



CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

March 28, 2007 / Calendar No. 25

C 070215 PCQ

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the Department of Cultural Affairs and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter for the site selection and acquisition of property located at 33-00 Northern Boulevard (Block 214, p/o Lot 210), for use as warehouse space, in the Borough of Queens, Community District 1.

The application for the acquisition of property located at 33-00 Northern Boulevard (Block 214, p/o Lot 210) adjacent to Sunnyside Yards in the Astoria section of Queens was filed by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services on November 20, 2006, for use as warehouse space.

BACKGROUND

The NYC Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) proposes the site selection and acquisition to facilitate the expansion of an existing DCA facility which provides materials for reuse in nonprofit arts organizations, public schools and other community service organizations that have arts programs in New York City. The facility, which houses a DCA program called “Materials for the Arts” currently occupies part of the third floor in an 8-story mixed use building on Northern Boulevard at the intersection of Honeywell Street and 33rd Streets in an M1-5 zoning district. The rest of the block is developed with warehouse, light industrial and commercial/office use.

Since 2001, Materials for the Arts has occupied approximately 25,000 square feet of warehouse space and plans to lease an additional 10,360 square feet in open plan shopping space, and an additional 1,000 square feet in classroom space for educational programs and workshops. Expanding the space will address the current inventory,

collection and programmatic space limitations, and enable the processing and dispersal of an added 200,000 pounds of material annually.

Mass transit to the E, N, R, V and W trains are within walking distance of the facility. The adjacent districts are zoned for light manufacturing (M1-5) and residential (R5) and developed with a mix of uses.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This application (C 070215 PCQ) was reviewed pursuant to the New York State Environmental Review Act (SEQRA) and the SEQRA regulations set forth in Volume 6 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations, Section 617.00 et seq., and the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Rules of Procedures of 1991 and Executive Order No. 91 of 1977. The lead agency is the Department of Cultural Affairs.

This application was determined to be a Type II action, which requires no further environmental review.

UNIFORM LAND USE REVIEW

The application (C 070215 PCQ) was certified as complete by the Department of City Planning on December 18, 29006 and was duly referred to Community Board 1 and the Borough President in accordance with Article 3 of the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) rules.

Community Board Public Hearing

Community Board 1 held a public hearing on this application on January 16, 2007, and on that date, by a vote of 32 to 0 with one abstention, adopted a resolution recommending approval of the application.

Borough President Recommendation

This application was considered by the Borough President, who issued a recommendation

approving the application on February 13, 2007.

City Planning Commission Public Hearing

On February 7 (Calendar No. 10), the City Planning Commission scheduled February 28, 2007 for a public hearing on this application (C 070215 PCQ). The hearing was duly held on February 28, 2007, (Calendar No. 20). A representative from DCA was present to answer questions. There were no other speakers and the hearing was closed.

CONSIDERATION

The Commission believes that this application for site selection and acquisition of property located at 33-00 Northern Boulevard (Block 214, p/o Lot 210), for use as warehouse space is appropriate.

The site is located in an industrial area on Northern Boulevard in Long Island City and the modest acquisition of additional warehouse space will allow for the continued operation and expansion of the Material for the Arts program. This program is the only one of its kind in New York City. The use is also compatible with other institutional, commercial and light industrial land uses in the immediate area.

The project was not included in the Citywide Statement of Needs. However, a letter pursuant to Section 204-g of the New York City Charter was sent to the Borough President of Queens.

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that the City Planning Commission finds that the action described herein will have no significant impact on the environment; and be it further

RESOLVED, by the City Planning Commission pursuant to Sections 197-c and 200 of the New York City Charter, that based on the environmental determination and the

consideration described in this report, the application (C 070215 PCQ) submitted by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter for the site selection and acquisition of property located at 33-00 Northern Boulevard (Block 214, p/o Lot 210), for use as warehouse space, Borough of Queens, Community District 1, is approved.

The above resolution (C 070215 PCQ) was duly adopted by the City Planning Commission on March 28, 2007 (Calendar No. 25), is filed with the Office of the Speaker, City Council, and the Borough President in accordance with the requirements of Section 197-d of the New York City Charter.

AMANDA M. BURDEN, AICP, Chair
KENNETH J. KNUCKLES, Esq., Vice Chairman
ANGELA M. BATTAGLIA, IRWIN CANTOR, P.E.,
ANGELA R. CAVALUZZI, R.A., ALFRED C. CERULLO, III,
RICHARD W. EADDY, LISA A. GOMEZ, JOHN MEROLO,
KAREN A. PHILIPS, DOLLY WILLIAMS, Commissioners

BETTY Y.CHEN, NATHAN LEVENTHAL, Commissioners abstaining