

Sec. 5-58. Site plan approval for construction or modification of municipal buildings and facilities.

It shall be the policy of the city to apply similar standards of planning and control of density and environmental impact, when the city's public buildings and facilities are constructed or modified, as the city applies under chapter 30, Zoning, of the Revised Ordinances when petitions for changes in land use are initiated by its citizens or property owners. In implementing this policy for land in the public use district or otherwise classified city land, the prior establishment of a zoning classification or district (in accordance with section 30-4 of these Revised Ordinances) shall not be required.

(a) Whenever construction or modification of a municipal building or facility is undertaken which involves new construction or substantial change in usage, and which involves a change in: vehicular access; off-street parking requirements; site grading; drainage; landscape features; or service areas, the following procedures shall apply:

(1) The executive department shall include in the architect's contract the requirement for preparation and submission of site plans suitable for review and approval in accordance with the procedure outlined in section 30-23 of these Revised Ordinances.

(2) The department of planning and development shall maintain cognizance over the development of specifications, conceptual designs and site plans to determine the consistency and compatibility of such designs and plans with the city's comprehensive plan and other pertinent planning and analytical studies. The director of planning and development shall make written notification of this finding to the mayor, to the clerk of the board of aldermen, to the design review committee, and (in the case of school buildings) to the secretary of the school committee.

(3) The design review committee shall consider the project plans, designs, and specifications not only in terms of the details of layout and construction of the building or facility, but also in terms of the site and its surrounding area. Consultations shall be made with such city departments and **neighborhood groups** as are considered necessary and appropriate.

(4) Upon its approval of the initial design concept and prior to recommending that the project proceed to the detailed design phase and to the preparation of construction drawings, the design review committee shall file with the clerk of the board of aldermen its approved site plan including building floor plans and architectural schematics, along with a formal petition for site plan approval in accordance with the procedure outlined in section 30-23 of these Revised Ordinances. The design review committee shall not be required to pay a filing fee for purposes of this section.

(5) At the earliest opportunity, the board of aldermen shall for the purposes of this section assign that petition for public hearing before its committee dealing with matters of public buildings and this committee shall hold a public hearing. Due notice of such public hearing shall be given to the abutters of the proposed building or facility and to the abutters of such abutters. The committee shall deliberate and negotiate such changes to the site plan and affix such restrictions and conditions as are in the public interest, and it shall make its report to the board of aldermen within forty-five (45) days following the public hearing.

(6) The site plan, including building floor plans and architectural schematics, as formally approved by the board of aldermen and the mayor (and in the case of school buildings, by the

school committee) shall become part of the final set of project plans and construction drawings, and they shall not be changed or altered in any manner without first being resubmitted to the design review committee and to the board of aldermen in accordance with steps (3), (4) and (5) above. The board of aldermen may waive a public hearing on a previously approved site plan if in its judgment the changes proposed are not of sufficient scope as to warrant a public hearing.

(b) The board of aldermen shall not approve an appropriation of any funds for preparation of detailed construction drawings for a project applicable under this section until the requirements of (a)(1) through (a)(6) above have been satisfied.

(c) The executive department shall not formally submit a project applicable under this section to competitive construction bid unless the requirements of (a)(1) through (a)(6) have been satisfied.

(d) The requirements of this section that are not otherwise required by law or by the charter may be waived in whole or in part by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members of the board of aldermen present and voting. (Rev. Ords. 1973, § 2-365; Ord. No. 8, 8-12-74; Ord. No. 102, § 4, 12-15-75; Ord. No. V-195, 9-22-98)