



FMW Renovation Update

May 27, 2018

Does aught befall you?

It is good. It is part of the destiny of the Universe ordained for you from the beginning. All that befalls you is part of the great web.

— Marcus Aurelius

The quest for permits continues.

There are two permits we seek. The site permit request, prepared by Gordon Civil Engineering, covers the excavation, grading, drains, etc. With this permit in hand, we can issue a Notice to Proceed and move forward with the work.

The building permit request, prepared by Gauthier Alvarado Associates, is a little less urgent.

Monday

We begin the week believing that we have submitted everything needed, that we have approval from all reviewers, and that the site plan, at least, is in final QA, which is said only to take a day or two. It is now day three and no word.

Tuesday

We discuss more pleasant things. Should the inside of the elevator be enamel, stainless steel, or “wood”? Do we have to have compact fluorescent lights in the cab? Are they easy to replace?

We ask Shaun (who runs the DCRA ProjectDox computer permit system) what’s up. It appears the computer is not convinced that the final reviewers have approved.

Suddenly the computer kicks both permit requests back out to us, grumbling that the resubmittals did not meet the requirements for resubmittals, so we better resubmit them.

Apparently, this is necessary to launch new review cycles, so the remaining reviewers can see the plans in their queues and approve.

Gordon resubmits their plan. GAA uploads some more documents.

ProjectDox lists all sorts of pending approvals, but it gradually emerges that we need signoff from Tiffany of DDOT (for the site permit) and from Charles of DOEE and Daniel of Zoning (for the building permit).

Wednesday

We meet with the architects and contractor, Monarc Construction. Monarc gloomily remarks that the cost of the project will likely be going up as we now will be finishing the outdoor construction in winter weather.

The ProjectDox computer shows that the site permit is now in review cycle 2.

ProjectDox lists all sorts of pending approvals, but it gradually emerges that we need signoff from Tiffany of DDOT (for the site permit) and from Charles of DOEE and Daniel of Zoning (for the building permit).

We ask Tiffany if she can approve. She asks us for a permit number we provided two weeks ago. We provide it again.

Tiffany responds that she still can’t see the permit request in her queue.

ProjectDox settles down to say that all it wants is approval from DDOT, but it now shows a new reviewer — DeAngelo. Tiffany says DeAngelo doesn’t work there anymore.

Shaun says now anybody in Tiffany's department should be able to approve.

We finally reach Daniel, after many, many calls. He says he will check to see if he thinks the Building permit is ready to approve, but he notes that he can't see it in his queue.

Shaun says the building permit plans need to be resubmitted so review cycle 5 can fire up and Daniel can see the request again.

Thursday

Building permit review cycle 5 is launched. Now Daniel can see the request to approve it. We call Daniel. His phone message says that he will be back in two weeks.

We send a note to Charles of DOEE suggesting that he look in his queue for our request and bless it.

Tiffany, who always answers the phone right away, does not answer the phone all day. Neither does Charles.

Monarc Construction has been busy doing what they can to prepare for the possibility that we may someday have a permit (cutting our office in half and so on). Accordingly, they give us their first monthly payment request, for \$80,189. We pay 90% of that now and keep \$8,019 as a kind of deposit to be paid at the end of the job.

We notify the bank construction manager, who responds with a paralyzing list of documents they would like to see before advancing mortgage money to our account.

Friday

Charles resurfaces.

Review Status:	Approved
Reviewer Name:	Charles Edwards (Charles.Edwards@dc.gov)
Completed Date:	Friday, May 25, 2018

Tiffany still MIA. We spend several hours trying to find out what happened to her. Finally get a number for her supervisor who answers the phone, even though it turns out he himself is home sick. He says she's on training and will be back by 10:30.

Efforts to reach Daniel's supervisor or anybody else in Zoning are unsuccessful.

At 2 pm, Tiffany reappears.

Review Status:	Approved
Reviewer Name:	Tiffany Tenbrook (tiffany.tenbrook@dc.gov)
Completed Date:	Friday, May 25, 2018

Supposedly, the site permit is now approved and goes back into QA.

At 4:11 pm, ProjectDox delivers the following pronouncement:

Eplan Review Approval Notification	
Attention: Gus,	
Thank you for using the City of Washington DC ePlan Review System. Congratulations, Permit Application "BCIV1700115" has passed the eplan review process.	
In order to receive your permit and begin work, please come to DCRA 1100 4th St, SW - 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20024. Get a ticket number for the issuance counter. If applicable, the issuance staff will provide you with an invoice for the final payment. If you wish to pay online or want to know the exact amount due before picking up your permit, please contact the Permit Division by emailing Sarah.Bouldin-Carr@dc.gov . All fees must be paid prior to permit issuance.	
Please print this notification to accompany your cash or check payment if you will be submitting payment in person. After your permit is issued, you will receive a notification and the ability to download and print the plans from project BCIV1700115 .	
Project Name:	BCIV1700115
Task Assignment:	NotifyPlanApproved
Project Access Login To ProjectDox	

Looking Ahead

Well, they're closed for three days now, aren't they?

On Tuesday, we should be able to pick up the permit and issue a Notice to Proceed. We can scan the permit and send it to the DOEE scheduler, who will then schedule an on-site meeting between an inspector and Monarc, after which ground may be disturbed. The demolition of the gates will probably take place the second week in June, and then we will finally be right in the soup.