TO: City Planning Commission, Committee of the Whole<br>FROM: Hilary Dvorak, Principal Planner, (6/2) 673-2639<br>February I2, 2015<br>SUBJECT: Washington \& Chicago Mixed Use Development


#### Abstract

The applicant is proposing to redevelop the block located between Washington Avenue North, Chicago Avenue South, 3rd Street South and Park Avenue South. There are four buildings on the block; three of them will remain while one will be demolished as part of the development. The former Grainger Industrial Supply building, located at 724 3rd Street South, will be demolished. The remaining three buildings, Old Spaghetti Factory and both halves of Advance Thresher/Emerson-Newton Company, will remain on the site. Minor changes will be made to the Old Spaghetti Factory building. The Old Spaghetti Factory restaurant will remain and the remainder of the building will be used for offices. The Advance Thresher/Emerson-Newton Company buildings will be rehabbed and repurposed for a hotel and office uses.


On the remainder of the block the applicant is proposing to construct a seven-story, 185,000 square foot mixed-use building. There would be a grocery store located on the corner of Washington Avenue South and Chicago Avenue South and a smaller commercial space located along Washington Avenue South. In addition, there would be residential amenities along Chicago Avenue South and Third Street South. On the upper levels of the building there would be I8I dwelling units and additional amenity space for the residential portion of the development. In addition, there would be two levels of underground parking that would be dedicated for the residential, hotel, office and restaurant uses on the block. In total, there are 275 parking spaces located underground. There would also be 80 grade-level parking spaces that would be dedicated to the grocery store in the new building. These 80 parking spaces would be made available to other uses on the block outside of the business hours for the grocery store.

At this time the applicant is seeking approvals for only the new development on the site; not the rehabilitation of the existing buildings. The Advance Thresher/Emerson-Newton Company building is a locally designated historic landmark and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Depending on the modifications to this building, a review by the Heritage Preservation Commission may be required.

## LAND USE

The site is zoned B4N Downtown Neighborhood District and is located in the DP Downtown Parking Overlay District. In the B4N zoning district there is no maximum floor area ratio but there is a IO-story height limitation. The overall height of the new building will be seven stories or 85 feet.

In the B4N zoning district there is no minimum parking requirement for any use; however, there are maximum parking requirements. The maximum parking requirement for the grocery store (59) is being exceeded by 21 spaces.

The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth identifies the site as mixed use on the future land use map. Chicago Avenue is designated as a Commercial Corridor and the northern portion of the site is located in the Mill District Activity Center. The site is also located within the boundaries of the Downtown East/North Loop Master Plan and the Update to the Historic Mills District Master Plan. Both of the plans call for mixed-use development on the site.

## CPC APPLICATIONS

The following land use applications have been identified at this time:

- Conditional use permit for a surface parking lot located in the DP Downtown Parking Overlay District.
- Variance to increase the number of surface parking spaces from 20 to 40.
- Variance of the maximum parking requirement for a grocery store from 59 to 80.
- Variance to reduce the interior side yard setback from 15 feet to 10 feet for residential windows facing the property line.
- Variance to reduce the interior side yard setback and rear yard setback from 15 feet to 0 feet for hotel windows facing the property line.
- Variance of the minimum loading requirement for the hotel from 2 large spaces to 0 spaces and from I small space to 0 spaces for the residential portion of the development.
- Variance to increase the height of a fence located within five feet of a public sidewalk from the maximum of 6 feet to 12 feet.
- Site plan review.
- Replat.


## WASHINGTON AND CHICAGO MIXED USE



## WASHINGTON AND CHICAGO




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WASHINGTON \& CHICAGO MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT


## Project Purpose and Vision

The purpose of the project is to replace a surface parking lot and a vacant industrial building (formerly home to Grainger Industrial Supply) with a highdensity residential development with a significant street level retail component The resulting development will satisfy a key goal of the Mill District master plan by providing continuous, pedestrian-friendly urban fabric along Chicago Avenue from the Mississippi River to the Downtown East development, Multipurpose
Stadium and Downtown East LRT station. The result will be a vibrant, pedestrianfriendly development that will not only serve Mill District residents with the introduction of a $14,000 \mathrm{sf}$ national grocer, but will also draw retail customers from throughout other downtown and University neighborhoods. A two-story underground parking facility will serve the new residential development as well as the existing buildings on the block. The two-building Thresher Square office complex (currently $70 \%$ vacant) will be renovated into a hotel and office space as part of a separate scope of work.

Architectural and Urban Design Vision
The three significant existing buildings on the block to remain (Old Spaghetti Factory, and the two-building Thresher Square) are attractive and well-maintained factory, and the two-building Thresher Square) are attractive and well-main along 3rd St, Park Ave and Washington Ave. The new construction will respect the existing buildings and fill out the block's urban fabric by adhering to the following urban design principles:

Reinforce the existing street wall
Simple, rectilinear massing
Simple, durable material palette of brick and glass at the street level and stamped metal shingles above
Regularly distributed windows and openings
Active street level uses

## Sustainable Features

The primary sustainable feature of the project is its high density and close proximity to transit and urban amenities. Proximity to downtown's 165,000 jobs, the skyway system and transit is what allows the project to provide resident parking at a much lower ratio than most recent market rate housing developments (+/- 0.7 stalls/dwelling unit). In addition to the inherent sustainability of the site, the project will feature several energy efficient features:

Continuous exterior insulation
90\% efficient furnaces
Dedicated chute for comingled recyclables
LED lighting in parking levels and common areas
Participation in Xcel Energy's Design Assistance Program will further incentivize energy-reduction measures





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WASHINGTON \& CHICAGO MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT


SCREEN WALL ON 3RD ST BETWEEN THRESHER SQUARE AND PROPOSED NEW BUILDING




Zoning Analysis: 713 Washington Ave s \& 724 3rd St S

| Lot Size (713 Washington Ave S) | 28,661 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Lot Size (724 3rd St S) | 14,123 |
| Lot Size (Total) | 42,784 |
| Proposed GFA | 184,859 |
| Proposed FAR | 4.32 |
| Zoning District | B4N |
| Overlay District | Downtown Parking |
| Max FAR | none |
| Min FAR | 2.0 |
| Dwelling Units | 181 |
| Max Height | 10 stories, 140 <br> (increase allowed <br> with Conditional Use <br> Permit) |
|  | $855^{\prime}-0 "$ |
| Proposed height |  |



