



CITY OF FORT PIERCE

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

REBECCA GROHALL, AICP, PLANNING MANAGER
COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING ◊ DEVELOPMENT REVIEW
HISTORIC PRESERVATION ◊ URBAN DESIGN ◊ URBAN FORESTRY ◊ ZONING

TO: Robert J. Bradshaw, City Manager
THROUGH: Rebecca Grohall, AICP, Planning Manager
FROM: Kori Benton, Historic Preservation Officer
SUBJECT: Application for Site Plan & Conditional Use
Artistry In Mosaics Expansion
890 S US Highway 1
DATE: July 10th, 2015

STAFF REPORT

Owner: Mosaics Of America Inc
901 S 3rd Street
Fort Pierce, FL 34950-5159

Applicant: Andrew Hochstetter
Artistry In Mosaics
901 S 3rd Street
Fort Pierce, FL 34950-5159

Representative: John Foster, AIA
11205 Ridge Ave
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

Requested Action: Approval of a Site Plan and Conditional Use

Location: Generally located at 890 S US Highway 1, the east side of South US Highway 1, between Georgia Avenue and Hayes Road

Parcel IDs: 2415-601-0083-000-0 & 2415-601-0072-000-0

Current Zoning: C-3, General Commercial

Future Land Use: General Commercial (GC)

Surrounding Zoning:

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|----------|------|
| C-3 | C-3 | C-3/OS-2 | OS-2 |

Site Size: 2.23 acres

Utilities: Located within the FPUA Retail Service Area

Staff Analysis:

In accordance with Sections 22-31, 22-58, and 22-76 of the City Code, the applicant is requesting the review and approval of a Site Plan and Conditional Use to construct a new showroom, warehouse, and business offices to expand their existing business in the City of Fort Pierce. The applicant, Artistry in Mosaics, Inc., is a local manufacturer of custom ceramic and glass mosaics, presently located within a 12,800 square foot industrial building located at 901 South 3rd Street.

The proposed Site Plan includes a 14,500 S.F. facility to feature a retail showroom, support offices, and warehouse space, in addition to parking, lighting, landscaping, storm water, and pedestrian improvements to expand existing operations from the adjoining site at 901 S 3rd Street. The Conditional Use request is specific to the integration of warehouse space within the development, to serve as support facilities for the expanded retail and business operations. The applications are coupled with requests to abandon a twenty (20) foot wide alley located between the two parcels, running South to Hayes Street, and a request to acquire a portion of City owned property (.18 acres) along South 3rd Street. The combined site area is approximately 2.41 acres.

The presented architectural design is reflective of a mid-century modern theme, integrated with a variation of design cues represented in local examples of offices and commercial buildings. The exterior walls will feature white stucco over CBS or metal frame, with modern fenestration and lines to complement the primary facades. The roof is presented with a low-slope design, not visible from ground level, to remain consistent with the overall design theme and improved energy efficiency. The array exterior features and construction materials incorporated in the design are designated by the applicant for improved durability and low maintenance requirements. Artistry also plans to provide a public display of their mosaic work on one of the "monolith" architectural design features.

The landscape plan accents the development, meeting all requirements of City Code Section 22-187, in addition to other distinct on-site and off-site enhancements. The plan encompasses 55 new trees, predominantly palm species, and over 600 linear ft. of shrubs to screen and buffer the site. Most notably, the plan provides a heavy concentration of trees and plantings along the southern property line to augment the main building entrance and neighboring Police Memorial Park. Furthermore, the landscape plan blends the required stormwater facilities, for the additional impervious area, into a rain garden/retention area feature located on the southeast corner of the site. This area will be planted with native and naturalized species, which require minimal maintenance, and can thrive in both dry and inundated conditions.

Vehicular access to the site is proposed via full-access two-way driveways located on South US Highway 1, and South 3rd Street. The South 3rd Street entrance is intended to primary serve as access for delivery vehicles. The remnants of the alleyway pavement will be reconstructed per City standards to facilitate cross access between the proposed drive aisles, and parking areas proposed. Additional parking demands for the new facility, including the future expansion, are accommodated via eighteen (18) additional parking spaces (one of which is handicapped-accessible), to couple the existing thirty-four (34) spaces. A bicycle rack is proposed towards the north east corner of the existing structure, however pursuant to City Code Section 22-60(f)(1)c., the bicycle rack should be located, or an additional rack should be installed, within fifty (50) feet of the main entrance to the new structure. Staff is encouraging the integration of this addition with the intended bicycle "fix-it" station to be featured at the site, or in the adjacent park.

The plan further incorporates the reconstruction of the sidewalk along US Highway 1, eliminating the obsolete driveway aprons still in place from previous development. Sidewalk connections plan to integrate the proposed structure to the reestablished pedestrian pathways along US Highway 1, and the existing park to the south. A five (5) foot easement is presented for the existing sidewalk along South 3rd Street, in addition to a small extension to connect the expanded boundaries enriched by the construction of a six (6) ft. tall concrete block wall, accented with columns. This wall will further diminish impacts to the properties abutting the site.

Site lighting will be provided for the parking area and the perimeter of the proposed structure in accordance with City Code requirements, as presented in the lighting plan.

The traffic impact statement provided by the applicant determined that a total of 81 additional daily trips would be generated by the project. Of these trips, 14 peak hour trips will be dispersed onto the surrounding roadway network. All of the surrounding roadway segments are expected to operate at their current adopted level of service (LOS) with the additional trips. It is noted however, that the level of service for segments of US Highway 1, Orange Avenue, Delaware Avenue, and Georgia Avenue, within a one (1) mile radius of this site, operate at an LOS of C and D.

The proposed access points for the site, specifically the means of ingress for truck deliveries, have been strategically configured to minimize impacts to adjacent roadways; however, staff notes concerns regarding the continued functionality and safety of the lighted intersection of Georgia Avenue and US Highway 1. The absence of a turn lane, or wide turn radius onto the east side of Georgia Avenue, intermittently causes traffic congestion from delivery trucks, mainly headed to the FEC rail yard, queuing in the north bound lane waiting to turn. Staff is encouraging the long range consideration of future improvements to this intersection. It is noted that a cost estimate for the noted improvements has not been generated at this time, as it would encompass the acquisition of additional right-of-way and endorsement by FDOT.

Technical Review Committee

All affected departments have reviewed and approved the Site Plan and Conditional Use based on compliance with the requirements of the City Code.

Planning Board Recommendation:

The Planning Board, at their February 10, 2015 meeting, voted unanimously to recommend approval of the requested Site Plan and Conditional Use with the conditions recommended by Staff.

Property Owner Response Summary:

A total of 34 notifications of the proposed Conditional Use and Site Plan were mailed to the owners of property located within 500 feet of the subject property. As of July 10, 2015, 3 responses have been received, all of which supported the request.

Staff Recommendation:

The proposed Site Plan and Conditional Use meets the requirements of the City Code and is found to be consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan; therefore Staff recommends that the City Commission approve the project with the following conditions:

- 1.) The applicant installs an additional bicycle rack within fifty (50) feet of the main entrance to the new structure, pursuant to City Code Section 22-60(f)(1)c.;
- 2.) The applicant shall record a shared access agreement, between the two facilities, and benefitting the abutting properties to the northwest, prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy;
- 3.) The request for an alleyway abandonment contained within proposed Ordinance 15-008 is approved prior to issuance of building permit, as the development plan encompasses the subject property; and
- 4.) The applicant successfully acquires the portion of city owned property (.18 acres), contained within proposed Resolution 15-R13, prior to issuance of building permit as the development plan encompasses the subject property;