

STAFF REPORT

DATE: 12/06/2024

TO: Bel Aire Planning Commission
FROM: Paula Downs
RE: Agenda

STAFF COMMUNICATION	
FOR MEETING OF	12/12/24
CITY COUNCIL	
INFORMATION ONLY	

SUMMARY:

PUD-24-04 Proposed a Final PUD containing approved duplexes to be converted townhouses with zero interior lot lines on a reduced lot size in an R-4 zoning district as built in a portion of Chapel Landing Phase II.

The city placed an ad in the Ark Valley Newspaper as required by the city code. The affidavit of publication is in the packet. The PUD process required notification of surrounding property owners.

The city review of the plat is in your packet. Documents reviewed and included in the agenda packet: affidavit of publication; PUD application; PUD Agreement; and site plan.

History

The property has been zoned R-4 since 2008 and replatted in 2020. The R-4 zoning district has a 10’ side yard setback requirement. The old Chapel Land plat would have allowed a 6’ side yard with conditions.

The discovery of lot splits outside of the city process changed how a single structure defined in the city building code could be divided into two single structures. The agreements and understand of use were changed. The zoning code and building code issues created within the Bel Aire is not a new problem in the region for other jurisdictions.

Item appeared on the September 12, 2024, Planning Commission agenda, however, applicant requested that the item be tabled. After the September 12, 2024, meeting, the applicant submitted complete information related to ownership signatures that confirmed the applicant as an agent of the property owners for purposes of the PUD application. The item was on the November 14, 2024, meeting agenda and was tabled pending additional information being provided.

Discussion

- A. The city will be reviewing how to move forward with lot splits that occur after the completion of a structure. Processes/procedures, zoning and subdivision codes and building codes will be examined. This review doesn't imply this type of method could be used city wide by dividing lots and selling each as a separate building as this case reflects. The intent is to provide a sustainable neighborhood with conditions in place to maintain property values.
- B. The Planning Commission tabled this item at the November 14 meeting based on the following issues:
 - a. Commission reviewed Agenda Item A- PUD-24-07 and was aware of City Council concerns and the requirements set out by them on another like case.
 - b. There was consensus that the applicant should draft the following documents and present them at the December Planning Commission meeting to include in the meeting agenda packet:
 - i. Updated plat to be attached to the ordinance;
 - ii. Add platter's text to reference additional documents including: Restrictive Covenants, First Amendment to the Original Development Agreement, Wall Agreement and Easement Agreement to address access to power meters. These documents would also be incorporated, by reference, to the ordinance; and
 - iii. Applicant shall file the ordinance all the documents with the Register of Deeds office and provide a copy to the Bel Aire City Clerk.
 - c. The applicant requested Planning Commission send the item to Council in lieu of tabling the item.
 - d. Commission determined that Council would not approve the item without documents in place.
- C. The Commission agreed to reduce the street trees from two trees per lot to one tree per lot due to the small size of the individual lots.
- D. Commission voted to table the item.
- E. City staff provided the applicant with the link to the document templates from PUD-24-07. Prior to the posting the December Planning Commission meeting packet, the City did not receive additional documents as requested from the Commission at their November 14 meeting.

Review Considerations:

1. Character of the neighborhood

The City of Bel Aire has housing that is built and utilized for the current zoning R-4 residential duplex design. The senior housing south is a low impact residential multi-family use. The PUD request does not change the character of the neighborhood.

2. Zoning and uses of nearby properties

North- R-4
East-R-4, Agriculture, R-5.
South-R-4 single family with reduced side yard setbacks,
R-1 West-R-4, R-6 senior housing

3. Suitability of the subject property for the uses to which it has been restricted

The city 2018 Master Growth Plan is in line with the existing and proposed uses.

4. Extent to which removal of the restrictions will detrimentally affect nearby property

No adverse changes based on the approved 2018 Master Growth Plan.

5. Length of time the property has been vacant as zoned

2008 to 2024, 16 years.

6. Relative gain to the public health, safety, and welfare as compared to the loss in value or the hardship imposed upon the applicant

Affordable single-family housing with each family responsible as owners is the gain. This housing potentially increases land value.

7. Conformance of the requested change to the adopted or recognized master plan being utilized by the city

The city 2018 Master Growth Plan is in line with the existing and proposed uses.

8. Impact of the proposed development on community facilities

Switching from a duplex development to single family homes does not create any additional burden on the community facilities. The water and sanitary sewer systems were already separate for each unit and there is no additional traffic anticipated on roadways.

9. Opposition or support of neighborhood residents (one factor to be considered and by itself is not sufficient reason to approve or deny a request)

The City previously had inquiries from notified residents who requested additional information on the notice. Once they understood the situation, they had no feedback positive or negative. Residents from another development spoke at the September Planning Commission meeting, however, their feedback was not directly related to this agenda item.

10. Recommendations of permanent staff

The proposed PUD should be modified as follows:

1. Update the landscaping requirement to reflect one street per lot.
2. Require applicant to submit the following documents as part of their PUD application: Restrict Covenants, Amendment to the Original Development Agreement, Wall Agreement and Easement Agreement.
3. Update the plat's text to reference the documents.
4. File the plat and documents with the Register of Deeds Office and provide a copy to the City of Bel Aire City Clerk.