# Architectural Review Board Staff Report 

Project Type: Site Development Section Plan<br>Meeting Date: $\quad$ February 13, 2014<br>From: Purvi Patel<br>Project Planner<br>CC: Aimee Nassif, Planning \& Development Services Director<br>Location: North of Chesterfield Parkway East, south of Interstate 64/US Highway 40 (SE Quadrant)<br>Applicant: Mercy Health Systems<br>Description: Mercy Health Systems (Virtual Care Center): A Site Development Section Plan, Landscape Plan, Lighting Plan, Architectural Elevations and an Architect's Statement of Design for a 43.35 acre tract of land zoned "UC" Urban Core District located north of Chesterfield Parkway East, south of Interstate 64/US Highway 40 (SE Quadrant).

## PROPOSAL SUMMARY

The request is for a four story, 124,000 square foot Virtual Care Center located in the southeast quadrant of Chesterfield Village, east of Elbridge Payne Road. The subject site is zoned "UC" Urban Core District and is governed under the terms and conditions of City of Chesterfield Ordinance Number 2749. The exterior building materials will be comprised of glass (high performance glazing), precast concrete, stone, brick, wood, steel and copper. The proposed building elevations, which include floor to ceiling glass, are articulated by setbacks, projections, balconies and a roof-top terrace.

## HISTORY OF SUBJECT SITE

There have been several smaller planned developments over the years for this 43.35 acre tract of land; however, none of the plans reached the construction phase and the site remains undeveloped. At the request of Mercy Health Systems, who submitted a request for a zoning map amendment, the City of Chesterfield approved Ordinance 2721 in September of 2012. This ordinance approved the change of zoning for an area covered by a "C-8" Planned Commercial District and two "PC" Planned Commercial Districts to an "UC" Urban Core District for a 40.040 acre area of land. Furthermore, in 2013 Mercy Health Systems submitted a request for an ordinance amendment to the "UC" Urban Core District to include two additional parcels of land zoned "C-8" Planned Commercial District. This request was approved by the City of Chesterfield by Ordinance 2749, which is the current ordinance governing this site. The aerial below, Figure 1, depicts the area governed by this ordinance.


Figure 1
A Site Development Concept Plan was approved for the original 40 acres covered under the "UC" Urban Core District in 2012. However, an Amended Site Development Concept Plan is currently under review with Staff. The applicant is amending the approved Concept Plan to include the two additional parcels added to the development by the approval of Ordinance 2749.

## STAFF ANALYSIS

The proposal for the development of the Virtual Care Center, also known as Phase One of the Mercy development, substantially complies with the approved Preliminary Development Plan on file (see Preliminary Development Plan on following page).


## General Requirements for Site Design:

## A. Site Relationships

The Virtual Care Center site sits across from the Drury Plaza and Hyatt Place Hotels at the southwest corner of Interstate 64/US Highway 40 and Clarkson Road. While vehicular traffic to the site will be provided from Elbridge Payne Road and Clarkson Road, the site has direct visibility from Interstate 64/US Highway 40. The parcel to the west of the proposed Virtual Care Center is an office building, which is slated to be torn down and rebuilt as future phases of the Mercy development are approved.

## B. Circulation System and Access

There are two proposed access points to the Virtual Care Center: an improved entrance off Clarkson Road and a second entry from Chesterfield Parkway East/Elbridge Payne Road. Future improvements planned for this site include a ring road around the development with two direct access points to South Outer Forty Road and an additional access off of Chesterfield Parkway East. A landscaped drop-off area is proposed off of the easternmost entrance to the site in order to provide a clear arrival point for visitors to the building. The employee and service entrance is located near the northwestern portion of the site off of Elbridge Payne Road.

The proposal includes extending the existing sidewalk on Elbridge Payne Road all along the frontage of the site. This sidewalk will ultimately be tied into future sidewalks along the proposed ring road around the development. Additional sidewalks within the development will provide direct access from the parking areas to both the north and south entrances into the building. Furthermore, the beginnings of the future campus-wide path accessible system will be installed.

## C. Topography

The design attempts to integrate the existing landscape into the proposal to minimize the development impacts. The design incorporates the existing twenty-three (23) feet of elevation change by locating the building just below the level of the Outer Road to take advantage of the visibility from both Clarkson Road and Interstate 64/US Highway 40 and to minimize the cutting of the existing grade. Additionally, the parking was laid out to reduce grading along the wood perimeters of the site.

## D. Retaining Walls

The proposal includes a terrace retaining wall along the southern and eastern elevations to reduce the fill extents at the existing tree line as the building is designed to allow users "to be in the tree canopy and elevated within the preserved woodlands to the northeast, southwest and southern elevations" . ${ }^{1}$ The varying height terrace wall will include an architectural concrete finish and aluminum frame cable guardrail where necessary. Furthermore, modular walls are proposed in the parking lot as well as site perimeters to preserve wood areas. The applicant chose modular walls for these areas due to their flexibility of alignment and design aesthetic.

## General Requirements for Building Design:

## A. Scale

The Applicant is proposing a four story building of approximately seventy (70) feet in height. The proposed height is harmonious with the wide ranging building heights in the surrounding area. The applicant is proposing human scaled spaces at all levels of the building, as noted in the Architect's Statement of Design. Additionally, the proposed building elevations, which include floor to ceiling glass, are articulated by setbacks, projections, balconies and a roof-top terrace. Balconies on the second and third floors provide a direct connection between the exterior and interior spaces and roof-top terrace on the fourth floor includes a roof overhang with an integrated trellis covering.

## B. Design

The building is designed to link the interior and exterior spaces through the use of materials and formal elements. The proposal includes facades with strong horizontal lines and floor-to-ceiling glass to optimize the day lighting and engage the natural setting. Undulations in the glass wall create entries at the ground level and balconies on the floors above. And as discussed above, the top floor includes a roof-top terrace created by shifting the enclosure from the building edge. Stone walls are proposed on the first floor to ground the building while columns lift the upper floors to float above the site; furthermore, a protected pedestrian experience is provided by adding recesses at this level to create cantilevers. The building is centered by the glazed, vertical atrium on the north elevation, which marks both the main entrance and a vertical connection to the four story building.

## C. Materials and Color

As mentioned earlier, the building materials will be primarily comprised of glass (high performance glazing), precast concrete, stone, brick, wood, steel, and copper. These materials are proposed to provide a highly sustainable project while still providing expansive views, natural light exposure and integrating materials consistent with the natural woodlands setting. The applicant is proposing sandstone textured precast panels in two warm tones for the floor slabs which not only create the horizontal element in the design but also serve to shade the glass (especially on the South elevation). The design also includes vertical precast panels on the West elevation to increase shading and enliven the facade. At the lower level, stone masonry walls ground the building with brick pillars and columns in

[^0]similar colors to provide additional texture and definition. The proposed vertical glass atrium will be enhanced with wood cladding on the inner surface and copper panels on the exterior face. Additionally, the deck surface of the balconies and fourth floor terrace will be comprised of wood. The roof overhang on the terrace will be covered by painted steel trellis framed in precast panels.

## D. Landscape Design and Screening

The proposed building location takes advantage of the existing woodlands on the site, most of which will be preserved in this phase of the development. Furthermore, the entrance plaza is not only designed to take advantage of the existing woodlands, but with additional plantings is designed to soften the primary arrival point for visitors to the site. Supplementary landscaping is proposed in various locations, such as the parking fields and bio-retention areas, to enhance the overall experience of the site and to create separation from the building where necessary.

As discussed above, stone masonry walls are proposed on the first floor to ground the building. However, these walls will serve as the screening for the mechanical units, as well as the service areas on the western end of the building.

## E. Signage

Signage is not part of the proposal before the Architectural Review Board and will be reviewed by Staff.

## F. Lighting

Site lighting is proposed for walkways and parking fields to assure security and safe travel while on the site and not contribute to light pollution. The applicant is proposing light column bollards along the walkways and LED area lights for the parking fields. Additional can building lighting is proposed to accentuate building features such as the vertical atrium, cantilevers, and terraces.

## DEPARTMENTAL INPUT

Staff has reviewed the Site Development Section Plan, Landscape Plan, Lighting Plan, Architectural Elevations and Architect's Statement of Design. Be advised, this project is still going through development review by City Staff and will not proceed to the Planning Commission until all outstanding items have been addressed. All recommendations made by the ARB will be included in Staff's report to the Planning Commission.

Staff requests action on the Site Development Section Plan, Landscape Plan, Lighting Plan, Architectural Elevations and Architect's Statement of Design for Mercy Health Systems (Virtual Care Center).

## MOTION

The following options are provided to the Architectural Review Board for consideration relative to this application:

1) "I move to forward the Site Development Section Plan, Landscape Plan, Lighting Plan, Architectural Elevations and Architect's Statement of Design for Mercy Health Systems (Virtual Care Center) as presented, with a recommendation for approval (or denial) to the Planning Commission."
2) "I move to forward the Site Development Section Plan, Landscape Plan, Lighting Plan, Architectural Elevations and Architect's Statement of Design for Mercy Health Systems (Virtual Care Center), to the Planning Commission with the following recommendations..."

Attachments

1. Architectural Review Packet Submittal

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
 Project Statistics and Checklist

Date of First Comment Letter Received from the City of Chesterfield
12/20/2013
Project Title: Mercy Health System (Virtual Care Center)_ Location:
Southeast Corner of the I-64 \&
Clarkson Road Intersection

PROJECT STATISTICS:
Size of site (in acres): ${ }^{43.35 \text { Acres }}$
Total Square Footage: $\qquad$ Building Height: $70^{\prime}$

Proposed Usage: ${ }^{\text {Virtual Care Center }}$
Exterior Building Materials: High-Performance Glazing, Precast, Stone, Brick, Wood, Steel \& Copper
Roof Material \& Design: Single ply membrane roof
Screening Material \& Design: Stone veneer at first floor as indicated on building elevations.
Description of art or architecturally significant features (if any): 15' Cantilevers, Entry and Circulation Lantern, $^{\text {, }}$
Undulating Glazing with Integrated Balconies, Horizontal Fins and Upper Level Terrace

## ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFORMATION:

Checklist: Items to be provided in an 11" x 17" format
Color Site Plan with contours, site location map, and identification of adjacent uses.
Color elevations for all building faces.
Color rendering or model reflecting proposed topography.
Photos reflecting all views of adjacent uses and sites.
Details of screening, retaining walls, etc.
Section plans highlighting any building off-sets, etc. (as applicable)
Architect's Statement of Design which clearly identifies how each section in the Standards has been addressed and the intent of the project.
Landscape Plan.
Lighting cut sheets for any proposed building lighting fixtures. (as applicable)
Large exterior material samples. (to be brought to the ARB meeting)
Any other exhibits which would aid understanding of the design proposal. (as applicable)
Pdf files of each document required.

Architectural Design Statement
Forum Studio
Designed by Forum Studio, the Mercy Virtual Care Center will be an interactive and collaborative work place that will accommodate the needs of a forward thinking healthcare provider for its most innovative programs. Set in a natural setting in Chesterfield, MO, the building will integrate sensitively into the lush woodland landscape of the site. The single, four story building will accommodate two floors of flexible work space devoted to virtual care, a pioneering demonstration lab linked to executive office space, and grounded by active amenities such as a cafe, gym, and conference faciities on the first floor. These programs, along with their support spacs, total 124,000 square feet of bure for its future sustainable development

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SITE DESIGN

Site Relationships: The project is set on a portion of the 43.35 acre site across from Chesterfield Mall, Drury Plaza and Hyatt Place Hotels at the southeast corner of I-64 \& Clarkson Road. The building is placed such that it is visible as an icon from I-64 \& Clarkson but still is nestled within the wooded areas of the site. This site was selected for development not only for the direct access and visibility from one of the busiest intersections in the St Louis area but also for the natural features including an existing water body and mature woodlands. Thus careful consideration was given to place the building within the surrounding natural environment.

- Circulation System and Access: The site is initially accessed by an improved entrance off Clarkson and a second entry from Chesterfield Parkway. Future improvements planned for this development include by two entrances off of the improved South Outrrorty Road. The easternmost entrance off of the Outer Road will become the main entrance and leads to the building drop-off employee and service vehicle entrance is located at the northwestern portion of the site off of the Outer Road / Elbridge Payne Rd. Pedestrian circulation and access is provided via a sidewalk from the Outer Road sidewalk as well as sidewalks providing direct access from parking areas to both the north and south entrances into the building. Additionally the beginnings of the campus wide path accessible system would be installed. These soft surface paths would allow the user to engage the natural surroundings.
Topography: The building was sited such that it is relatively level or just below the level of the Outer Road providing for visibility from I-64 and Clarkson Road. The finish floor elevation of the building was selected at an elevation which allowed for little cutting of existing grade along the northeast and southern portions of the site. The site has an overall elevation change of 7 ' from the Outer Road to the building and $16^{\prime}$ 'from the southwestern corner of the parking to the building. Parking was laid out such that minmal grading was necessary along the wooded perimeters.
Retaining Walls: The finish floor elevation of the building was set to allow for users to be "in the tree canopy" or elevated within the preserved woodlands to the northeast, southwest and southern elevations. Therefore a terrace retaining wall will be provided along the eastern and southern elevations to minimize the fill extents at the existing trees. The terrace wall which varies in heigh would consist of an architectural finish with a metal guardrail where appropriate. To preserve other woodland areas both within betic Screen walls would also be constructed at the loading/service area of the building. These screen walls would be clad in lic. Screen walls wouk also be con ruild thations ine vern in ming
ground
Parking: The site consists of 409 parking spaces which includes 10 accessible spaces. Parking is provided such that there is a ing surface parking along the western perimeter of the site. The current parking was laid out to avoid loss of significant mature woodland canopy. At the southwest portion of the parking lot parking was configured to avoid and protect a large portion of signifcant woodland trees.


## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDING DESIGN

Scale: The scale of the sleek four story building is compatible with the varied context formed by nearby buildings. The massing of the building is sculpted to create appropriately human scaled spaces at all levels of the building. Setbacks, balconies, projections, and a rooftop terrace serve to articulate the building elevations. The building is set back at the ground floor to create a protected entry and exterior gathering spaces. The second and third floors are articulated by balconies that provide a direct connection between the exterio ndir.
. The highl efficient and techologically advanced work sace is aticulated on the exterio thouh that malal ald lements that link the interior and exterior The strog horizontal ines of the facade represent the strenth of Mercy's platorm. Flop o-ceiling glass between these bands optimizes day-lighting engage the natural setting and reinforces Mercy's transparency. The glass wall undulates to form entries at the ground level and balconies above. This formal articulation adds a dynamic fluidity and progressiveness that is a reflection of the VCC program. It is most evident on the top floor as the enclosure shifts back from the building edge to create a large covered terrace. At the ground floor, stone walls ground the building into the site while columns and pilasters lift the upper floors to float above the site. Recesses at the ground floor create cantilevered projections that provide a protected pedestrian experience. Finally, the consistent language of the building is punctuated at its center by a glazed, vertical lantern that marks both the experience. Finally, the consistent language of the building is punctuated at is center by a glazed, vertical lantern that marks both
Materials \& Colors: The materiality of the project is dictated by the desire of the project to be highly sustainable while providing expansive views, exposure to natural light, and integrating materials consistent with the natural setting. In order to meet these goals, the glazing is highly efficient and clear in order to maintain a direct connection to the exterior from the work space. The horizontal elements at the floor slabs are rendered in sandstone textured precast panels in two warm tones. These projections also serve to shade the glass, specially on the South elevation. On the West elevation, vertical precast fins further mitigate challenging solar conditions and eniliven he façade. At he ground floor, warm stone wall masonry grounds the building while brick pilasters and columns in a similar tone add texture and definition at the pedestrian level. The glazed lantern and canopy are framed in painted steel, wood cladding on its inner sur face, and copper panels on the exterior face. The wood also lines the soffit and serves as the deck surface at the balconies and the 4th floor terrace. The terrace, supported by steel and wood columns, is covered by a painted steel trellis framed in precast panels.
Landscape Design \& Screening: The building is sited to take advantage of the physical attributes of the property. The site plan preserves old growth trees that envelop the new building while setting up an advantageous relationship with a future pond. It provides a main entrance consisting of a naturalized landscape that integrates existing trees and is supplemented by new native plantings. The
 terrace hat wraps the Norh, East and South of the bulding. The ground level terrace is framed by large, exising trees and a native,

 Western end of the building ighting
 hat assures security while not contributing to light pollution in this natural environment. Subtle building lighting that will accentuate significant features including the lantern, cantilevers, and terraces are included.
Facades \& Exterior Elements: The building is strategically arranged in a manner that takes advantage of solar orientation, optimiz es both views and experience of the surrounding landscape. The longest building faces have a favorable southern exposure and the shortest faces have the less favorable eastern/western exposures and feature an environmentally responsive envelope consisting of high-performance glazing, horizontal projections, shaded overhangs, vertical fins, and a horizontal trellis. Collectively, they form a consistent high performance skin that wraps the building in a carefully considered approach to both sustainability and form. These systems supplement the environmental advantages of preserving old growth trees adjacent to the building, specifically along the Southern face. program, form and material to create a dynamic architectural language based in performance and efficiency.

THE ART \& SCIENCE OF BUILDING


MERCY VIRTUAL CARE CENTER
PLAN OF ADJACENT USES


$\frac{\text { NORTH ELEVATION }}{1 / 16^{\circ}=1 \cdots-0^{2}}$


SOUTH ELEVATION


$\frac{\text { WEST ELEVATION }}{110^{\circ}=11^{\prime-0^{-}}}$


$\frac{\text { BUILDING SECTION TRANSVERSE LOOKING EAST }}{1 / 16^{\prime \prime}=1 \cdot 0^{\prime}-0^{\prime \prime}}$


BUILDING SECTION TRANSVERSE LOOKING NORTH



[^1]

TERRACE RETAINING WALL DETAIL


MODULAR RETAINING WALL DETAIL

MERCY VIRTUAL CARE CENTER



EXTERIOR RENDERING .






[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Mercy Virtual Care Center (VCC) Architectural Design Statement, 2014.

[^1]:    SERVICE AREA SCREEN WALL DETAIL

