		DDEAL					
	A	PPEAL	UF DE	CISION			
Planning	1	(Please Note: Original applica	tion and staff report are made	a part of this application.)			
KNOXVILLE I KNOX COUNTY	Туре:	 One Year Plan Amendment Street Name Change Certificate of Appropriatenes 	□ Right-of-Way Closure	u _			
	Decis	ion by: 🗆 Planning Staff 🛛 Pla	anning Commission 🔲 Other:	Date of Decision:			
	Jurisd	Jurisdiction:					
Original Applicant Name:		ocust Partners	Original File N	4-D-24-DT / 8-A-24-OB			
Name of Owner of Subject	t Prope	erty: Hill & Locust Partners, Victo	oria Gillenwater Trust, Barbara W	/elchel & Zenith Properties, LLC			
Description of Subject Pro Ward 6; Blocks 02106 and	perty (d 0210	(Include city block and parcel nur 5; Parcels 094MD018, 094MD02	mber or lot number): 22, 094MD024, 094MD025, 094M	/IE033, and 094ME030			
Ċ.	🕅 Zon	ing map of all property within 300	0 feet of the subject property is a	ittached.			
Planning Commission De	cision	to approve design of new structu					
Fighting Commission 20		o approve design of new structu					
		REASON FOR	• THE ADDEAL	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
Attach additional pages, if	neces	sary.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
Design violates multiple g	juidelin	es. Please see attached corresp	ondence				
			INFORMATION				
Name of Petitioner: Over	rlook	Owners Association, Inc.					
Petitioner's Interest in the The Petitioner is an assoc	Matter ciation	(Include a description of affected	d property owned by Petitioner): roperty located at 608 West Hill / ion decision.				
Application Authorization:	l here	aby certify that I am the applicant	Vauthorized representative for the	e above named pelitioner.			
••		Signature:	A:040				
All correspondence should	ا لم ده	Daniel A	A. Sanders	ann.			
920 Volunteer Landing, Si		ini to: Name (Print):	annin Annin Annin Anni Anni Anni Anni An				
Street Address		City		State Zip			
(865) 316-9626		·					
Phone:		Fax:	E-mail:das@lyblaw.net				
			ig Staff Use Only				
Application Accepted by I			y Gray	1 8			
Appeal Fee Amount:	45	500.00	* Date Appeal Received:	8/22/2024			
BOD	Y WH	O WILL HEAR THE APPEAL	L & MEETING DATE OF THI	E APPEAL			
City Council - 6 p.n	n.	County Commission - 7 p.m.	☐ City BZA - 4 p.m.	Planning Commission - 1:30 p.m.			
Sapt. 17 202	4			•			
Month • Date • Year		Month • Date • Year	Month • Date • Year	Month • Date • Year			





LOWE YEAGER & BROWN PLLC 920 VOLUNTEER LANDING LN STE 200 KNOXVILLE, TN 37915 TELEPHONE: (865) 521-6527 TELECOPIER: (865) 637-0540 www.lyblaw.net

> Direct: (865) 316-9626 Email: das@lyblaw.net

August 22, 2024

Knoxville City Council c/o Will Johnson, City Recorder 400 Main Street, Room 467 Knoxville, TN 37902

Re: Appeal of 8-A-24-OB Proposed New Parking Garage and Residential Structure Fronting Hill Avenue, Locust Street, and Front Avenue

Dear City Council:

I am writing on behalf of the Overlook Homeowners Association to formally appeal the Planning Commission's decision rendered on August 8, 2024, regarding the proposed parking garage and apartment building project by Hill & Locust Partners at Hill Avenue and Locust Street. This project consists of two structures on separate lots. Our appeal is based on multiple violations of the guidelines. The project poses significant risks to the continued growth and revitalization of our city.

City Council approved the Downtown Design Guidelines on March 27, 2007, following a lengthy public process that included multiple public meetings involving a wide variety of stakeholders. This process was motivated by a community desire to hold downtown development to a standard that protected the City's historic resources and ensured that past mistakes were not repeated. While the guidelines are meant to provide some measure of flexibility they were never intended to be ignored, stretched, and massaged to enable projects because proposed developments are intended to meet other policy goals.

Knoxville's street fronts are essential to defining the city's character, vibrancy, and economic vitality. These areas serve as critical interfaces for commerce, culture, and community interaction. Allowing parking garages to dominate these frontages squanders their potential, replacing lively, pedestrian-friendly spaces with dull, uninviting facades that create a potentially dangerous situation for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other vehicles. The current proposal for a parking garage on Front Avenue directly contradicts Knoxville's design vision, threatening to create a pedestrian dead zone and derailing efforts to reconnect downtown with the Tennessee River. Preserving and enhancing our street fronts is crucial for maintaining a walkable urban environment that reflects Knoxville's unique charm and supports sustainable growth. Drawing inspiration from successful examples like Chattanooga, Knoxville should focus on transforming Neyland Drive and Front Avenue into a boulevard that seamlessly integrates downtown with the river. Front Avenue, being parallel to and feeding into Neyland Drive, directly impacts that transformation.

The project site is a gateway to our city, located adjacent to the historic Henley Street Bridge on the Tennessee River, with 32,000 vehicles passing daily. This prominent entryway to Knoxville warrants a development that strictly adheres to our design guidelines, ensuring the city remains on a path toward sustainable growth, architectural excellence, and increased community appeal. The City has invested multiple tens of millions of dollars in its waterfront. The public process that placed the rear portion in the Boulevard District was intentional in its goal of preserving the character of the waterfront consistent with limits that prevent building on either side of the river from walling off the river from the City.

The proposed project violates several key guidelines, including:

1. Violation of Knoxville Downtown Design Guidelines:

- Guideline (A)(3)(a) and (b): The project places a parking garage on the street frontage, contrary to the guidelines that require garages to be either underground or lined with retail, office, or residential space. This failure to engage pedestrians undermines the vitality of the street and contradicts the vision for a walkable, dynamic downtown.
- Guideline (A)(3)(g): Access to the proposed new parking garage limits options for new development of contiguous or adjoining space.
- **Guideline (B)(1)(a), (b), (c), (d), and (e):** The building lacks human or pedestrian scale along Front Avenue, presenting a blank, monolithic parking garage rather than a dynamic streetscape. The structure fails to create the "outdoor room" atmosphere envisioned in the guidelines, detracting from the pedestrian experience.
- **Guideline (B)(2)(c):** The proposed garage obstructs sight lines to the historic Henley Street Bridge. Despite modifications to the project renderings, the design continues to inaccurately represent the extent of this obstruction, which would have a detrimental impact on the visual connectivity of downtown with the riverfront.
- Guideline (B)(2)(e): The project does not include pedestrian-friendly plazas or amenities, further diminishing its potential to contribute to the vibrancy of the downtown area.

2. Failure to Adhere to Boulevard District Guidelines:

- Guideline (A)(1)(a): The design lacks a landscaped area separating the building from the sidewalk, a critical feature for enhancing pedestrian appeal and maintaining a consistent streetscape.
- Guideline (A)(1)(c): The architecture and landscaping do not complement the adjoining properties or buildings, resulting in a development that is out of character with the surrounding area. Guideline (A)(1)(d): The design does not allow for a plaza or similar quasi-public spaces in a portion of the private open space.
- **Guideline (A)(2)(a):** The design does not clearly orient a pedestrian entrance to Front Avenue, failing to invite pedestrian interaction and engagement.
- **Guideline** (A)(2)(b): The design is not complementary to the mass of adjacent buildings. In particular, the rear 18-story structure in no way complements the two-to six-story buildings it directly abuts. The argument that "adjacent" structures to be considered for the rear building are the Bank of America Building on Main, Neyland Stadium, the First Tennessee Tower and the City County Building strain the definition of adjacency beyond any reasonable definition. Yet, these are the examples cited to justify such mass. These are neither adjoining nor separated only by a street, stream or alley.

- Guideline (A)(2)(d): The parking garage is not adequately screened from Henley Street, Front Avenue and Neyland Drive, leaving an unsightly and obtrusive structure that detracts from the aesthetic and functional quality of the area.
- 3. **Traffic Safety Concerns:** The project will significantly and negatively impact traffic safety at the intersection of Locust Street and Front Avenue. The current building design does not allow space for a necessary intersection redesign to accommodate increased traffic and public safety. The project design should not be approved until it can adequately address and accommodate these critical safety issues.

I am enclosing a presentation that provides detailed support for the issues outlined in this letter. The first section of the presentation tracks the evolution of the developer's renderings throughout the project. It offers a critical analysis, provided by our design review team consisting of professional architects, of how these renderings have changed and why we believe they continue to misrepresent the true impact of the development, particularly in relation to obstructing sight lines to the historic Henley Street Bridge.

The second section of the presentation outlines the specific Downtown Design Guidelines that the proposed project violates. Each guideline is analyzed in the context of the current proposal, with visual examples to illustrate how the project falls short of these standards.

The third section presents comparative renderings that juxtapose the proposed development with other buildings in the downtown area. This analysis emphasizes the stark contrast between the proposed structure and the established architectural character of Knoxville, underscoring the importance of maintaining a cohesive and pedestrian-friendly streetscape. It also reveals the precedent such a project will set for future downtown developments, further undermining and possibly erasing the downtown fabric of Knoxville set forth in the Knoxville Downtown Design Guidelines.

Finally, the presentation focuses on the forthcoming University of Tennessee Entertainment District, highlighting its potential to serve as a vibrant extension of downtown Knoxville. We urge the Council to exercise foresight by encouraging a design for the Hill Avenue and Locust Street project that fosters a seamless connection between downtown and this new district that continues East along the Riverfront to Historic Preservation Drive. The vision for this connection is the very reason why this property is zoned in the Boulevard district—intended to transform Neyland Drive and Front Avenue from a mere downtown bypass into an engaging boulevard that enriches the urban fabric of Knoxville and connects Downtown to the University and the neighborhoods East of Downtown (East Knoxville and Riverhill Gateway) along the Tennessee Riverfront.

We invite you, as Council members, to walk the full length of Front Avenue, note its actual location in relation to the Henley Street bridge, and imagine the potential for the underdeveloped land and aging buildings on all sides of this project's location. Front Avenue is the street that ties the Maplehurst neighborhood to Downtown and to the river. There is tremendous potential to create an engaging, pedestrian-friendly streetscape for both Front Avenue and Neyland Drive. This is what the Design Guidelines require. The Guidelines are there to make sure every building downtown positively impacts its surrounding neighborhood and ensure underdeveloped land becomes something better. As designed, this building will negatively impact its surrounding neighborhood, stifle future development, set a terrible precedent for future projects downtown, and damage the image of Knoxville, as a whole.

Conclusion:

We urge the City Council to uphold the standards set forth in the Downtown Design Guidelines and Boulevard District Guidelines by denying this project as currently proposed. Knoxville's growth and revitalization depend on developments that enhance the city's unique charm and promote long-term economic vitality. The proposed project falls short of these goals and risks undermining the progress our city has made.

Knoxville deserves better. Let's work together to ensure that future developments align with our shared vision for a vibrant, connected, and pedestrian-friendly downtown.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Very truly yours,

a \mathcal{M} .

Daniel A. Sanders

cc: Clients

Indya Kincannon, Mayor of the City of Knoxville







The Knoxville Downtown Design Guidelines supplement base zoning and increase the requirements for development within the Design Guidelines Boundary.

This property forms a part of Knoxville's Riverfront and is situated on Henley Street at the main entrance to the Downtown Knoxville Design Area – 32,000+ trips per day (2023)

How is the Henley Street Bridge really impacted?



Elevations and renderings were provided from applicant to the Design Review Board and Knox News Sentinel.

How is the Henley Street Bridge really impacted?



Elevations and renderings were provided from applicant to the Design Review Board, developer meetings and Knox News Sentinel.



The applicant provided a composite photo realistic rendering that misrepresents the location of the building to confuse the Design Review Board.

The above rendering and photo below are properly aligned. Note the relationship of the light pole, power pole, and bridge support in the center of the images.

Note the condition of the guardrail and the retaining wall. The above image is not a real photo – it is a false rendering showing false existing site conditions.

Neyland Drive, Front Avenue and all existing site elements in the applicant provided rendering have been manipulated relative to the bridge to intentionally give the false impression that the building will not block views of the Henley Street Bridge.



FALSE RENDERING

This image has been significantly modified to appear to not block the bridge.

ACTUAL PHOTO

The Historic Henley Street Bridge will be obstructed by this proposal.

Photo matched comparison is based on location in rendering image. Alignment and location of building placement is based on Henley Street Bridge In background.





A. THE BOULEVARD DISTRICT

1. YARDS/SETBACKS

Create yards that compliment the green space of adjacent buildings.



2. BUILDING CONSIDERATIONS Enhance the architectural harmony of all buildings along the street.



tan dala

3. RECOMMENDED SIGNS

GUIDELINES:

a. Separate new buildings from the sidewalk with lawn or other landscaped area.
b. Plant naive or naturalized trees and other landscape malerials in the open spaces
c. Compliment the architecture and landscaping of adjoining property.
1d. Allow for plazas or similar quasipublic spaces in a portion of these private open spaces.

GUIDELINES:

- 2a. Design building entrances to be clearly oriented to the street.
- Encourage building forms that are complimentary to the mass of adjacent buildings.
 Design building elevations to
- compliment the buildings along the side or back streets when buildings are to face more than one street.
- 2d. Screen service facilities or incorporate them into the design of new building so that they are not obtrusive.









Almost 20 years ago the Hampton Inn was designed as a garage with a hotel on top. Knoxville stepped in and did the right thing to make sure our city's streetscape was protected. This set a precedent for quality development downtown and was the catalyst for the Design Review Board.

Shouldn't this project be held to the same standard?



The corner of Gay and Church is enriched by a courtyard, landscaping, and public art. Shouldn't this project be held to the same standard?



This is an old, existing garage that the owner has painted a mural on to reduce its negative impact on the pedestrian experience. That is a good attempt to repair poorly developed downtown property. But it should this be used as precedent for current development? No.



Marble Alley was a catalytic project that transformed the north side of Downtown. Shouldn't this project be held to the same standard?



Location of building as shown in applicant provided rendering



Location of building as shown in applicant provided drawings



UT 's new entertainment district will engage the streetscape of Neyland Drive and help it to transform into part of Downtown and the University. That is why this property is zoned in the Boulevard district – to help Neyland Drive transform from a downtown bypass into an engaging boulevard.

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MEMORANDUM

TO:	Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission
FROM:	Lindsay Crockett, AICP, Principal Planner/Design Review Program Manager
DATE:	July 31, 2024
SUBJECT:	Consideration of an appeal of the Design Review Board approval of 4-D-24-DT
FILE #:	8-A-24-0B; Agenda Item #5

8-A-24-OB is an appeal of the Design Review Board's approval of a proposed new construction building at 0 W. Hill Avenue (<u>4-D-24-DT</u>), filed by an attorney on behalf of "an association of property owners on abutting property located at 608 W. Hill Avenue," stating that "the design violates multiple guidelines."

Article 16.5.F states that appeals of Design Review Board decisions may be filed in accordance with Article 16.12. In accordance with Article 16.12.A.4.b, the Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission must evaluate the application based upon the evidence presented at the public hearing. The Commission may affirm, modify, impose restrictions, or overrule the initial decision.

BACKGROUND

The Design Review Board (DRB) is a ten-member Board appointed by the City of Knoxville Mayor with an approval of a majority of City Council. Members include one architect and one urban design professional recommended by AIA East Tennessee, two downtown residents, two business or development professionals "whose work is largely focused downtown," a member of the Downtown Knoxville Alliance, a member of the Historic Zoning Commission, a "City of Knoxville resident knowledgeable in design and development," and a representative of the East Tennessee Community Design Center.

Per <u>Article 16.5</u>, Design Review is intended to foster attractive and harmonious development and rehabilitation in Downtown Knoxville. The Design Review Board's role is not to impose any architectural preference, and the <u>Downtown Design Guidelines</u> are not intended to bring uniformity in design or approach or to require specific materials. The Downtown Design Guidelines are intended to be applied in a flexible manner to meet the needs of the development while encouraging the design to respect the context of nearby buildings and the streetscape, The Downtown Design Guidelines are thus not a rigid set of rules, but rather a set of key principles to guide development. The Board's role is to provide certainty that both immediate surroundings as well as Downtown as a whole are taken into account with each building project.

At the June 20, 2024 meeting, the DRB approved Certificate <u>4-D-24-DT</u> subject to five conditions. The enclosed case file includes the meeting minutes, the staff report, and the application. The staff report details the relevant design guidelines alongside staff comments on the site, parking, massing and scale, the pedestrian experience, and additional design elements. The application includes site plans, elevation drawings, and renderings.



Knoxville-Knox County Planning | KnoxPlanning.org400 Main Street, Suite 403 | Knoxville, TN 37902 | 865.215.2500

	APPEAL		CISION			
Planning	(Please Note: Original applicat -		a part of this application.)			
KNOXVILLE I KNOX COUNTY	Type: ☐ One Year Plan Amendment ☐ Street Name Change ☑ CertificateofAppropriateness	Sector Plan Amendment Right-of-Way Closure S Other: Determining Commission	_ 5 _			
	Decision by: 🗆 Planning Staff 🔲 Pla	العن nning Commission 🛛 Other	Commission IX Other: Date of Decision: 6/20/24			
	Jurisdiction: 🛛 City 🛛 — Counci					
Original Applicant Name: 2	/29/24	Original File N	umber: 4-D-24-DT			
Name of Owner of Subject	Property: Hill & Locust Partners, Victor	ria Gillenwater Trust, Barbara We	elchel & Zenith Properties, LLC			
Description of Subject Prop Ward 6; Blocks 02106 and	perty (Include city block and parcel nun 02105; Parcels 094MD018, 094MD02	nber or lot number): 2, 094MD024, 094MD025, 094M	IE033, and 094ME030			
	Zoning map of all property within 300) feet of the subject property is a	ttached.			
Design Review	DECISION BEI Board decision to approve certificate of	NG APPEALED				
Design Review		appropriateriess.				
Attach additional pages, if	necessary REASON FOR					
Design violates multiple gu	idelines.					
			· ·			
Name of Petitioner. The C	PETITIONER I Overlook Owners Association, Ir	NFORMATION				
	Matter (Include a description of affected					
The Petitioner is an associ	iation of property owners on abutting pi n are aggrieved by the decision of the	roperty located at 608 West Hill A	Ave, Parcel 094MD017. The			
Application Authorization:	I hereby certify that I am the applicant	t/authorized representative for the	e above named petitioner.			
	be sent to. Name (Print):					
	C, 920 Volunteer Landing, Suite 200, k					
Street Address	City		State Zip			
Phone: (865) 316-9626	Fax:	E-mail: DAS@lyblaw.net				
	For Plannin	g Staff Use Only				
Application Accepted by P						
Appeal Fee Amount:	\$ 500.000	Date Appeal Received:	26/24			
BOD	Y WHO WILL HEAR THE APPEAL	& MEETING DATE OF THE	E APPEAL			
🗌 City Council - 6 p.m	a. County Commission - 7 p.m.	☐ City BZA - 4 p.m.	Planning Commission - 1:30 p.m.			
Month • Date • Year	Month • Date • Year	Month • Date • Year	Month • Date • Year			



Meeting Minutes

JUNE 20, 2024 4:00 P.M. |Small Assembly Room

A video of this meeting will be available in the meeting archive pages here:

https://knoxplanning.org/zoning/design-review

BOARD MEMBER – PRESENT	BOARD MEMBERSHIP
Perry Childress	East Tennessee Community Design Center
Jared Worsham	Downtown Resident
Josh Wright, Chair	Urban Design Representative
John Thurman	Downtown Development Representative
Rick Blackburn	Historic Zoning Commission Representative
Laura Lenn	Downtown Resident
Susanne Tarovella, Vice-Chair	City of Knoxville Resident Representative
Matthew DeBardelaben	Downtown Knoxville Alliance Representative
Chris Ford	Business Development Representative
Cameron Bolin	AIA Representative
BOARD MEMBER – EXCUSED	BOARD MEMBERSHIP
None	
EX-OFFICIO & STAFF MEMBERS	DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION
Lindsay Crockett	Knoxville-Knox County Planning
Dallas DeArmond	Knoxville-Knox County Planning
Mike Reynolds	Knoxville-Knox County Planning
Christina Magrans-Tillery	City Law Department
Mark Riehl	City Plans Review and Inspections

Downtown Design Review Certificates of Appropriateness

0 W. Hill Ave. / Parcel ID 94 M D 018

New primary structure (4-D-24-DT)

Mr. Blackburn and Chairman Wright recused themselves from discussing or voting on this application and left the table.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of Certificate 4-D-24-DT, subject to the following conditions:

1) Final site plan, pedestrian improvements, and parking garage to meet City Engineering standards;

2) Final landscaping plan to meet standards of City zoning code;

3) Any mechanical equipment or service utilities not shown on plans to be placed on secondary elevations and receive screening as necessary;

4) Signage to return to DRB as a separate application;

Discussion: Lindsay Crockett reviewed the application and the staff recommendation.

The following people spoke in favor of the item: Garry Rodgers, 803 White Oak Valley Rd., Cleveland, TN 37312 Ben Hudgins, 530 Means St. Ste. 105, Atlanta, GA 30318 Joshua Thompson, 3824 Fox Hills Dr., Marietta, GA 30067 Taylor Forrester, 1111 N. Northshore Dr. Ste. S-700, Knoxville, TN 37919

The following people spoke in opposition to this item: Josh Wright, 608 W Hill Ave. #401, Knoxville, TN 37902 Daniel Sanders, 920 Volunteer Landing Ln., Knoxville, TN 37915 Thomas Goldsby, 608 W Hill Ave., Knoxville, TN 37902 Dina Markakis, 608 W Hill Ave., Knoxville, TN 37902 Wally Shaw, 608 W Hill Ave., Knoxville, TN 37902

A motion was made by Mr. DeBardelaben and seconded by Mr. Thurman to approve certificate 4-D-24-DT, per staff recommendation, with the additional condition that the applicant provide final material specifications for the parking garage screening to staff for review and approval. The motion carried unanimously, 8-0.



Staff Report

Design Review Board

File Number: 4-D-24-DT

Meeting:	6/20/2024
Project:	Hill and Locust
Applicant:	Ben Hudgins Brock Hudgins Architects

Property Information

Location: 0 W. Hill Ave.

Parcel ID 94 M D 018

Description:

Zoning:

New construction residential building proposed for multiple vacant parcels.

Description of Work

Level III Construction of a New Building/Structure

DK (Downtown Knoxville)

SUMMARY: Proposed new 18-story residential construction (9-14 stories of residential apartments above 5 stories of structured parking on the rear massing). The building is proposed for an L-shaped site at the intersections of W. Hill Ave., Locust Street, and Front Ave., located immediately north of Neyland Drive and the river. The site is significantly sloped towards the south and the river. The building is L-shaped, with a 6-story massing fronting W. Hill. Ave and extending south along Locust Street, and the larger massing facing Front Ave.

SITE LAYOUT AND ACCESS: The primary access point to the garage extends from W. Hill Ave via a two-way drive accessing the parking garage, along with ride-share spots, and short term spaces. A secondary access point is located to the west/southwest side of the garage, which will extend north off Front Ave and turn right into the parking garage. The primary pedestrian access fronts Hill Avenue at the northeast corner of the building.

DESIGN ELEMENTS:

The 7-story massing fronting Hill Avenue is clad in brick veneer, featuring vertical metal accents. As the building extends south along Locust Street, a central section (increasing in number of stories at grade, due to the slope) is clad in vertical-ribbed, prefinished metal panels. A flat-roof metal canopy extends around the first story at the corner of Hill Ave and Locust Street. On this section, the windows are evenly spaced and symmetrically arranged single-light storefront systems. Five full-light entry systems are spaced along the Locust Street elevation.

The massing towards the river features a cast-in-place concrete parking garage clad in metal vertical fin screening. The residential section above the garage is C-shaped, surrounding an amenity level with a pool immediately above the garage, fronting the river. The residential section is proposed to be clad in hard-coat stucco and features single-light storefront windows, aluminum and glass balconies on all elevations.

Floor plans show the mechanical, electrical, service, and trash functions located at the southwest corner.

Applicable Design Guidelines

Downtown Design Guidelines

A. Public Realm

1. Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

1g. Consolidate curb-cuts and locate driveways near mid-block, when necessary; alley access should be provided for service and parking, if feasible.

3. Parking Facilities

3a. Create parking garages that do not contain blank walls. Allow for future commercial uses that may not be feasible at the time of construction.

3b. Locate parking garages under structures, or provide for retail, residential or office uses that line the garage. Corner locations are preferable for commercial uses.

3g. Access to parking garages should not limit options for future development of contiguous or adjoining space, especially on corners.

4. Downtown Beautification

4a. Foster downtown beautification with landscaping and plantings, public art, and public open space.

4c. Plant street trees where possible. Choose tree planting locations that will not significantly alter the setting of or harm the materials of historic buildings.

B. Private Realm

1. Building Mass, Scale and Form

1a. Maintain a pedestrian-scaled environment from block to block.

1b. Foster air circulation and sunlight penetration around new buildings. Buildings may be designed with open space, as allowed under existing DK zoning; or buildings may be 'stepped back' on upper floors with lower floors meeting the sidewalk edge.

1c. Use building materials, cornice lines, signs, and awnings of a human scale in order to reduce the mass of buildings as experienced at the street level.

1d. Divide larger buildings into 'modules' that are similar in scale to traditional downtown buildings. Buildings should be designed with a recognizable base, middle, and top on all exposed elevations.

1e. Avoid blank walls along street-facing elevations.

2. Building Location

2a. Set buildings back five feet in order to provide wider sidewalk space when new construction in non-historic areas is to be more than half the length of the block.

2b. Consider using landscape elements to define the sidewalk edge where a building is to be set back from the sidewalk.

2d. Limit grade separations above or below the sidewalk, generally no more than 3 feet. Allow for clear sightlines into and out of buildings and plazas.

2e. Design private plazas to be pedestrian-friendly. Provide human-scale amenities and include landscaping.

3. Building Materials

3a. Use complimentary materials and elements, especially next to historic buildings.

4. Architectural Character

4a. Encourage first floor uses that draw walk-in traffic; businesses that do not require pedestrian traffic should be located on other floors.

4b. Enhance pedestrian interest in commercial and office buildings by creating a largely transparent and consistent rhythm of entrances and windows.

4c. Scale first floor signs to pedestrians.

4d. Differentiate the architectural features of ground floors from upper floors with traditional considerations such as show-windows, transoms, friezes, and sign boards.

4e. Design top floors to enhance the skyline of the block through cornices and details that are harmonious with adjacent architecture. 4f. Encourage the use of 'green roofs' and other sustainable practices, while minimizing the

visual impact from the street.

5. Ground Floor Doors and Windows

5a. Use consistent rhythm of openings, windows, doorways, and entries.

5b. Orient primary front entrances to the main street; secondary entrances should be clearly defined and oriented to streets or alleys, as appropriate.

5c. Design entrances according to the proportions of the building's height and width.

5d. Consider corner entrances at the ends of blocks.

5e. All windows at the pedestrian level should be clear

5f. Recess ground floor window frames and doors from the exterior building face to provide depth to the facade.

6. Residential Buildings

6a. Elevate the first floor of townhouses and apartment buildings so that pedestrians cannot look directly into the residence from the sidewalk level.

6b. Design entrances to residential buildings so that access is separated from pedestrian flow on the sidewalk.

6c. Encourage the development of mixed-use buildings with apartments over lower story commercial uses.

7. Mechanical Equipment and Service Utilities

7a. Minimize the visual impact of mechanical equipment through screens or recessed/ low-profile equipment.

7b. Do not locate units on a primary façade.

7c. Screen rooftop vents, heating/ cooling units and related utilities with parapet walls or other screens. Consider sound-buffering of the units as part of the design.

7d. Locate utility connections and service boxes on secondary walls.

7e. Reduce the visual impacts of trash storage and service areas by locating them at the rear of a building or off an alley, when possible.

7f. Screen dumpsters from view.

7g. Locate satellite dishes out of public view, where possible.

7h. Allow solar panels and other technological advances on rooftops and other unobtrusive locations. Solar panels should not be considered on the elevations of historic buildings.

The Boulevard District:

2a. Design building entrances to be clearly oriented to the street.

2b. Encourage building forms that are complimentary to the mass of adjacent buildings.

2c. Design building elevations to compliment the buildings along the side or back streets when buildings are to face more than one street.

2d. Screen service facilities or incorporate them into the design of new buildings so that they are not obtrusive.

Comments

1. SITE: the building is proposed for a series of adjacent vacant parcels, which have historically been cleared and used as occasional surface parking. Part of the building (the Hill Avenue massing) is zoned DK-G (Grid subdistrict), while the south massing is zoned DK-B (Boulevard subdistrict). The block on W. Hill Avenue contains an eclectic mix of significant historic houses, historic multi-family structures, and a contemporary multi-family building. The site is on the edge of downtown, fronting Neyland Drive and the riverfront, with the Maplehurst neighborhood to the west and the City-County Building to the east. The architectural context is varied in time period, detail, and scale.

2. PARKING: the application includes a 5-story structured parking garage, with access off Front Avenue and W. Hill Avenue. The primary garage access point is located on W. Hill Avenue, and will feature two separated lanes for vehicle ingress and egress. The revised application includes a secondary access point off Front Ave. The parking garage generate an increase in vehicle traffic for W. Hill Avenue and Front Ave. Guidelines recommend "consolidating curb-cuts and locating driveways near mid-block, when necessary," and prioritizing pedestrian safety. The access point on Hill Ave does meet the guidelines (consolidating the driveways into one curb cut) but additional

information may be necessary for permitting related to mitigation of any potential sight distance issues for cars exiting the garage, pedestrian safety measures on the sidewalk on Hill Avenue, and any necessary safety measures for cars using Front Ave to access Locust or Neyland Drive. The final site plan and garage should meet City Engineering standards.

3. MASSING AND SCALE: guidelines state "building form should be consistent with the character of downtown as an urban environment and should reinforce the pedestrian activity at street level." Previous submissions separated the building into two large massings, one fronting Hill Avenue and running south along Locust Street, and one U-shaped massing fronting the river. Revisions for the June meeting incorporate variations in height, including new penthouse levels, to vertically break the large massing into what resembles five separate adjoining buildings. The stepbacks required by the zoning code (incorporated along Henley Street, Front Ave, and Locust Street) further contribute to this effect. The massing alongside Henley Street has been reduced in height.

Viewing the massings horizontally, the south elevation was previously divided into two large sections of the parking garage and the residential massing. The parking garage has received substantial revisions since the initial application; revisions submitted for June incorporate vertical metal fins as screening for the parking garage. The vertical fins obscure the parking garage and are divided into two two-story sections, which further reduces the visual scale of the garage.

The guidelines recommend dividing buildings into "modules" similar in scale to traditional downtown buildings with a recognizable base, middle, and top. The north massing fronting Hill Ave is similar in scale to adjacent buildings and other historic buildings downtown, using a largely transparent ground level separated from the residential upper levels. The incorporation of recessed penthouse levels serve to further divide the massings on the north, east, and south elevations into top, middle, and bottom sections.

At previous meetings, the Board has extensively discussed the scale of the building's south massing in relation to the context of the area. The Boulevard District guidelines recommend "building forms that are complimentary to the mass of adjacent buildings." The building section along Hill Avenue is generally compatible in scale with the adjacent building, measuring one story taller. The buildings along Hill Avenue steps from six stories, to three stories, to two stories, to 1.5 stories. The broader context is varied in scale, including taller historic structures, surface parking lots, the Bank of America building, and the City-County Building. In the opinion of staff, the revised proposal is compatible with the context.

4. PEDESTRIAN EXPERIENCE: guidelines encourage maintaining a pedestrian-scaled environment from block to block, and encourage incorporating first-floor uses that are open to pedestrians and draw walk-in traffic. The project includes one café space on the first story of the Hill Avenue massing; there are no other public areas on the Locust St or Front Ave elevations. Revised drawings responding to the zoning code have incorporated five storefront entries along Locust Street. Guidelines also recommend using building materials and entries at a human scale to create an engaging pedestrian experience, avoiding blank walls along street-facing elevations, and using a "consistent rhythm of entrances and windows."

At the April meeting, the Board discussed potential additional pedestrian engagement on the building's south elevation (facing Front Avenue). The DK Design Standards in the zoning code require a minimum transparency of 30%, measured between 2' and 10' in height, on ground floor front facades. For the May meeting, the applicant incorporated an additional open level of parking along Front Avenue to open to the street and meet transparency requirements. Revisions for the June meeting show the rightmost (southeast) section of the ground level along Front Avenue incorporating a series of storefront windows enclosing interior amenity space.

The June revisions include additional landscaping detail, street trees, sidewalks, and information on a proposed crosswalk along Locust Street, along with a proposed multi-use path to connect to the existing pedestrian bridge. Coordination with the City of Knoxville will be necessary for additional off-site pedestrian improvements.

5. MATERIALS: guidelines recommend the use of building materials that "relate to the scale, durability, color, and texture of the predominate building materials in the area." The surrounding area is characterized by a wide array of exterior materials, including contemporary and historic brick masonry, stucco, and wood siding, along with contemporary office buildings and parking structures. Overall, the proposed hard-coat stucco as a primary exterior material is compatible with the context. The massings on Locust St. and Hill are broken up via different siding, with brick veneer fronting Hill Avenue. The parking garage design has been further revised to include vertical metal fins as screening, along with vertical concrete columns and a section of storefront glass.

6. MECHANICAL: the floor plans indicate mechanical and service utilities to be located on secondary elevations. Any rooftop mechanical fixtures not depicted on plans or elevations should be set back from the roof edge and receive screening to meet the City zoning code.

7. SIGNS: the signs depicted on the elevation drawings do not contain sufficient information for Board review at this time; a separate signage application should be submitted to the DRB for further review.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of Certificate 4-D-24-DT, subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Final site plan, pedestrian improvements, and parking garage to meet City Engineering standards;
- 2) Final landscaping plan to meet standards of City zoning code;

3) Any mechanical equipment or service utilities not shown on plans to be placed on secondary elevations and receive screening as necessary;

4) Signage to return to DRB as a separate application.





DESIGN REVIEW REQUEST

■ DOWNTOWN DESIGN (DK)

□ HISTORIC ZONING (H)

□ INFILL HOUSING (IH)

BEN HUDGINS						
Applicant						
3/29/24	4/17/24 5/15/2024 6/20/2024			4-D-24-DT		
Date Filed	Meeting Date (if applicable)			File Number(s)		
CORRESPONDENCE						
All correspondence related to this applic	cation should be directed to the	annroved contac	t listed helow	I		
Owner Contractor Engine	er 🔲 Architect/Landscape Arc	chitect				
BEN HUDGINS	BROCK H	UDGINS ARCHITE	CTS			
Name		Company				
530 MEANS STREET, SUITE 105	A	TLANTA	GA	A 3	0318	
Address		City	Sta		Zip	
404-213-5271	BHUDGINS@BROCKHUDGINS.COM					
Phone	Email					
CURRENT PROPERTY INF HILL & LOCUST PARTNERS, GP WHELCHEL / GILLENWATER TRUST WHELCHEL BARBARA H & ZENITH PROPERT	109 CIRCLE LN 7723 MICKELSON CT	KNOXVILLE TN NAPLES FL NAPLES FL	37919 34113 34113			
Owner Name (if different from applicant	:) Owner Address			Owner P	hone	
0 W. HILL AVE, 1015 LOCUST ST, 0 LOCUST	ST. 0 FRONT AVE. 0 W. HILL AVE	094MD018. 094M	ID022. 094MD02	24. 094MD025. 094	4ME033, 094ME030	
Property Address	- , , -	Parcel II		,		
103		DK-G, DK-E	3			
Neighborhood		Zoning	<u> </u>			
AUTHORIZATION						
LLC	Lindsay Crockett			4/1/24		
Staff Signature	Please Print			Date		
\mathcal{D}						
- KAN:	BEN HUDGINS			3/29/24		
Applicant Signature	Please Print			Date		
REQUEST

DOWN IOWN DESIGN	Level 1: Signs Alteration of an existing building/structure Level 2: Addition to an existing building/structure Level 3: Construction of new building/structure See required Downtown Design attachment for more details. Brief description of work: NEW MULTIFAMILY DEVELOPMENT AT THE INTERSECTION OF HILL AVE AND LOCUST ST. THE PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENT INCLUDES A STRUCTURED PARKING GARAGE, A HIGHRISE RESIDENTIAL COMPONENT ALONG FRONT AVE, AND A MIDRISE RESIDENTIAL COMPONENT FRONTING HILL AVE. RESDENTIAL AMENITIES INCLUDE A POOL TERRACE, CLUBROOM, FITNESS, AND LOBBY.
HISTORIC ZUNING	Level 1: Signs Routine repair of siding, windows, roof, or other features, in-kind; Installation of gutters, storm windows/doors Level 2: Major repair, removal, or replacement of architectural elements or materials Additions and accessory structures Level 3: Construction of a new primary building Level 4: Relocation of a contributing structure Demolition of a contributing structure Brief description of work:
INFILL HOUSING	Level 1: Driveways, parking pads, access point, garages or similar facilities Subdivisions Level 2: Additions visible from the primary street Changes to porches visible from the primary street Level 3: New primary structure Site built Modular Multi-Sectional See required Infill Housing attachment for more details. Brief description of work:

	ATTACHMENTS	FEE 1:	TOTAL:
١٢	Downtown Design Checklist	250.00	250.00
ō	Historic Zoning Design Checklist	FEE 2:	
STAFF USE ONLY	Infill Housing Design Checklist		
FF	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS		
STA	Property Owners / Option Holders	FEE 3:	
	Level 1: \$50 • Level 2: \$100 • Level 3: \$250 • Level 4: \$500		



HILL & LOCUST – DRB RESUBMITTAL 6/7/24

REFINEMENTS MADE IN REPONSE TO DRB FEEDBACK ON 5/15/24:

1. REDUCTION OF MASSING ALONG HENLEY STREET

In addition to the 10' building stepback along the Henley Street Bridge (incorporated just before the May DRB meeting), the building massing has been further reduced along the western portion of the building adjacent the Henley Street Bridge, creating distinct building modules within the overall building composition. The white portion of the Western wing of the building fronting Henley has been reduced by two stories, with a partial penthouse floor added to that wing of the building. The change in material and the stepback at the upper penthouse floor results in a visual reduction of two floors of the white massing. The overall building composition now terraces from Locust Street down to Henley Street, resulting in a more pedestrian-scaled building for those walking across the bridge.

2. INTRODUCTION OF PENTHOUSE FLOORS W/ STEPBACKS

In order to accommodate the reduction in building massing and subsequent reduction in residential program along Henley Street, an additional partial penthouse floor has been added to both the Hill Ave module and the Locust Street module of the building. The change in material at the upper penthouse floors on all three modules provides some massing relief at each of the upper stories of the modules, while also providing a clearly delineated tripartite composition (base/middle/top) per the Downtown Design Guidelines. The modified roofline, enhanced by the added building steps and penthouse stepbacks, reinforces the appropriateness of the building's scale in two ways: 1. From a pedestrian perspective, the upper penthouse stepbacks recede from the building façade giving the appearance of one less floor; 2. From a distance, the upper penthouse story provides more articulation in the roofline, providing massing relief while making the building feel less monolithic.

3. GARAGE SCREENING

The parking garage has been screened with vertical metal fins, angled to visually obstruct the garage structure while maintaining the required amount of openness to achieve natural ventilation of the parking garage. The metal fins are two stories in height, giving the appearance of two stories of parking rather than four, while maintaining a scale complementary to the Henley Street Bridge. The composition of concrete columns at street-level with vertical fins above is subtly referential to the massive concrete bridge piers touching down along the river with the repetitive rhythm of its pedestrian level guardrail above. The result is a thoughtful, timeless design approach to the garage treatment that complements the architectural language of the building above.

4. FRONT AVE ACTIVATION

The street-level along Front Ave has been further activated with the introduction of interior space at the intersection of Front Ave and Locust Street. This space is intended to be used for artist studio space, bike room, and pet spa. The glazed storefront expression enhances the pedestrian sidewalk experience while providing a commercial look and feel until Front Ave becomes viable for retail space.

BROCK Hudgins ARCHITE

1075 BRADY AVE NW	
ATLANTA, GA 30318	
Phone: (404) 512-5630	







G-020

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION













 Ter Nad

 USE

 USE

LOCUST STREET AND HILL AVE KNOKVILLE, TN	
Project Number:	22005
SITE CONTEXT	

G-023

























HILL & LOCUST: PLAN VIEW



CODE	QTY	BOTANICAL / COMMON NAME	CONT
TREES			
CO	7	Carpinus caroliniana 'Orange Crush' / Orange Crush American Hornbeam	4" cal.
LA	10	Liriodendron tulipifera 'Arnold' / Arnold Tulip Poplar	4" cal.
SHRUB	s		
AM	12	Azalea encore 'Autumn Amethyst' / Autumn Amethyst Azalea	5 gal
CG2	24	Camellia sasanqua 'Shishi Gashira' / Shishi Gashira Camellia	5 gal.
HA	36	Hydrangea paniculata Little Lime / Little Lime Hydrangea	5 gal.
IP	24	Illicium parviflorum / Anise Tree	5 gal.
IS	160	Ilex crenata 'Soft Touch' / Soft Touch Japanese Holly	5 gal.
MS	34	Miscanthus sinensis 'Adagio' / Adagio Eulalia Grass	3 gal
VINES			
HD	7	Hedera helix / English Ivy	1 gal.
GROUN	D COVERS		
CD	580	Carex oshimensis 'Everest' / Japanese Sedge	10" pot
LB	2,976	Liriope muscari 'Big Blue' / Big Blue Lilyturf	10" pot
DIODET		· ·	
BIORET	1,135 sf	river rock / river rock	1-

HILL & LOCUST: PLANTING PLAN AND SCHEDULE



HILL & LOCUST - STREETSCAPE FURNISHINGS & PLANT PALETTE







HILL & LOCUST: SECTION 1







HILL & LOCUST: SECTION 3

SITE solutions





August 8, 2024 Planning Commission meeting

Public Comments 5 Comments for 8-A-24-OB

Planning Staff (37902), July 23, 2024 at 10:29 AM

Attached comments were submitted to the Design Review Board for case 4-D-24-DT prior to the item's approval on June 20, 2024. The item has been appealed to the Planning Commission as case 8-A-24-OB.

View Attachment

Taylor (37919), August 2, 2024 at 12:21 PM

Please find attached correspondence in support of the DRB's approval on the design plans for the Project on behalf of the applicant, Brock Hudgins Architects.

View Attachment

Taylor (37919), August 2, 2024 at 12:26 PM

Attached are the Exhibits referenced in letter submitted on behalf of the DRB applicant, Brock Hudgins Architects. This attachments provides clearer renderings of the Exhibits.

View Attachment

Daniel (37915), August 5, 2024 at 2:53 PM

Please see the attached correspondence. The Overlook Owners Association opposes this item due violation of numerous Downtown Knoxville Design Guidelines. We urge the Planning Commission to deny the application.

View Attachment

Rebekah Jane (37902), August 6, 2024 at 9:56 AM

The City Administration supports the Design Review Board's (DRB) unanimous vote for approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness for the case 4-D-24-DT, at the corner of Hill and Locust. The applicant has responded to recommendations and feedback from Knoxville Knox County Planning staff, members of the DRB, and a community meeting of adjacent neighbors in an initial workshop and three separate DRB meetings. Based on that input, design revisions were made specifically focusing on scale, massing, materiality, and pedestrian experience. We agree with and support the DRB decision for Certificate of Appropriateness and that the project meets the intent of the design guidelines.



August 8, 2024

1:30 P.M. | Main Assembly Room City County Building

The Planning Commission met in regular session on August 8, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in the Main Assembly room of the City County Building.

Item No.

File No.

1. ROLL CALL, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Karyn Adams	Ms. Nancy Barger*	Mr. Miles Biggs		
Ms. Tamara Boyer	Mr. Louis Browning	Mr. Logan Higgins*		
Mr. Tim Hill, Chair	Mr. John Huber, Vice- Chair	Mr. Richard Levenson		
Ms. Amy Midis	Ms. Kara Daley	Ms. Katie Overton		
Ms. Marité Pérez	Mr. Matt Anderson	Mr. Nick Gill		
A – Absent from the meeting, *Left meeting early				

5. OVERLOOK OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

8-A-24-OB

Consideration of an appeal of the Design Review Board's decision to approve the request of Ben Hudgins for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a new primary structure located at 0 W Hill Ave. / Parcel ID 094MD018, 094MD022, 094MD024, 094MD025, and 094ME033. Council District 6.

1. DESIGN REVIEW BOARD DECISION

Approve subject to the following conditions:

1) Final site plan, pedestrian improvements, and parking garage to meet City Engineering standards;

2) Final landscaping plan to meet standards of City zoning code;

3) Any mechanical equipment or service utilities not shown on plans to be placed on secondary elevations and receive screening as necessary;

4) Signage to return to DRB as a separate application;

5) Final material specifications for parking garage screening to be submitted to staff for review.

2. MOTION (OVERTON) AND SECOND (LEVENSON) WERE MADE TO DENY THE APPEAL, AFFIRMING THE DECISION OF THE DESIGN REVIEW BOARD.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 14-0. DENIED