

RESOLUTION R-4945

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND APPROVING AMENDED DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR PEDESTRIAN ORIENTED BUSINESS DISTRICTS AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN.

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission considered the proposed amendments to the Design Guidelines for Pedestrian Oriented Business Districts at its public hearing on June 28, 2012, in association with related amendments to the Kirkland Zoning Code; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is appropriate to amend the Design Guidelines for Pedestrian Oriented Business Districts as they directly support Ordinance No. 4390 (Commercial Code Zoning Amendments) and under Kirkland Municipal Code 3.30.040 design guidelines bearing the signature of the Mayor and Director of the Department of Planning and Community Development are adopted by reference;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:

Section 1. The amendments to the Design Guidelines for Pedestrian Oriented Business Districts, attached as Exhibit A, are approved.

Section 2. The Mayor is authorized to sign the amended Design Guidelines for Pedestrian Oriented Business Districts.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 11th day of December, 2012.

Signed in authentication thereof this 11th day of December, 2012.


MAYOR

Attest:


City Clerk

The City of Kirkland

Design Guidelines

For Pedestrian-Oriented Business Districts



Adopted by the City Council pursuant to
Kirkland Municipal Code Section 3.30.040.
Updated March 3, 2009, R-4739.



Attest:

James Lauinger,
Mayor

Eric Shields
Director,
Planning & Community
Development

this historic district should reflect the scale and design features of the existing historic resources in the district.

As part of the Market Street Corridor Plan, Design Regulations and Guidelines are established for new development and major renovations in the Market Street Corridor (MSC). These guidelines and regulations are intended to further the following design objectives that are stated in the plan:

- ◆ Encourage preservation of structures and locations that reflect Kirkland's heritage.
- ◆ Support a mix of higher intensity uses along the Market Street Corridor while minimizing impacts on adjacent residential neighborhoods.
- ◆ Maintain and enhance the character of the historic intersection at 7th Avenue and Market Street.
- ◆ Provide streetscape, gateway and public art improvements that contribute to a sense of identity and enhanced visual quality.
- ◆ Provide transitions between low density residential uses within the neighborhoods and the commercial and multifamily residential uses in the Market Street.

Except for the MSC 2 zone.

The following guidelines, which suggest wider sidewalks, do not apply since there are no "pedestrian oriented streets" or "major pedestrian sidewalks" designated in the Zoning Code for the Market Street Corridor.

- ◆ Sidewalk Width: Movement Zone
- ◆ Sidewalk Width: Storefront Activity Zone

Additional guidelines that do not apply to the Market Street Corridor include:

- ◆ Protection and Enhancement of Wooded Slopes
- ◆ Height Measurement on Hillsides
- ◆ Culverted Creeks

Purpose of the Design Guidelines for North Rose Hill Business District

The North Rose Hill Business District goals and policies were adopted in 2003 as part of the North Rose Hill Neighborhood Plan. Development in the North Rose Hill Business District (NRHBD) is to complement the Totem Lake neighborhood and encourage increased residential capacity to help meet housing needs. Commercial uses are to be limited to those that are compatible with the residential focus of the NRHBD.

As part of the NRH plan, design regulations and guidelines were established for new development and major renovations in the Business District (NRHBD). These guidelines and regulations are intended to further the following urban design goals and policies stated in the plan:

- ◆ Ensure that public improvements and private development contribute to neighborhood quality and identity in the Business District through:
 - *Establishment of building and site design standards.*
 - *Utilization of the design review process.*
 - *Location and sharing of parking lots.*
 - *Utilization of high quality materials, public art, bicycle and pedestrian amenities, directional signs on all arterials, and other measures for public buildings and public infrastructure, such as streets and parks.*
- ◆ Provide transitions between commercial and residential uses in the neighborhood.
- ◆ Provide streetscape improvements that contribute to a sense of neighborhood identity and enhanced visual quality.

Since the focus of the NRHBD is on increasing residential capacity while accommodating supportive commercial uses, rather than developing into a destination retail business district, the following guidelines do not apply to this business district.

- ◆ Sidewalk Width – Movement Zone
- ◆ Sidewalk Width – Curb Zone
- ◆ Sidewalk Width – The Storefront Activity Zone
- ◆ Pedestrian Coverings
- ◆ Pedestrian-Friendly Building Fronts
- ◆ Upper-Story Activities Overlooking the Street

In addition, the following do not apply:

- ◆ Protection and Enhancement of Wooded Slopes
- ◆ Height Measurement on Hillsides
- ◆ Views of Water
- ◆ Culverted Creeks

Purpose of the Design Guidelines for Totem Center

The Kirkland City Council adopted a new neighborhood plan for Totem Lake in early 2002. The vision set forth in the Plan for Totem Center is of a dense, compact community, with a mix of business, commercial and residential uses and a high level of transit and pedestrian activity.



- ◆ Use materials and forms that reinforce the visual coherence of the campus.
- ◆ Provide inviting and useable open space.
- ◆ Enhance the campus with landscaping.
- ◆ Guidelines for the transit center to be located on the hospital campus should be developed and incorporated with guidelines for the rest of the campus.

The following guidelines do not apply to Totem Center:

- ◆ Height Measurement on Hillsides
- ◆ Views of Water

Purpose of the Design Guidelines for Neighborhood Business Districts

The Comprehensive Plan establishes a hierarchy of commercial districts, with regional goods and services at the upper end and neighborhoods goods and services at the lower end. Kirkland's Neighborhood Business Districts (BN, BNA, and MSC 2) are important in providing neighborhood goods and services. Given the more localized draw for residents to meet their everyday needs, an emphasis on convenient and attractive pedestrian connections and vehicular access is important. In addition, because these districts are surrounded by the residential land uses they serve, the design character and context of new development is critical to ensure that it integrates into the neighborhood.

The design guidelines are intended to further the following design objectives that are stated in the Plan:

- Establish development standards that promote attractive commercial areas and reflect the distinctive role of each area.
- Encourage and develop places and events throughout the community where people can gather and interact.
- Moss Bay neighborhood: Ensure that building design is compatible with the neighborhood in size, scale and character.
- South Rose Hill neighborhood: Residential scale and design are critical to integrate these uses into the residential area.

The following guidelines do not apply to these districts:

- Protection and Enhancement of Wooded Slopes
- Height Measurement on Hillsides
- Culverted Creeks

Pedestrian-Oriented Elements

Introduction

Successful pedestrian-oriented business districts, as opposed to “commercial strips,” depend upon making pedestrian circulation more convenient and attractive than vehicular circulation, because the retail strategy for such districts is to encourage the customer to visit often and for more than one purpose at a time. The desired shopping pattern is for the customer to park in a convenient location and walk to several different businesses or attractions. The guidelines in this section focus on creating a high-quality pedestrian environment, especially along *pedestrian-oriented streets*. *Pedestrian-oriented streets* are specific streets defined for each business district.

This section also deals with building elements that detract from pedestrian qualities. One such detraction is a large expanse of blank wall, which, when adjacent or near to neighboring properties or overlooking public areas, can be intrusive and create undesirable conditions for pedestrians and neighbors. Therefore, the guidelines direct new development to treat blank walls with landscaping, building modulation, or other elements to reduce the impact of blank walls on neighboring and public properties.

The guidelines dealing with the spatial and functional integration of sidewalk areas and building elements address several issues:

- ◆ Width of sidewalk to accommodate pedestrian flow, building entrances, and other sidewalk activities.
- ◆ Pedestrian weather protection.
- ◆ “Pedestrian-friendly” building fronts.
- ◆ Other building facade elements that improve pedestrian conditions along the sidewalk.
- ◆ Mitigation of blank walls and screening of service areas.



"Pedestrian-Friendly" Building Fronts Issue

Building setbacks were originally developed to promote "pedestrian-friendly" building fronts by providing light, air, and safety. But dull building facades and building setbacks that are either too wide or too narrow can destroy a pedestrian streetscape. A successful pedestrian business district must provide interesting, pedestrian-friendly building facades and sidewalk activities.

Discussion

Building fronts should have pedestrian-friendly features transparent or decorative windows, public entrances, murals, bulletin boards, display windows, seating, or street vendors that cover at least 75 percent of the ground-level storefront surface between 2' and 6' above the sidewalk.



Sitting areas for restaurant and merchandise displays should allow at least a 10' wide pavement strip for walking. Planters can define the sitting area and regulate pedestrian flow.

Blank walls severely detract from a pedestrian streetscape. To mitigate the negative effects of blank walls:

- ◆ Recess the wall with niches that invite people to stop, sit, and lean.
- ◆ Allow street vendors.
- ◆ Install trellises with climbing vines or plan materials.
- ◆ Provide a planting bed with plant material that screens at least 50 percent of the surface.
- ◆ Provide artwork on the surface.

Guideline

All building fronts should have pedestrian-friendly features as listed above.

Special Consideration for Downtown Kirkland - Glazing

Building frontages along pedestrian-oriented streets in the Central Business District should be configured to have a 15' story height to ensure suitability for diverse retail tenants and enhance the pedestrian experience. Where these taller retail stories are required, special attention to storefront detailing is necessary to provide a visual connection between pedestrian and retail activity.

Guideline

Storefronts along pedestrian-oriented streets should be highly transparent with windows of clear vision glass beginning no higher than 2' above grade to at least 10' above grade. Windows should extend across, at a minimum, 75% of the façade length. Continuous window walls should be avoided by providing architectural building treatments, mullions, building modulation, entry doors, and/or columns at appropriate intervals.

Special Consideration For Non-Retail Lobbies In Central Business District 1A & 1B

Non-retail uses are generally not allowed along street frontage within Central Business District 1. However, in order to provide pedestrian access to office, hotel, or residential uses located off of the street frontage or above the retail, some allowance for lobbies is necessary.

Guideline

Lobbies for residential, hotel, and office uses may be allowed within the required retail storefront space provided that the street frontage of the lobby is limited relative to the property's overall retail frontage and that the storefront design of the lobby provides continuity to the retail character of the site and the overall street.

Special Consideration for Totem Center

Since pedestrians move slowly along the sidewalk, the street level of buildings must be interesting and varied. Since

Special Consideration for Neighborhood Business Districts

Issue

To create a focal point for the community and engage pedestrians, buildings are encouraged to be oriented to pedestrian-oriented streets in these zones. However, commercial space that is above or below the grade of the sidewalk can compromise the desired pedestrian orientation.

Guideline

Commercial space should generally be at grade with the adjoining sidewalk. Where this is not feasible, the building should be setback from the sidewalk far enough to allow a comfortable grade transition with generous pedestrian-oriented open space.

Taller buildings or “towers” in TL 1 should have relatively compact floor plates. The use of towers above a two-three story podium creates a varied building footprint and the perception of a smaller overall building mass. When the building’s mass is instead concentrated in lower buildings with larger floor plates, greater emphasis should be placed on open space and plazas to provide relief at the pedestrian level.

Design treatments used in the upper portion of a building can promote visual interest and variety in the Totem Center skyline. Treatments that sculpt the facades of a building, provide for variety in materials, texture, pattern or color, or provide a specific architectural rooftop element can contribute to the creation of a varied skyline.

Building Modulation – Horizontal

Issue

Horizontal building modulation is the horizontal articulation or division of larger building façades. The lower portion of a multi-story building should incorporate pedestrian-scale elements and a strong base. The top of the building should incorporate distinctive roof treatments. Elevations that are modulated with horizontal elements appear less massive than those with sheer, flat surfaces. Horizontal modulation is well suited to downtown areas and automobile-oriented streetscapes where the development of tall building masses is more likely.

Horizontal building modulation may be used to reduce the perceived mass of a building and to provide continuity at the ground level of large building complexes. Building design should incorporate strong pedestrian-oriented elements at the ground level and distinctive roof treatments.

Discussion

A lively urban character uses a variety of architectural forms and materials that together create an integrated pattern of development with recurring architectural features. Horizontal awnings, balconies, and roof features should be incorporated into new development provided that their appearance varies through the use of color, materials, size, and location.

Special Consideration for Neighborhood Business Districts

Issue

Because these districts are typically integrated into residential areas, the design should reflect the scale of neighborhood by avoiding long facades without visual relief.

Guideline

Facades over 120 feet in length should incorporate vertical definition including substantial modulation of the exterior wall carried through all floors above the ground floor combined with changes in color and material.

brick panning, and window details.

Guideline

Horizontal building modulation may be used to reduce the perceived mass of a building and to provide continuity at the ground level of large building complexes.

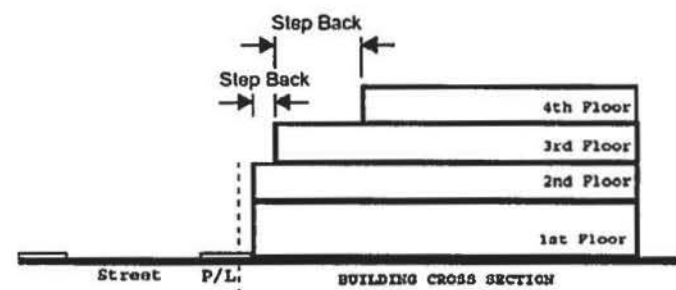
Special Consideration for Downtown Kirkland

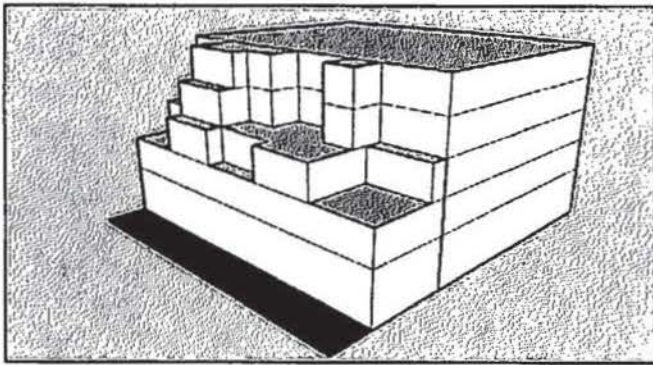
Large-scale developments, particularly east of the core area, should stress continuity in streetscape on the lower two floors. Setback facades and varied forms should be used above the second stories.

Special Consideration for Building Massing in Central Business District 1 (CBD 1A & 1B) - Upper Story Step Backs

Issue

Taller buildings can negatively affect human scale at the street level and should be mitigated. Upper story step backs provide a way to reduce building massing for larger structures. An upper story building step back is the horizontal distance between a building façade and the building façade of the floor below.





Varied step back approach

- ◆ Decks and/or balconies should be designed so that they do not significantly increase the apparent mass of the building within the required upper story setback area.
- ◆ In addition to applying setbacks to upper stories, building facades should be well modulated to avoid blank walls and provide architectural interest.
- ◆ Along pedestrian oriented streets, upper story building facades should be stepped back to provide enough space for decks, balconies and other activities overlooking the street
- ◆ Landscaping on upper story terraces should be included where appropriate to soften building forms and provide visual interest.
- ◆ Continuous two or three story street walls should be avoided by incorporating vertical and horizontal modulations into the building form.
- ◆ Limited areas of vertical three, four, or five story walls can be used to create vertical punctuation at key facades. Special attention to maintain an activated streetscape is important in these areas.
- ◆ For properties on Park Lane which front multiple streets and upper story setbacks are proposed to be averaged, concentration of upper story building mass along Park Lane should be avoided.

Guideline - Open Space at Street Level

Reductions to required upper story setbacks may be appropriate where an equal amount of beneficial public open space is created at the street level consistent with the following principles:

- ◆ Public open space should be open to the sky except where overhead weather protection is provided (e.g. canopies and awnings).
- ◆ The space should appear and function as public space rather than private space.

- ◆ Public open space should be activated with adjacent shops, outdoor dining, art, water features, and/or landscaping while still allowing enough room for pedestrian flow.
- ◆ A combination of lighting, paving, landscaping and seating should be utilized to enhance the pedestrian experience within the public open space.
- ◆ Where substantial open space "trade-offs" are proposed, site context should be the primary factor in the placement of the public open space (e.g. important corners, solar access.)

Guideline - Building Cantilevering Over Sidewalks

Buildings may be allowed to cantilever over sidewalks if a sidewalk dedication and/or easement is required consistent with following guidelines:

- ◆ The total length of cantilevered portions of a building should be no more than 1/3rd of the entire length of the building façade. The cantilevered portions of a building should be spread out and not consolidated in a single area on the building façade.
- ◆ Unobstructed pedestrian flow should be maintained through the subject property to adjoining sidewalks.
- ◆ Space under the building cantilever should appear and function as part of the public realm.
- ◆ The sense of enclosure is minimized.

Special Considerations for Neighborhood Business Districts

Issue

Where buildings are close to the street in these neighborhood areas, vertical building massing can negatively affect human scale at the street level. Upper story step backs provide a way to reduce building massing. An upper story building step back is the horizontal distance between a building façade and the building façade of the floor below.

Guideline

Above the ground floor, buildings should utilize upper story step backs to create receding building forms as building height increases. Rather than a rigid stair step approach, varied step back depths and heights should be used to create well modulated facades and usable decks and balconies overlooking the street.

Issue

Within the South Rose Hill Neighborhood Plan, additional mitigation of scale impacts is called for.

Guideline

Building height, bulk, modulation, and roofline design should reflect the scale and character of adjoining single-family development.