



DESIGN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20230123-3

Date: February 5, 2023

Subject: 410 East 5th Street

Motioned By: Vice Chair Meiners

Seconded By: Commissioner Coleman

Recommendation

The Design Commission finds that proposed development to be located at 410 East 5th Street does not comply with the City of Austin Design Guidelines. The Design Commission invites the applicant to return after they address the recommendations in the letter from Planning and Urban Design Working Group and from Design Commission.

Description of Recommendation to Council

Generally, Design Commission found the project lacking in public benefits outlined in the Urban Design Guidelines. The Design Commission notes that none of the Working Group suggestions were acknowledged or incorporated to comply with the Urban Design Guidelines. The proposed project falls short of compliance in the following ways:

- Area-Wide Guidelines: The proposed public art does not reflect Austin's culture. The Design Commission recommends adding public art, murals or sculptures, to the public space rather than a minimalist stone bench as public art. Public art in the public and private realms should be considered.
- Public Streetscape Guidelines: The public streetscape could better address considerations for pedestrian safety. Pedestrian activity is not supported beyond compliance with Great Streets.
- Plazas and Open Spaces Guidelines: The open spaces could be more inviting or more actively engage with the public. Street-level windows are limited. Visual connection between the building and open space are limited. Accessibility for different types of users is not considered. Although the proposed project is on one of the Four Squares downtown, little to no consideration is provided for Brushy Square. The open space does not provide visual and spatial complexity and the representations were minimal. Safety could be increased with wayfinding, lighting and visibility considerations. A proposed water feature does not consider pedestrian safety and operational consideration was not fully thought out - it is in the shade instead of the sun, could be a haven for mold growth.
- Guidelines for Buildings: The primary entrance may not be clear. Local character is not reflected. Human scale is not included in the ground floor or public areas.

Vote 8-0

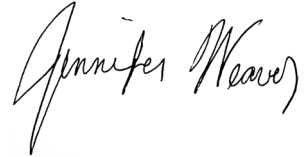
For: Chair Weaver, Vice Chair Meiners, Commissioner Salinas, Commissioner Henao Robledo, Commissioner Rollason, Commissioner Coleman, Commissioner Whatley, Commissioner Luckens

Against: None

Abstaining: Commissioner Carroll, Commissioner Taniguchi

Absent: Commissioner Franco

Attest: None

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jen Weaver". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jen Weaver, Design Commission Chair