



**TOWN OF PALM BEACH**  
Planning, Zoning & Building Department  
360 South County Road  
Palm Beach, FL 33480  
(561) 838-5430 • [www.townofpalmbeach.com](http://www.townofpalmbeach.com)

**PLANNING, ZONING, & BUILDING DEPARTMENT**  
**PZ&B Staff Memorandum: Town Council Development Review**

**TO:** Mayor and Town Council

**FROM:** Wayne Bergman, MCP, LEED-AP  
Director PZ&B

**SUBJECT:** ZON-21-008 (ARC-21-041)  
1520 S Ocean Blvd

**MEETING:** December 15, 2021

**ZON-21-008 (ARC-21-041) 1520 S OCEAN BLVD (COMBO).** The applicant, Chris Shumway, has filed an application requesting Town Council review and approval for a Special Exception Request with Site Plan Review to allow the construction of a new 400SF beach cabana and water feature within the vacant oceanside parcel in the R-A/B-A zoning district and a variance to reduce the required setback from the bulkhead line for the construction of the cabana.

**ARCOM NOTICE**

**ARC-21-041 (ZON-21-008) 1520 SOUTH OCEAN BOULEVARD (COMBO).** The applicant, Chris Shumway, has filed an application requesting Architectural Commission review and approval for the construction of a new 400SF beach cabana and water feature within the vacant oceanside parcel, including a setback variance from the bulkhead line. The variance portion of the application shall be reviewed by Town Council. The application will require special exception and site plan reviewed by Town Council.

Applicant: Chris Shumway  
Professional: Mark Marsh/Bridges, Marsh & Associate  
Representative: Maura Ziska

**HISTORY:**

At the November 15, 2021 ARCOM meeting, an application was approved (7-0). for the construction of a new 400SF beach cabana and water feature within the vacant oceanside parcel in the R-A/B-A zoning district, pursuant to ARC-21-041. The Commission additionally recommended favorably on the variance associated with project (7-0).

**THE PROJECT:**

The applicant has resubmitted plans, entitled "NEW BEACH CABANA", as prepared by **Bridges, Marsh & Associate**, dated 09/07/2021.

The following is the scope of work for the Project:

- The construction of a new one-story structure approximately 384 SF of area containing 210 SF of open pergola and 85 SF of enclosed cabana bath and storage closet on the vacant oceanside parcel. The structure measures 24' deep by 16' wide to the roadway.
- The installation of accompanying new pool, landscape and hardscape.

The following Special Exceptions, Site Plan review and/or Variances required to complete the project, and shall be reviewed by Town Council:

- Special Exception Request with Site Plan Review
- Variance to reduce the required setback to construct a cabana. Section 134-1702 structures adjacent to ocean bulkhead.

**PROJECT DATA:**

Zoning District: R-A

Lot Size: 21,527 SF (oceanside)

Proposed Height: 12'-7"

Permitted Height: 16'

Total square footage: 384 SF

COR Grade: 18.84' NAVD

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**VARIANCES CRITERIA SEC. 134-201**

The town council may authorize upon appeal such variance from the terms of this chapter as will not be contrary to the public interest where, owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of this chapter will result in unnecessary and undue hardship. In order to authorize any variance from the terms of this chapter, the town council must and shall find the following:

- (1) Special conditions and circumstances exist which are peculiar to the land, structure or building involved and which are not applicable to other lands, structures or buildings in the same zoning district.
- (2) The special conditions and circumstances do not result from the actions of the applicant.
- (3) Granting the variance requested will not confer on the applicant any special privilege that is denied by this chapter to other lands, buildings or structures in this same zoning district.
- (4) Literal interpretation of this chapter would deprive the applicant of rights commonly enjoyed by other properties in the same zoning district under the terms of this chapter and would work unnecessary and undue hardship on the applicant.
- (5) The variance granted is the minimum variance that will make possible the reasonable use of the land, building or structure.
- (6) For granting of a variance to sections 134-387 or 134-390 through 134-392, pertaining to the regulation of nonconforming uses, the following additional findings shall be made pertaining to the nonconforming use for which the variance is requested:
  - a. It is the continuance of a unique hotel or residential use that has, for at least 15 years proven compatible with the surrounding uses; and
  - b. Neither rezoning to a district which would allow the use, nor inclusion of the subject use as a permitted or special exception use in the district would act to achieve the preservation of the subject use without opening the possibility of the incursion of uses incompatible with the immediately surrounding area and, further, such variance shall:
    1. Be granted only for the continuation of the same hotel or residential use; and
    2. Require the applicant to submit a declaration of use limiting the utilization of the property for which the variance was granted to the same use as that existing at the time the variance was granted.
- (7) The grant of the variance will be in harmony with the general intent and purpose of this chapter, and such variance will not be injurious to the area involved or otherwise



detrimental to the public welfare. In granting any variance, the town council may prescribe appropriate conditions and safeguards in conformity with this chapter. Upon granting a variance the town council may require the landowner to provide a declaration of use agreement which shall be recorded in the public records to ensure continuing compliance with town council imposed conditions of such grants. Violation of such conditions and safeguards, when made a part of the terms under which the variance is granted, shall be deemed a violation of this chapter.

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**SPECIAL EXCEPTION CRITERIA SEC. 134-229**

The requirements for granting a special exception use under this chapter are as follows:

- (1) The use is a permitted special exception use as set forth in article VI of this chapter.
- (2) The use is so designed, located and proposed to be operated that the public health, safety, welfare and morals will be protected.
- (3) The use will not cause substantial injury to the value of other property in the neighborhood where it is to be located.
- (4) The use will be compatible with adjoining development and the intended purpose of the district in which it is to be located.
- (5) The use will comply with yard, other open space, and any special requirements set out in article VI for the particular use involved.
- (6) The use will comply with all elements of the comprehensive plan.
- (7) The use not result in substantial economic, noise, glare, or odor impacts on adjoining properties and properties generally in the district.
- (8) Adequate ingress and egress to property and proposed structures thereon and off-street parking and loading areas will be provided where required, with particular reference to automotive and pedestrian safety and convenience, traffic flow and control, and access in case of fire or catastrophe.
- (9) Signs, if any, and proposed exterior lighting with reference to glare, traffic safety, and economic impact shall be compatible and in harmony with properties in the district.
- (10) Location, availability and compatibility of utility service for the use shall be satisfactory to ensure health and safety.
- (11) Refuse and service areas for the use shall not adversely affect automotive and pedestrian safety and convenience, traffic flow and control, or access in case of fire or catastrophe.
- (12) In all districts except the C-OPI district, and also with the exception of hotel, motel and timeshare uses, the proposed special exception use will not attract the principal portion of its customers/clients from off-island locations. The applicant shall submit evidence satisfactory to the town council that not less than 50 percent of the customers of the proposed use will be town persons. Evidence submitted in support of this contention shall include credible data or information suitable for review by the town to determine the credibility and the appropriateness of the applicant's conclusion. The submittal shall include a description of the types of information used and the methodology employed to arrive at the conclusion. Information used shall include, but shall not be limited to, lists of customer/client addresses or certification thereof by an independent certified public accountant approved by the town, market studies prepared by independent professional firms, or data from similar operations under the control of the applicant. The town may in the future require the applicant to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the town council that the special exception use is continuing to be town-serving.
- (13) If historic/specimen trees are located on the subject property, the location of said historic/specimen trees shall be identified on a signed and sealed survey. In addition,



adequate landscaping, screening and barricade protection of historic/specimen trees shall be demonstrated to be provided as required in this chapter.

- (14) The proposed use will not place a greater burden than would be caused by a permitted use on municipal police services due to increased traffic or on fire protection services due to the existence of or increased potential for fire/safety code violations.

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#### **SITE PLAN REVIEW CRITERIA SEC. 134-329**

Before any site plan shall be approved, approved with changes, or denied, the town council shall make a finding that the approval of the site plan will or will not adversely affect the public interest and certify that the specific zoning requirements governing the individual use have or have not been met and that, further, satisfactory provision and an arrangement has or has not been made concerning the following matters, where applicable:

- (1) Sufficiency of statements on ownership and control of the subject property and sufficiency of conditions of ownership or control, use and permanent maintenance of common open space, common facilities or common lands to ensure preservation of such lands and facilities for their intended purpose and to ensure that such common facilities will not become a future liability for the town.
- (2) Intensity of use and/or purpose of the proposed development in relation to adjacent and nearby properties and the effect thereon; provided, however, that nothing in this subsection shall be construed as granting the town council the authority to reduce residential densities below that permitted by the use regulations in article VI of this chapter.
- (3) Ingress and egress to the property and the proposed structure thereof, with particular reference to automotive and pedestrian safety; separation of automotive traffic; traffic flow and control; provision of services and servicing of utilities and refuse collection; and access in case of fire, catastrophe or emergency.
- (4) Location and relationship of off-street parking and off-street loading facilities to thoroughfares and internal traffic patterns within the property, with particular reference to automotive and pedestrian safety, traffic flow and control, access in case of fire or catastrophe, and screening and landscaping.
- (5) Proposed screens and buffers to preserve internal and external harmony and compatibility with uses inside and outside the property boundaries.
- (6) Manner of drainage on the property, with particular reference to the effect of provisions for drainage on adjacent and nearby properties and the consequences of such drainage on overall town capacities.
- (7) Utilities, with reference to hook-in locations and availability and capacity for the uses projected.
- (8) Recreation facilities and open spaces, with attention to the size, location and development of the areas as to adequacy, effect on privacy of adjacent and nearby properties and uses within the property, and relationship to communitywide open spaces and recreation facilities.
- (9) Such other standards as may be imposed by this chapter for the particular use or activity involved.
- (10) Height of commercial structures with reference to adjoining buildings, the effect on uniformity in height, and the general principle of retaining the low profile scale of commercial architecture.

- (11) Visible size and bulk. The proposed development should be so arranged that it minimizes the visible bulk of the structures to drivers and pedestrians on abutting roadways, the point of reference being the centerline of the abutting roadways, with the intent being to maintain visual impact of multistory buildings at the same relative level of intensity as a single-story building at the minimum required setback.

**CONSISTENCY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:**

A preliminary review of the project indicates that the proposed **single family use** is **consistent** with the **single family** designation of the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan.

**COMPLIANCE WITH ZONING CODE:**

A preliminary review of the project indicates that the application, as proposed, appears to be inconsistent with the following sections of the Town code:

The applicant is requesting the following variance(s):

- Special Exception Request with Site Plan Review
- Section 134-1702 a Variance 1: to reduce the required setback to construct a cabana structure at **85.8'** adjacent to ocean bulkhead. **Sec. 134-1702. - Structures adjacent to ocean bulkhead.** No structure of any nature that is to be constructed on land situated southward of Southern Boulevard (State Road No. 80) **shall be constructed closer than 150 feet from the designated ocean bulkhead line** established in chapter 62 nor shall any such structure be constructed on land situated northward of the Southern Boulevard roadway closer than 50 feet from the designated ocean bulkhead line established in chapter 62, unless a proper ocean bulkhead exists or is constructed in conjunction with the structure at a location and of a type of construction as approved by the town council. **Proposed: 85.8' | Required: 150'**

**STAFF ANALYSIS:**

According to the applicant, there are special circumstances that are peculiar to the land are that the beach parcel does not have a designated seawall (which triggers the 150 foot setback from the Town's bulkhead line) but does have riprap revetment (boulders) to protect the road and properties to the west of South Ocean Boulevard and is more protection than a seawall. At the November 15, 2021 ARCOM meeting, an application was approved (7-0). for the construction of a new 400SF beach cabana and water feature within the vacant oceanside parcel in the R-A/B-A zoning district, pursuant to ARC-21-041. The Commission additionally recommended favorably on the variance associated with project (7-0).