

Claymont DRAC approves changes to Renaissance Village

Claymont, Del. — The Claymont Design Review Advisory Committee (DRAC) unanimously voted to approve a list of major and minor design changes to Renaissance Village. The major changes to the former site of Brookview apartments include: 15,000 more square feet of retail space, more townhouses, more green space and underground garages in the development. The four members who attended the June 25 meeting were optimistic the major changes will improve the development, but were concerned about a few of the minor changes. The Commonwealth Group, developer of the site, proposed a host of minor changes that Project Manager Don Robitzer said will add flexibility to the plan, making it more attractive for builders.

Those changes allow for more three story buildings and remove several design guidelines spelled out in the original plan. For example, the guidelines required six roof corners in the development to have special architectural features, like clock towers.

DRAC members said they wanted some special architectural features to remain in the plan, so they accepted the changes with a condition that the corners that were once required to have clock towers will have some other defining architectural feature.

Robitzer said those features could include bay windows, and he was willing to incorporate them into the plan. Each façade of the Renaissance Village buildings will be presented to Claymont's DRAC once they have been designed to ensure they remain consistent with what the community wants, he said. The next step for Commonwealth is to present the design changes to New Castle County for approval.

By Adam Zewe
Community News