

Residential Infill Project
Stakeholder Advisory Committee
December 1, 2015


## OVERVIEW

- New narrow lot vs. skinny lot
- Process
- Development Standards
- Examples. What works?
- Where are they appropriate?


## Two Processes and Two Lot Types

## Land Division:

Create new lots from larger parcels of land

## Results in:

- Standard Lots
- New Narrow Lots (<36' wide or <3,000 s.f.)


## Lot Confirmation:

Confirm the legal status of previously created lots

## Results in:

- Standard Lots
- "Skinny Lots"
(<36' wide or <3,000 s.f.)


## Process Comparison

|  | Land Division Narrow Lot | Lot Confirmation Skinny Lot |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Notice | To property owners w/in <br> $100-150$ | None |
| Timeframe | $6-24$ months | $6-10$ weeks |
| Fees | $\$ 8,000-\$ 10,000$ | $\$ 900-\$ 2,400$ (w/PLA) |
| Criteria | Trees, narrow lot <br> compatibility | None |
| Lot Standards | Lot size, width, depth <br> Density | Verified <br> lawfully created, vacant |

## Development Standards Comparison

|  | New Narrow Lot (LD) | Skinny Lot Confirmation |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Attached garage <br> facing street | Not allowed <br> (alley access required) | 12' wide allowed (but <br> parking is not required) |
| Height (R5 zone) | 1.2 X width of house | 1.5 X width of house |
| Height (R2.5 zone) | 1.5 X width of house | 1.5 X width of house |
| Setbacks | Base zone | Base zone |
| Main Entrance <br> w/in 4' of grade | Attached houses only | All houses |
| Building Coverage | $50 \%$ | 40\% |
| Materials, trim, eaves | Not regulated | Required |
| Exceptions to <br> development standards | PD - for garages and <br> height <br> AD - for setbacks and <br> building coverage | DZ - for garages, height, <br> setbacks, building <br> coverage, materials |

## Narrow and Skinny Lots

## - Which is which?



## DESIGN CONTROLS

## 1983 Code - Substandard Lots

R5 lot minimums: $35 \times 80$ feet, 3750 s.f.

- Side setbacks $=2 X$ setback distance separation between buildings;



## 1983 Code - Substandard Lots

R5 lot minimums: $35 \times 80$ feet, 3750 s.f.

- Side setbacks $=2 X$ setback distance separation between buildings;
- 35\% maximum lot coverage;
- Standard R5 lot in 1983 = 45\% lot coverage


## 1983 Code - Substandard Lots

R5 lot minimums: $35 \times 80$ feet, 3750 s.f.

- Side setbacks $=2 X$ setback distance separation between buildings;
- 35\% maximum lot coverage;
- Garage:
- Maximum 10\% of lot size;
- 14 feet wide or $50 \%$ of dwelling (whichever is less)


## 1991 Code - Substandard Lots

R5 lot minimums: None

- Side setbacks $=2 X$ setback distance separation between buildings;
- 200 s.f. outdoor area required;
- 20 square feet of windows on front façade


## 1991 code



## 2003 Code - Skinny Lots

## R5 lot minimums: If <36' wide / 3,000 sq. ft. must be vacant for 5 years

- 12' wide garage (w/living space above)



## 2003 Code - Skinny Lots

R5 lot minimums: If <36' wide / 3,000 sq. ft. must be vacant for 5 years

- 12' wide garage (w/living space above)
- Materials and Trim requirements
- Eaves
- Street orientation (15\% windows, porch)


# DEVELOPMENT EXAMPLES 

## 1. Design and Form

- Attached Units (unified or distinct roofline)
- Detached Units
- Height: 1,2,3 story
- Setbacks
- Materials: Finish, Trim, Eaves
- Main entrance: orientation, height
- Windows


## 2. Garages and Parking

- No parking
- Parking pad (no garage)
- Tuck under garage
- Attached garage
- Street facing
- Rear facing (alley access)
- Detached garage (shared driveway)


## Detached House - Old Standards



## Skinny Lot



## Skinny Lots



## Skinny Lot



## Skinny Lot



## Skinny Lot



## Skinny Lots



## Skinny Lots



## Skinny Lot



## Skinny Lot



## Skinny Lot



## Skinny Lots with Shared Driveway



## Lots of Skinny Lots



## Living Smart Competition



## Narrow Lot (No PD)



## Narrow Lots



## Narrow Lots



## Narrow Lots



## Narrow Lots



## Narrow Lots



## Narrow Lot



## Narrow Lots (22' wide houses)



## Not Narrow nor Skinny Lots (Multidwelling zone)



## Attached Houses - Old Standards



## Attached houses



## Attached Houses



## Attached Houses



## Narrow Lot PD



## Narrow Lots



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## Narrow Lots



## Narrow Lots with a PD



## Narrow Lots with a PD



## Narrow Lots with a PD



## Narrow Lots with a PD



## Narrow Lots with a PD



## Narrow Lot (Duplex)



## Attached units on corner Multi dwelling zone



## SKINNY AND

## NARROW LOTS

## WHERE ARE THEY?

## Narrow and Skinny Lots

- Narrow Lots are predominantly in R2.5 Why?
- Because density must be met, R5 narrow lots tend to be very deep, or paired with wider lots.
- $25 \times 100$ lots in the R2.5 zone are consistent with zone density, logical transition from 50x100 lots.
- Skinny Lots are predominantly in R5. Why?
- 44\% of the SF residentially zoned area is R5
- Many of the 25 ' $\times 100$ ' plats are in R5 areas
- Few alternatives to receive increased density


## R2.5 zone - narrow lots



## Narrow Lot Criteria

- In the R2.5 zone, a lot less than 36 feet wide is allowed if:
- On balance, the proposed lots will have dimensions that are consistent with the purpose of this section:
- Lots are compatible with existing lots while also considering the purpose of this chapter:
- Ensure that lots are consistent with the desired character of the zone while allowing lots to vary in size and shape provided the planned intensity of the zone is respected.


## R5 zone - skinny lots



## Why allow R5 skinny lots?

- Affordability -
- Increased supply
- Smaller homes
- Neighborhood Pattern
- Ownership/ Investment



## Why limit R5 skinny lots?

- Truth in zoning
- Density is double
- Expectations
- Neighborhood Pattern
- No logical basis

These lots could be individually confirmed as skinny lots

These lots are in a different plat and generally could not be confirmed

## Group Discussion

1. When lots call for narrow construction, what forms and designs are appropriate?
2. Knowing the R2.5 zone is intended for 1 unit per 2,500 s.f., what could and should the R2.5 zone look like?
3. Portland has a legacy of historically platted skinny lots. How should we address these lots in the future?


## Thank you

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