. Radcliffe-Meyers.
MS. RADCLIFFE-MEYERS: Not a problem.
Board Member Loretta, through the Chair,
so I did actually send the site plan to
John Kolczynski. He's our traffic technician, senior, for the Planning and Development Department, to have him review the driveways.
And he stated that the required Class 1 urban driveway spacing is 17 feet. These are 36 feet apart. Given that the speed limit on Church Street is 30 miles per hour and there will be no left turns from the one-way street, he doesn't have any objections to the spacing. So I had him take a look at it just for -- yeah.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Radcliffe-Meyers. Appreciate it.

Mr. Harden.
BOARD MEMBER HARDEN: Thank you for that explanation.

And thank you for the presentation. I think this is one of the more exciting projects that we've seen in a while and I think this is great to see this building activated. It has sat vacant. It is a beautiful building.

I think it is cool what you guys are doing
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to the sky deck and trying to bring that back.
I think it will be, really, an attractive
option. It's also terrific to get that kind of density because I think a lot of the projects that we've seen in the Urban Core, you know, particularly around City Hall, around these buildings, have been smaller projects.

How many units was it that you had total?
MR. HURST: It's 135 units.
BOARD MEMBER HARDEN: That's terrific.
MR. HURST: Yeah.
BOARD MEMBER HARDEN: What's the average square footage?

MR. HURST: Around 7-, 750. You know, there's a mix of studio, one- and two-bedrooms, a little -- maybe heavier emphasis on the studio and one-.

BOARD MEMBER HARDEN: Very good. Yeah, I think this is terrific, so good luck.

MR. HURST: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Durden.
BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I was -- I also -- when I talked to Lori
about this, I was surprised to see the two
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driveways.
And through the Chair to staff, what -are there any driveway accesses in either of the projects to the east? The 424 and the -- I think that was the Baptist building that's in between?

MR. HURST: No, ma'am. There are no other driveways between this and the intersection of Hogan Street. If --

BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: From here over? Excuse me --

MR. HURST: That's correct.
BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: From your project east towards Hogan, there's not going to be -I thought there was going to be --

MR. HURST: There is at the back of the --
BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: -- on the Baptist --
MR. HURST: -- Federal Reserve building.
BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Is there going to be one on Baptist?

MR. HURST: Doug, you tell me.
MR. SKILES: Well, I have to confess, I don't really know what the future plans are for those parcels, but if you look closely at our survey, there is a driveway just to the east of

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our easternmost driveway.
BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Right. And --
MR. SKILES: It's a small driveway and I
think they're -- I don't know if there's one that -- at the hard corner of Hogan and Church or not, but it wouldn't be hard to look it up on my phone, so I'll do that while everybody's talking.

BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Well, both of those projects have come in, Mr. Skiles, for development review, so really I would be interested in knowing what the -- what those proposals included along that road frontage. That's one question I've got.

The second question, which is actually more for the applicant, why is it that you have to have two? They're right next to each other, the two parking areas. Why are you distinguishing between the two? Help us understand why you think it's necessary to have two driveways.

MR. SKILES: I didn't know if you wanted me to address these now or wait till the end.

BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Well, I think --
MR. SKILES: I'm happy to do it, but --
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THE CHAIRMAN: Could we wait until we have all the board comments?

BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Yes. Sorry.
MR. SKILES: I'm making notes. I will address that.

Thank you.
BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Okay.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Durden.
BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: The other -- I am
concerned about that. Overall, I love the idea of the redevelopment of this building. I think that your -- the concept for the redevelopment and the reuse of it is excellent. I love the downstairs on the first floor. I love the apartments in between. I love the rooftop amenity. All of that is wonderful. I definitely appreciate the historic preservation permitting process that you're going through and very impressed by that.

So, you know, other than this issue -which I think is a really valid issue about the two driveways. You know, we're trying to not have very many driveways. I mean, we're -we're trying to -- especially Church Street, quite frankly, is, you know, becoming a more

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popular street, it's the direction that our downtown development is going to go in. And so Church is going to be important from -- for pedestrian purposes, and to have two driveways right next to each other -- that's why I'm -- I will be interested to hear what your issues were in designing that.

The other question that I had was on the landscaping, along the southern half, if you will, of the parking lot. It doesn't look like you're proposing any along that eastern property boundary. I believe that's what it says what from I can see here, and I was just wondering why.

MR. HURST: There is landscaping buffering the view of the (off microphone) --
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MR. SKILES: (Off microphone.)
BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Then another question that I'll have in regards to that is, what is the distinction between the northern half and the southern half along that eastern boundary? Because it does look different.

Thank you very much. Those are my comments at this point.

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street. And what you can do is -- if you wanted just one curb-cut on the north, all they're going to do is lose the parking spaces in between the two. You'd probably lose six spaces if you just wanted one curb-cut. That's the decision. I don't know how else you can do it.

It's housing, moving vans, things like that, you're going to need to back in, or, again, it's -- it's done on street, which big cities do. So that's the decision that we, as a board, need to make.

That's all.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Davisson. Mr. Jones.
BOARD MEMBER JONES: Yeah. I think this project is -- is really awesome and I'm excited about this. The apartments, the way you're programming it, I couldn't imagine a better use.

I do echo the concerns of the two driveways, but I also -- you know, there's a new paradigm shift in this term called "curbside management," and so as on-street spaces become more valuable for deliveries and

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the like -- and who knows what we end up planning here for mobility purposes, whether, you know, more protected cycle tracks and the like, you know, they start competing with those -- with those spaces and those conflicts. So, you know, trying to mitigate that by getting it off is actually a good thing.

We're probably seeing more of that, where feasible, but, again, I think it's just a matter of, if -- if it's been checked by staff and it seems feasible, then I don't really have an issue with it. And I'd rather see more, you know -- less of the curbside being taken up.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Jones.
I think it's a wonderful project. I'm very excited to see this building come back to life.

I don't have such an issue with the two curb-cuts, and I think I don't because, to me, it's more important to get loading and unloading, especially if it's going to be apartments and you've got moving trucks and you've got the dumpsters there, and getting those things off the street -- which is the only other alternative, as Mr. Davisson said --

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to me, is really important, not only for the quality of our streets but for safety too and the quality of the residents that are going to be staying there.

It's unfortunate that you've got such a constrained lot and you only have these two options; otherwise, you're creating some kind of dead-end parking or you're cross-circulating a lot of your sort of service traffic with your pedestrian traffic or your visitor traffic, and I think that's potentially dangerous. So I think that the risk of setting a precedent of two driveways this close is worth it in this case for this project only, would be my comments.

And I'll let you and Mr. Skiles respond to all the board's comments at this point.

Thank you.
MR. HURST: Okay. I'll let Doug speak in a minute, but I -- just broadly, regarding the two driveways, it -- it was definitely something we had a lot of internal discussion about. We shared a lot of the same concerns you do. I know it's a little bit unusual to have two entrances to a parking lot so close to

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1 each other. It is an existing condition. This

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1 engineers just call him John K. Bill is shaking his head.

It's exactly the case with the trucks. I mean, when you -- when you bring in a full-size truck and it backs in and it sits there, it blocks the potential for a driveway to cut through. Nobody really wanted to do that, to put -- to put us in a situation of having a long, dead-end parking lot.

Also, we have the dumpster back there, so we would really just be bringing people through a service area to get in and out, and we all felt like that would just be more of a detriment in that case.

I did want to also address the question about the landscape on the east side. So the northern portion of that property line jogs. There's a -- if -- where you see -- on the landscape plan, where it's a little darker and we're proposing the bamboo there, it's about 3 foot, jog there. South of that, we're 6 inches off the property line with the curb. And so that's why we don't have any landscaping proposed there, because we really couldn't get anything there anyway.

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anything, so -- is that correct, then, there is no landscaping along that south edge of the parking lot?

MR. SKILES: I'm sorry. I didn't hear your question.

BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: (Inaudible.)
THE CHAIRMAN: We can. The south edge along Duval Street?

BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: I didn't mean the south edge. I meant the east edge of the southern half --

MR. SKILES: Yes, and that's what I was talking about. We're 6 inches off the property line there, so there's no room to put any landscaping in, on that part of it.

BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: What do you mean you're 6 inches off? You mean --

MR. SKILES: The curb is. The existing curb there, where the parking spaces are, is 6 inches off the property line, so there's no room to put anything in that would grow.

BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Okay. Is that a required deviation, if there's no landscaping there, or --

MS. RADCLIFFE-MEYERS: Board Member
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Durden, through the Chair, no, because it's not facing the frontage.

BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Okay.
MS. RADCLIFFE-MEYERS: And on that side, I
believe there is a wall there. I believe that
Sweet Pete's has a wall, so their parking is separated by a wall from -- in this parking lot --

BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Okay. Thank you.
MS. RADCLIFFE-MEYERS: -- along the edge.
BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: The wall belongs to Sweet Pete's property?

MS. RADCLIFFE-MEYERS: I believe so.
BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Okay. So I would
like to explore a little bit more about the
parking. So it -- right now we've got three access points for the project. And you've got quite a bit of land that is available for parking, whether it's a part of this -- you know, the back-of-house kind of parking or the resident parking.

You know, the idea here is not about necessarily -- the concept to reduce the number of driveway cuts is to provide for a better pedestrian -- and so I'm -- I am very concerned
about having those two, and I still didn't -- I don't believe we got an answer on the question whether or not Baptist has an access point -- a driveway in their new proposal.

MS. RADCLIFFE-MEYERS: Board Member Durden, through the Chair, I don't recall. I'm pretty sure that both of those were more considered smaller alleys, like, for trash and such. I don't believe they had -- they were proposing any parking, so -- but, again, I mean, I would have to go back and double-check because that was in October that I believe we saw those, so I don't quite remember. So I would have to check, but I'm -- I'm pretty sure that they're not proposing access points and parking within either of those developments.

BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: It just seems to me, with the amount of space that's available for the parking -- or, you know, this kind of use, that there is a way that you would not have to use -- excuse me -- lose six park spaces.

I understand the idea and the concept about trying to keep them separate, the residential parking from the nonresidential parking, if you will, but it still seems to me (904) 821-0300

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that there is a way to do that with one access point along Church and then have them, as soon as they come in, separate, you know, the -- you know, your nonresidential parking, if you will, would divert over into this area closer, where you basically have it.

I don't see that that would necessitate -you know, you would end up maybe with some more space in other areas, if you did that, to still have the number of spaces that you currently have for residential. You know, I think it just requires a new look instead of just going with what you currently have. Just taking the space and redesigning it.

You know, I have to decide, is it enough to make me convinced that we shouldn't approve the project. Quite frankly, it's probably not, but I -- I will tell you that it seems to me, that if you put your heads to it, you could probably still preserve your number of spaces and not -- and not have to have two access points.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Durden. BOARD MEMBER HARDEN: I'd like to make a motion to approve.

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THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We have a motion on the table to approve.

Sorry, Mr. Davisson, you had your hand raised.

BOARD MEMBER DAVISSON: Yeah. I can tell you that, if you reduce -- if you eliminate one of the curb-cuts, you will lose six spaces, period. There's no other way that you could put more parking or equal the parking without cutting one of the spaces. They don't have to come back to prove that to us. I can tell you by looking at this.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
We have a motion on the table.
And, Ms. Grandin, we have a deviation. Do we need to vote on the deviation first before we vote on the --

MS. GRANDIN: Yes.
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So I'll take your motion, Mr. Harden, as a motion to approve the deviation.

BOARD MEMBER BROCKELMAN: I'll second that.

THE CHAIRMAN: And I have a second from Mr. Brockelman to approve the deviation to

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Section 656.361.6.2(1).
All those in favor of approving the deviation?

Aye.
BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Aye.
BOARD MEMBER HARDEN: Aye.
BOARD MEMBER JONES: Aye.
BOARD MEMBER BROCKELMAN: Aye.
BOARD MEMBER DAVISSON: Aye.
BOARD MEMBER SCHILLING: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?
BOARD MEMBER LORETTA: Yes. No. Whatever
you want.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Loretta.
Mr. Brockelman is an approve; Mr. Loretta
is a nay, Mr. Harden is an approve, Mr. Lee,
approve; Ms. Durden, approve; Mr. Schilling,
approve; Mr. Davisson, approve; Mr. Jones, approve.

The deviation is approved, so I'll take a motion for approval of the project.

BOARD MEMBER HARDEN: So moved.
BOARD MEMBER BROCKELMAN: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: I have a motion from
Mr. Harden and a second from Mr. Brockelman.
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All those in favor of approving, for final, DDRB 2019-016, please say aye.

Aye.
BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Aye.
BOARD MEMBER HARDEN: Aye.
BOARD MEMBER JONES: Aye.
BOARD MEMBER BROCKELMAN: Aye.
BOARD MEMBER DAVISSON: Aye.
BOARD MEMBER SCHILLING: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?
BOARD MEMBER LORETTA: Nay.
THE CHAIRMAN: The ayes have it.
Mr. Brockelman, vote to approve;
Mr. Loretta, nay; Mr. Harden, approve; Mr. Lee,
approve; Ms. Durden, approve; Mr. Schilling, approve; Mr. Davisson, approve; and Mr. Jones, approve.

Thank you, Mr. Hurst. You have your approval.

MR. HURST: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: We'll move on to Resolution 2020-12-01, which is a DDRB bylaw amendment.

And I'll take a staff report,
Ms. Radcliffe-Meyers.
MS. RADCLIFFE-MEYERS: Board Member Lee,
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Susan Grandin will be providing that report.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Grandin. MS. GRANDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
I'm standing in for John Crescimbeni to do this. So, as you know, as a part of COVID-19, we had an executive order from the governor that allowed us to have virtual meetings and virtual quorums. Well, that expired, and so the resolution that you have before us is very similar to what the DIA passed recently to change their bylaws.

And just some of the things that -- our office provided a legal opinion regarding the case law. Well, there wasn't any case law really. It was an Attorney General's opinion, a series of Attorney Generals' opinions, and came down with the conclusion that the Attorney General had said that, if we had a physical quorum, then we could conduct business, and people who could not physically attend the meetings -- whatever, board, commission, whatever. If they had an extraordinary circumstance, then they could attend virtually and participate and vote.

So what this resolution does is it changes
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your bylaws and allows that. So the feeling is that we should still have physical meetings, like we're doing here today. And the DIA, I have to say, has done a great job in setting this all up. You're definitely to be commended.

But if you have a member that has an extraordinary circumstance, they can participate virtually and vote. So what this does is it actually lays out in the -- what's going to be put in your bylaws -- your quorum is five, so nothing about the number of people that make up a quorum changes, it's just this virtual participation with communication media technology, is what it's called.

So it goes into what is an approved extraordinary circumstance. And so you'll see on the last page of this -- it's a couple of things. So an approved extraordinary circumstance would be illness, injury or other health matters, or out-of-town business-related trips.

And a board member who --
(Cell phone interruption.)
MS. GRANDIN: Okay. The board member who
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1 attends virtually needs to notify the staff and
the chair that they're going to do that. So as long as the board member notifies the staff and the chair -- because, of course, if you're not going to have a physical quorum and there's not a reason, then you may not want to have a meeting, or reconvene at another time.

But if it's anything other than these two things that I read out, the illness, injury or other health matters, or the out-of-town business-related trip, then the board may approve additional extraordinary circumstances on a case-by-case matter. So if somebody's attending virtually, the board could take a vote, if it's not one of these two things -and, you know, say it's a death of a relative or something and you're out of town, or whatever -- it could be all kinds of things. I had a flat tire or something.

So if it's an extraordinary circumstance, then the board -- it's up to the board to determine if it is an extraordinary circumstance and then that person could participate and vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Grandin.
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MS. GRANDIN: I'll answer any questions. There seems to be a lot of confusion in other parts of the City about this. So if anybody has any questions, don't be shy about asking it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
I'll open it up to the board for questions on the amendment.

Ms. Durden.
BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: First, I just want to say thank you to the OGC for promulgating the change. I think it's a good change.

I did have one question. In 6.4, in the first paragraph, it talks about the tie votes. That kind of surprised me because -- it says tie votes shall result in the subject agenda item being continued to the next meeting of the board. Typically, a tie vote will result in -that the motion fails. And many times boards will -- if there's a failure of the first motion, they might take up a second motion and -- to try to make a decision that day.

So can you give us any background on why this sentence was added? Because it seems to me, it takes away the option -- and I mentioned

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to this Lori yesterday. It takes away the option of the board to make a follow-up motion. So I'm just wondering if you could tell us the background on that.

MS. GRANDIN: Through the Chair to Commissioner [sic] Durden, I did not draft this, but I can tell you what I think is -what was behind it, is the City Council rules are similar to this. So if there's a tie vote, in the City Council committees, when they're trying to just move something along to get it at least before full council, they try not to have a tie vote, so they try to do something just to move it along. So they'll do like you say, they'll change the motion to be -- well, I move to, you know, whatever. If you moved to $X$ the first time, then you're going to move $Y$ the second time.

That's the only thing I can think of, but this -- at least it -- I think what they want to do is not have a tie vote be a denial. They want to just move -- have it deferred to next time, and maybe in between time they can figure out what to do with the issue, come up with another solution. That's the only thing I can

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think of.
BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Okay. And you said that this is the same at the council?

MS. GRANDIN: That was the background that was -- they tried to emulate the -- in the DIA one, they tried to emulate what -- the rules of the council, so that's probably where this came from.

BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Okay. Thank you. THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Any further comments?

BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: If none, we'll need a motion to approve and vote.

BOARD MEMBER BROCKELMAN: I'll move approval.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a move to approve from Mr. Brockelman.

BOARD MEMBER JONES: Second.
THE CHAIRMAN: We have a second from
Mr. Jones.
All those in favor say aye.
BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
THE CHAIRMAN: We have one abstention by Mr. Harden.

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Any nays?
BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.)
THE CHAIRMAN: The ayes have it.
Mr. Brockelman, aye; Mr. Loretta, aye;
Mr. Harden, abstain [sic]; Mr. Lee, aye;
Ms. Durden, aye; Mr. Schilling, aye;
Mr. Davisson, aye; and Mr. Jones, aye.
BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Excuse me,
Mr. Chairman, did he abstain or he's just not here to vote?

MS. GRANDIN: He's just absent.
THE CHAIRMAN: Excuse me. Absent.
Thank you.
BOARD MEMBER DURDEN: Just because we don't want to make him have to fill out a form.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. That's the end of our regular action items. There doesn't appear to be any old business. There's none listed.

And then new business, we do have a staff
report on signage.
Ms. Radcliffe-Meyers, would you like to go over that?

MS. RADCLIFFE-MEYERS: Thank you, Chairman Lee.

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So I'm not sure how you guys want me to go through this. So what I did is -- based off of conversations that we've had in the past regarding signage and the board wanting to have an idea of where we actually stand, so getting a clear picture on -- you know, when we look at signs and the actual ordinance that we're using.

So what I did is I went through our ordinance and pulled out the main features within the ordinance regarding what we typically see coming, you know, to our board and what's allowed by code, such as the types of signs that are allowed, whether they're wall signs, projecting signs, and how many of those each project is allowed to have. So I did that.

Same with ground floor signs, the types that are allowed and the number that are allowed. Again, exterior directory signs, same types; wall, window, or projecting sign, identifying the occupants of the building, the number that we actually allow by code.

I don't know if you want me to read through every single one. I mean, I made

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sure -- I printed it out for you guys, so I
wanted to -- and then same with surface parking signs.

So I'll just kind of run through this. Pole, roof, monument sign, special sign exception. So the special sign exceptions, the Downtown Development Review Board may approve special sign exceptions provided the proposed sign plan shows, in addition to -- in addition to the criteria set forth in Section 656.1335 and Section 656.1303, that there's a special effort toward visual harmony between the sign structures and other features of the property through the use of a consistent design theme, preserves a desirable existing design or seating pattern for designs in the area, and minimizes view obstruction or preserves views of historically or architecturally significant features.

So any other sign that's not listed in here is prohibited. So any sign not specifically allowed in this section or exempted under Section 656.1334 shall be prohibited.

So then it lists -- within our ordinance,
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it lists the design review of the application. And so, typically, when an applicant applies for a sign, if it doesn't -- if they're not requesting something that's beyond your purview, you know, in -- beyond what the code allows -- I review the sign based off of the actual code that we have right now. If it's a monument sign or a pole, pylon, anything like that, or it goes above requesting what we actually allow -- so multiple signage, additional square footage -- that's when they need to come to you, the board, to receive a special sign exception.

So what I did is from 2015 till now, I pulled -- I went through all the applications that the board has reviewed, and you have seen and approved 31 special sign exceptions from 2015 till now. So how the -- the breakdown of that was, there were 13 requests that were for pole, pylon, roof or monument signs, and the other 18 special sign exceptions were for either additional signage, so multiple signs -which they're only allowed one sign per frontage -- they were asking for multiple signs per frontage. They were also asking for

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additional square footage also were -- were the main reasons why we saw special sign exceptions.

I also went through the code in regards to illumination because I know that that's been a subject that we've all been really interested in. So sign illumination is only mentioned within the sign ordinance regarding the compatibility to type of illumination to other signs in the area, such a LED, or if it's internal lighting or external lighting.

So Section 326.014, Unlawful Sign Structures of the Building Code, has the only provision regarding illumination output, and it states, "It shall be unlawful and a violation of this Building Code to erect, alter or maintain a sign which contains lighting which includes illuminations that produce glare to vehicular traffic or electrical incandescent bulbs with a rating exceeding 40 percent of the lumen output of a 100-watt clear bulb with the lighting located less than 20 feet above ground surface."

So what that equates to is that a 100-watt light bulb has a lumen output of 1,600 lumens.

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And so 40 percent of that would be 640 lumens. That is the only place within our ordinance that it talks about illumination in regards to output. So, again, illumination under our code currently is only looking at is it similar to the type of illumination. So "type," like I said, being either external, internal or LED.

And so currently -- and then what I did is I went through the previous year's staff reports to look at illumination and how we addressed it in the past. And, again, it was only based off, yes, it is similar to signage within the area; it is LED lighting, which is now a standard.

There was no comparison in regards to the -- that this sign has a 1,600 -lumen output per square foot and this sign has 1,800 . And so it's -- our code needs to address that. Currently, it does not.

So that's what I -- that's what I found with doing the research, looking at signage and going from there.

And, again, as I stated in the previous meeting, we are working on this. We are updating the BID guide- -- you know, the design

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guidelines, and that has been a subject that has been brought up to the consultants, that we really need to have some sort of regulation that will take care of this because, also, any illumination even on buildings is not mentioned. There's not a maximum output for that. So that is something that we -- we are working with consultants on, and I believe they will be contacting our board to start discussing that with you all as well, so ...

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
I'll take this as an opportunity just to digest it for a while. We won't necessarily open comments, to give feedback now, but for -for us to spend some time with.

I appreciate you putting this together. It's extremely helpful.

MS. RADCLIFFE-MEYERS: That would be great. Thank you. I appreciate it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.
MS. RADCLIFFE-MEYERS: Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other new business that we wanted to discuss before adjourning?
(No response.)
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THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, I'd like to give a special thanks to whoever provided the hot chocolate today. Thank you. It was wonderful. And to the staff for doing an excellent job. Everything has been flawless being here, so I really appreciate the hard work that goes into it. And knowing how many technology problems we had, this has been so great. I know it's hard to do, so thank you and we'll adjourn.
(The foregoing proceedings were adjourned at 4:21 p.m.)

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| 1 | CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER |
| ---: | :---: |
| 2 |  |
| 3 | STATE OF FLORIDA) |
| 4 | COUNTY OF DUVAL ) |
| 5 |  |
| 6 | I, Diane M. Tropia, Florida Professional |
| 7 | Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did |
| 8 | stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and |
| 9 | that the transcript is a true and complete record of my |
| 11 | stenographic notes. |
| 12 |  |
| 13 | DiteD this 20th day of December 2020. |
| 14 | Diane M. Tropia |
| 15 | Florida Professional Reporter |
| 16 |  |
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