

Read Me First.pdf

June 2023

To whom it may concern:

Please be advised the city's Design Review Board has been essentially dormant during the past twelve months. In fact, during that period the board held only one recommendation meeting and one collaborative workshop, both for public projects and both just this year in May.

It appears this quiet period may be ending because of a recent reported increase in pre-development meetings for public and private projects with city planners.

Bottom line: There is no predicting the workload the Design Review Board may have in the next twelve months.

Nevertheless, it is vitally important to understand the "lens" the Design Review Board uses in considering its recommendations for projects.

The name of that lens is "urban design." And in particular for Spokane's Design Review Board, it is "urban design for public spaces." Or, in a longer phrase, "the design features – the stuff that will appear on the ground and in buildings – that should be considered and implemented in a project's visual and physical connection with and integration into the community."

In 2022 the Board concluded a complete revision of its urban design guidance. It's contained in a very large PDF file, but it is "the" reference for the job of the Design Review Board.

Any interested applicant for the Community Assembly's DRB member position should study this document.

Please see the "Design Guidelines for Public Projects and Structures" file on the right-hand side the Design Review Board's web page:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/bcc/boards/design-review-board/>

It is also important to understand that the kinds of development project types subject to design review are specific and limited. Interested applicants should review the "Development Applications Subject to Design Review" list in city code at:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/smc/?Section=17G.040.020>