

**To:** Charles Cazier, PE  
**From:** Nicole Smith, Associate Planner; 910-341-1611  
**CC:** File;  
**Date:** 4/19/2018  
**Re:** LaRue Townhomes

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The following is a list of comments for review from planning regarding the project. Please provide your corrections as listed below. Additional review will be required once all the needed documents have been provided. Items or documents not provided on initial submission will be subject to further review. Please contact me for any further questions.

Site Plan Comments:

- Sec. 18-60 (c) (15): Show a proposed landscape plan.

Landscape Plan to Include:

- Interior area landscaping
- Foundation plantings
- Screening
- Street trees

UMX District Comments:

- Provide elevations to ensure compliance with utility and equipment screening: HVAC equipment, air conditioning window units, and other electrical equipment, and fire escapes shall not be located on facades with street frontage. All such equipment shall be placed in the interior yards or inset into the roof pitch, or behind a parapet wall in the case of a flat roof, of the building and screened from the right-of-way. Through-wall mechanical units are permitted on any facade if they are incorporated into the design of the building, flush with the facade on which they are located, concealed by a vent cover and have an internal drip system for condensation. Utility meters, transformers and fixed trash disposal receptacles that cannot be located out of sight shall be screened from the public right-of-way by plantings or opaque fencing. The Technical Review Committee may approve alternations to these standards, if necessary.
- Add note to plan to address site lighting, including location and details for fixtures. All site lighting shall be located, angled, shielded, and/or limited in intensity so as to cast no direct light upon adjacent properties, shall minimize off-site backlighting glare, and up-lighting. Light posts shall be no taller than twelve (12) feet.

- Surface parking lots visible from the public right-of-way shall be screened by permanent walls, shrubbery or hedges at least three (3) feet in height. If hedges or shrubbery are used, they shall be at three (3) feet in height at the time of planting and shall be maintained at three (3) to five (5) feet in height at all times.  
The design of all above-grade parking structures shall relate to the context of the area. Exterior walls of parking structures shall be designed with materials, colors, and architectural articulation in a manner that provides a visual compatibility with adjacent buildings and environment.
- Discuss with Engineering, the ability to utilize pervious pavement materials, vegetated bio-infiltration parking lot islands, or infiltration systems shall be used to minimize pollutant run-off from surface parking areas to the extent that soil permeability, depth to groundwater, or site constraints allow.
- Driveway and parking lot design shall be consistent with an urban form and may be exempt from the requirements of the Technical Standards and Specifications Manual, as approved by the Technical Review Committee. I am concerned about proposed gate and stacking issues. Is the gate motorized? Will it have hours of operation? Turnaround plan to no impact right-of-way?
- General site design: Each of the following components shall be included in UMX developments.
  - Multi-modal transportation opportunities. Public transit, walking, bicycling, and/or water-oriented transit and the facilities necessary for such uses.
  - Pedestrian circulation shall be clearly defined with paving materials and/or landscaping and shall connect all uses. Sidewalks and crosswalks shall be provided within new developments as necessary.
- Street trees. Street tree plantings in below-grade planters shall be included in the public right-of-way at the rate of one (1) tree per thirty (30) feet of frontage. If the City Manager determines there is no plaza or other space available for tree plantings in the right-of-way, or determines that the planting is problematic for the site, a payment-in-lieu of tree plantings, equal to the cost for the required trees, including materials and installation, shall be paid by the developer into the City of Wilmington tree improvement fund. All plans for street tree plantings must be approved by the City Manager and must be planted according to Sec. 18-448 of this chapter, unless otherwise noted in this section. Tree species shall comply with Sec. 18-196(f)(3) of this chapter.
- Trash containment screening. All developments within the UMX are exempt from Sec.18-504 of this chapter and are subject to the following screening requirements:
  - If trash containment, including areas for holding recycling, cannot be accommodated within a building, it shall be placed on the rear or side of the building and shall be completely enclosed and screened from view of public rights-of-way with an opaque fence or wall and/or plant materials, as approved by the Technical Review Committee. The enclosure shall be at least one (1) foot taller than the highest point of the trash receptacle. Chain link and exposed concrete blocks are prohibited.
  - Encroachment agreements. An encroachment agreement shall be required for any projection into the right-of-way, such as balconies and door swings. The encroachment agreement must be approved prior to construction release or issuance of a building permit. Application for any encroachment must be made to the City Engineer for review and the format of the encroachment agreement shall be determined and approved by the City Attorney. Official

approval of such agreement shall be by resolution of the City Council. De minimus encroachments including gutters, fabric awnings, door swings, architectural elements less than twelve (12) inches in depth, signs, and sub-grade structural elements are approved or denied by the City Engineer.

- Building design. All new construction in the UMX shall comply with the following design standards, where applicable.
  - Building entrances. Primary entrances should be clearly distinctive from other entrances. Primary building entrances shall be oriented toward public sidewalks along primary street frontages.
  - Massing and scale. Large expanses of flat, unadorned walls are prohibited. Facades shall incorporate architectural details, particularly at the pedestrian level. Building facades along rights-of-way shall incorporate periodic transitions across the facade. Building facades along rights-of-way exceeding thirty (30) feet in width shall be divided into distinct areas utilizing methods including, but not limited to, facade offsets, pilasters, change in materials, or fenestration (window arrangement). Transitions shall be no further apart than two-thirds (2/3) of the height of the facade.
  - Street-level facades. New buildings shall front onto public sidewalks to reinforce pedestrian activity along public streets and pedestrian ways. Exterior burglar bars, fixed "riot shutters," or similar security devices shall not be visible from the public right-of-way.
  - Exterior building materials. Exterior building materials for all new nonresidential or multifamily structures in the UMX district shall be similar to the materials already being used in the neighborhood, or, if dissimilar materials are used, characteristics such as scale, proportion, form, architectural detailing, and texture shall be used to ensure that enough similarity exists for the building to relate to the surrounding block. Quality finish materials shall be utilized. The following materials shall be prohibited on facades visible from the public right-of-way:
    - Structural metal panels
    - Unparged or non-architectural, non-decorative concrete block
  - Alterations to historic facades. Alterations or additions to buildings and/or structures that are designated as contributing resources to the Wilmington National Register Historic District or are more than fifty (50) years old, may apply the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. These standards are included in the Wilmington Historic District Design Guidelines.