

STAFF REPORT AUGUST 3, 2022 HRC MEETING

Case #: COA2022-049
Staff: Heather M. Bratland

Applicant: Rusty Carringer, Crown Castle

LOCATION

District: West End Historic Overlay District
Street: 888 West Fourth Street and 132 North Sunset Drive, Winston-Salem
Building: Right-of-way
Status: Contributing
Local Historic
Landmark#: n/a

REQUEST(S)

- Replacement of utility poles; installation of wireless antennas

APPLICABLE DESIGN REVIEW STANDARDS

West End Historic Overlay District Design Review Standards available at:
<https://www.cityofws.org/DocumentCenter/View/4089>

STAFF FINDINGS

Commission staff finds that the project is incongruous with the character of the West End Historic Overlay District because:

- 1) The applicant proposes to replace the existing utility pole and streetlight at the corner of Brookstown Avenue and West Fourth Street with a new utility pole and streetlight. The new pole design does not match the existing poles along West Fourth Street between Brookstown Avenue and the edge of the West End Historic Overlay District. The proposed pole has a streetlight supported with a single piece arm, while the existing poles have lights supported with three-part arms. The difference in the pole and streetlight design will create visual discontinuity along West Fourth Street, which will detract from the special character of the West End. (*Exterior Lighting*, West End Standard 5)
- 2) Both poles will be capped with concealed poletop antennas. The existing pole on West Fourth Street is 30' 1" high, and the new pole and antenna will be 37' 8" high. The existing pole on North Sunset Drive is 33' high, and the new pole and antenna will be 39' 5" high. Both poles will include a 5' x 2' 4.75" Qwiksite Qube shrouded 4G antenna. On West Fourth Street the bottom of the Qube will be mounted 8' above the sidewalk; on North Sunset Drive the bottom of the Qube will be mounted 11' 6" above the sidewalk. The Qube shrouded antennas will be within the sightline of an average pedestrian and visually obtrusive, e.g., Federal Highway Administration standards for pedestrian signal heads require mounting between 7' and 10' above the sidewalk to maximize visibility. Technological equipment that is incongruous with the special character of the West End shall be located in areas of low visibility, be screened, or be located so that it is visually unobtrusive. (*Accessory Features: Structural and Mechanical Systems*, West End Standards 2-4)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the preceding findings, staff recommends that the Commission deny COA2022-049 at the right-of-way, located at 888 West Fourth Street and 132 North Sunset Drive, within the West End Historic Overlay District.