

**OPB LU 21-012886 DZM GW barbed-wire substitute and mural**

mike dowd <dowdarchitecture@gmail.com>

Fri 11/19/2021 3:30 PM

To: Bryant, Hannah <Hannah.Bryant@portlandoregon.gov>

Design Commission,

OPB submitted new information after the hearing in regard to a substitute for barbed wire at the satellite dish area fence, and the proposed mural on that fence.

**Barbed wire substitute:** I support the barbed wire substitute on top of the wood fence (which I support as detailed, although my concerns about the SE corner of it blocking rail crossing sightlines remain). I've been trying for several years, including during this review, to get OPB to do something about its barbed wire at eye level next to the sidewalk entrance to Willamette Park, and OPB has never responded. So I appreciate the Commission pushing OPB to take some responsibility and do something more community-friendly and safer there.

**Mural:** The sidewalk/park entrance is very constricted, only 5' wide, and used by people walking, biking, rolling, walking dogs, using strollers, etc. The guardrails exacerbate that, as does the fact that the crossing creates a constricted chute about 60' long, flanked by guardrails except at the tracks. I walk there daily. It's common for people with bikes, strollers or dogs to wait at one end of the chute for people approaching or within it to clear it before entering. That means people are already having to stand waiting at the sidewalk in front of OPB's fence, or in the street. The crossing is designed with fencing and barriers that intentionally force people into the chute and sidewalk to cross, so it can't be bypassed.

Any artwork or signage that encourages people to stop on the sidewalk (for instance, text or signage that people would encourage people to stop to read) will clog the entrance even further. Ideally any language relative to the artwork/signage will encourage artwork that can be appreciated from a distance or while moving through the area, vs. standing on the sidewalk.

**The rendering:** OPB revised its 3D rendering to illustrate the barbed wire substitute in context with the fence, mural, etc. Some aspects of the rendering are inaccurate.

The new wood fence is shown only about 5' tall (the small metal disc under the "no parking" sign on the telephone pole is at my eye level (about 5'-9" above grade, and the top of the fence is shown several inches below that). The fact that the actual fence will be taller and more visually prominent than what is shown is an additional argument in favor of the proposed barbed wire substitute, which will add only an imperceptible amount to the fence height, in comparison to barbed wire.

Also, the rendering shows low landscaping at the base of the fence, but the site plan shows the fence tight against the sidewalk's concrete side wall, leaving no room for the landscaping that the rendering shows (and none is shown on the site plan). I'm guessing the renderer added that landscaping to soften and improve the fence's appearance, and to give the impression it's set back further from the sidewalk. **When evaluating the mural and barbed wire substitute, I hope the Commission keeps in mind that OPB's rendering is presenting a context for those two items that OPB is not**

**intending to provide, according to its site plan (and it's the site plan that will become the record for the decision, as I understand).**

Michael Dowd, President  
Dowd Architecture Inc.  
753 S Miles Street  
Portland, Oregon 97219  
(503) 282-7704  
email: [dowdarchitecture@gmail.com](mailto:dowdarchitecture@gmail.com)