



City of Eustis

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TO: EUSTIS CITY COMMISSION

FROM: Tom Carrino, City Manager

DATE: July 6, 2023

RE: Resolution Number 23-18 (Re-Hearing): Estes Reserve Subdivision
Preliminary Subdivision Plat Approval

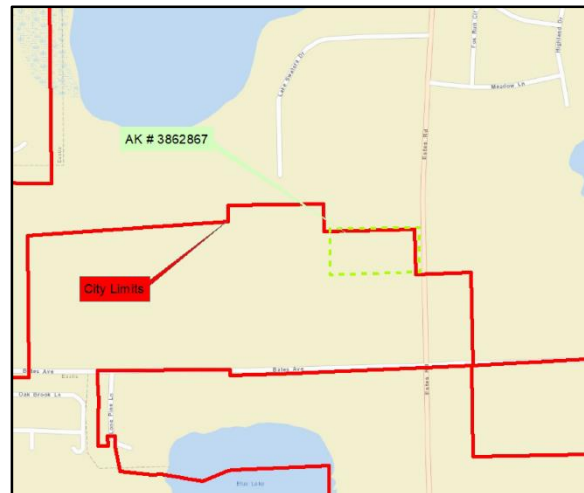
Introduction:

Per the request and approval of the City Commission, this is a re-hearing of an item that was previously denied on June 26, 2023. Resolution Number 23-18 approves a Preliminary Subdivision Plat for the Estes Reserve Subdivision, which is an 18-lot single-family residential subdivision located north of Bates Avenue/Lake Lincoln Lane, on the west side of Estes Road

Background:

Pertinent Site Information:

1. Located north of Bates Avenue/Lake Lincoln Lane, on the west side of Estes Road, the site contains approximately 4.7 acres and is comprised of one (1) wooded, vacant parcel.
2. On January 31, 2023, the Development Review Committee recommended approval of the proposed preliminary subdivision plat, subject to adequate responses to the remaining comments, which were addressed on February 8, 2023.
3. The original preliminary plat was designed with 23 lots and a requested waiver to the minimum lot width. This was scheduled for City Commission approval on March 2, 2023, however, an error occurred in notification procedures and the City Commission tabled the item until March 16, 2023, to allow for proper notification.
4. On March 10, 2023, the property owner and applicant requested that the Preliminary Subdivision Plat be withdrawn from the City Commission agenda for approval. This was requested in order to redesign the Preliminary Subdivision Plat to not require waivers from the City Codes.
5. The City of Eustis DRC approved the revised Preliminary Subdivision Plat at the April 18th DRC meeting, conditioned on utility engineering details to be provided with the final engineering and construction plans.



6. The Preliminary Subdivision Plat was intended to be advertised for the May 18th City Commission agenda, however, deadlines were missed and proper notice could not be met, thus the notice and schedule for the June 1, 2023, City Commission Agenda.
7. On June 1, 2023, the City Commission heard the request for approval of the Preliminary Subdivision Plat and voted to not approve the request due to outstanding questions.
8. On June 20, 2023, Staff requested that the City Commission consider rehearing the request for Preliminary Subdivision Plat approval. The reconsideration request was based on responses to the question posed at the June 1, 2023, City Commission Meeting.
9. On June 20, 2023, the City Commission granted their approval to return the Preliminary Subdivision plat to an advertised and noticed City Commission Meeting for consideration.

The land use designations, design district designations, and existing uses of the site and surrounding area are shown below.

Location	Existing Use	Future Land Use	Design District
Site	Vacant	Suburban Residential	Suburban Neighborhood
North	Single Family Residence	Rural Transition (Lake County)	NA
South	Mayhill Subdivision Under Construction 49 SFR	Suburban Residential	Suburban Neighborhood
East	Vacant – Orange Grove	Rural Transition (Lake County)	NA
West	Eustis Middle School	Public Institutional	Suburban Neighborhood

Proposed Development:

Per the attached Exhibit A, the applicant is requesting approval of a Preliminary Subdivision Plat (with waiver) for a residential subdivision to include eighteen (18) lots for single-family detached residences with the following development characteristics:

Subdivision Component	Code	Provided
Gross Area	n/a	4.7 acres
Net Area (gross area less wetlands, water bodies)	n/a	4.7 acres
Lot Typology	House Lot	18
Density	5 dwelling units/acre maximum	3.83 dwelling units/acre

Open Space	25% minimum (1.18 ac)	26.5% (1.25 ac)
Park Space	0.25 acres	0.36 acres (Greenway/Trail)
Landscape Buffers	15-24 feet adjacent to public r/w	29 feet along Estes Rd

Analysis of Request According to Applicable Policies and Codes:

Comprehensive Plan - Future Land Use Element Appendix; Land Development Regulations Section 109-2.3, 109-3, 109-4: Suburban Residential (SR) This designation is provided to accommodate the majority of residential development within the City. General Range of Uses: This designation is intended to provide for a mix of single-family detached, patio home, and townhouse dwellings in a suburban atmosphere and may also include ACLF, parks and recreation facilities, and schools. Apartments may be permitted through the PUD process. Public and utility services and facilities that are 2 acres or less in size are also permitted. Maximum Density/Intensity: Suburban Residential lands may be developed up to a maximum density of 5 dwelling units per net buildable acre. The maximum density may be exceeded through an affordable housing density bonus as provided in the Special Provisions. Maximum Impervious Surface Area 40%; Minimum open space required 25% or 35% if environmental analysis finds Wekiva-related vegetative species.

The preliminary subdivision plat provides for single-family detached homes at a maximum density of 3.83 dwelling units per acre in a Suburban Residential land use district, which permits up to 5 dwelling units per acre.

The preliminary subdivision plat is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations, and provides for roadway, sidewalks, and maximum lot coverage of 1.88 acres equating to a 40% impervious surface area (maximum 40%). The environmental report submitted for the project did not show Wekiva-related vegetative species resulting in a 25% open space requirement; the plan provides 26.5% or 1.25 acres. The proposed plan is consistent with the Suburban Residential land use per the Future Land Use Element Appendix of the Comprehensive Plan and the Land Development Regulations.

- b. Land Development Regulations – Design Districts Section 109-5.5 Suburban development patterns: Intent. The suburban development pattern relies primarily on a pattern of residential development that provides the majority of property owners with substantial yards on their own property. The street layout, comprised of streets with fewer vehicular connections, helps to reduce cut-through traffic and establishes distinct boundaries for residential communities/subdivisions. Nonresidential uses are primarily located on corridors, districts and a mix of uses is prominent in centers. Each land use provides for pedestrian and bicycle connections.

The subdivision layout meets the intent of the Suburban Neighborhood development district. One subdivision entrance is provided on Estes Road.

Sidewalks are provided throughout the subdivision and along the public road frontage of Estes Road.

- ∴ Land Development Regulations – Building Lot Types – Section 110-4.2 House Lot
Minimum house lot requirements in Suburban design districts include the following: Width of 55 feet; Depth of 120 feet; Square Footage of 6,600 feet

Minimum setback requirements for House Lots in Suburban design districts include the following: Street setback of 25 feet; Common lot setback of 5 feet; Rear setback of 10 feet.

The subdivision plat proposes House Lot typologies. Under Section 109-5.6, the Suburban Neighborhood Design District, Estate Lots, House Lots, and Duplex lots are permitted.

The lot type in an area with nearby community service and shopping uses will provide housing options for a niche market (those pursuing home ownership versus apartment living yet seeking low cost and maintenance). Providing a more affordable, lower maintenance homeownership opportunity is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan Housing Element in meeting projected demand and accommodating the needs of the various household types and income groups characteristic of the city and planning area. (HOUSING GOAL HSG 1 & OBJECTIVE: HSG 1.1).

- d. Land Development Regulations – Chapter 115 General Building and Site Design Standards

Section 115-3.2. (a), (b) and (c) address suburban districts and residential compatibility as follows:

Sec. 115-3.2. - Suburban districts.

(a) *Suburban residential compatibility.* The maximum residential density permitted within any suburban design district shall be consistent with the maximum density of the applicable land use district assigned to each property.

The maximum residential density of the Suburban Residential future land use district is 5 dwelling units per acre, the subdivision proposes a density of 3.83 dwelling units per acre.

(b) When any suburban design district abuts an existing development in a suburban district, and proposed new residential lots will share a common boundary with existing or platted lots:

(1) The width of the new lots may be no more than 150 percent of the width of the existing or platted lots, unless:

(a) The existing or platted lots are non-conforming to the suburban design district standards;

(b) Central sewer service is not available.

(c) When any suburban design district abuts a rural design district, and proposed new residential lots will share a common boundary with existing or platted lots:

(1) The width of the new lots may be no less than 75 percent of the width of the existing or platted lots; unless:

(a) A landscape buffer (10 to 15 feet wide) is provided between the new lots and existing or platted lots; or

(b) Park space as permitted by Section 115-8.3. is provided between the new lots and existing or platted lots.

The property to the west and south is within a suburban design district. The properties to the north and east are in unincorporated Lake County, which properties are not currently assigned a design district designation. However, the Development Patterns Map (Map 2 of the Eustis Comprehensive Plan) indicates a suburban development pattern in this area of the City, which is indicative of the design district designation that would be assigned were those properties to be annexed into the City. (Per Section 102-17 consistent transect required; design district changes should occur along rear alleys, lanes or conservation areas).

Section 115-4.2.1. (and Comprehensive Plan Policies FLU 5.2.1 and 5.2.9) includes general site design criteria to respect the natural topography of the site and follow the outlined four-step design process. Compliance as is demonstrated as follows:

Sec. 115-4.2.1. - All districts.

(a) General site design criteria. Proposed development plans must be organized into three components: 1) wetlands and water bodies; (2) open space; and (3) developed areas. The plan design must respect the natural topography of the site and generally follow the four-step design process described below:

(1) Step 1 - Delineate open space areas as outlined below: a. Create or add to a larger contiguous off-site network of interconnected open space, particularly existing habitats and opportunities for restoring native habitats. b. Create connected and integrated open space within the development to the maximum extent practicable based on the context-sensitive site design standards and priorities below: 1. Protect listed species. 2. Create/enhance connectivity. 3. Protect native habitat. 4. Restore native habitat.

The proposed subdivision plan provides for a 0.36-acre greenway park along the north side of the property as well as right-of-way dedication and pedestrian connections that provides an opportunity to create contiguous interconnected open space as parcels develop/redevelop along Estes Road. Attention was given to providing for tree preservation, to the extent possible, in the greenway park area, by retaining the majority of the native species in that area.

The plan provides for the retention of native trees that would remain viable post-development, and the landscape plan provides for the planting of new native species.

(2) Step 2 - Define development areas in such a way as to preserve the function, purpose and integrity of the natural features of the land, the on-site natural resources, and the environmental systems to the maximum extent practicable.

The engineer designed the site to match the existing grade as much as possible.

(3) Step 3 - Align streets and trails to avoid or at least minimize adverse impacts on designated open space. The streets and trails shall provide external and internal connectivity and the street layout of subsequent phases shall be coordinated with the street system of previous phases.

The site is currently wooded and does not provide functional open space. The street layout and greenway have been designed to provide both external and internal connectivity. Subsequent phases are not proposed, but the street layout is designed to accommodate connectivity to the north or west should a future development occur.

(4) Step 4 - Lots lines and building placement should be added as the last step in the design process.

The applicant stated that by creating a greenway tract, connecting the landscape buffer, maintaining existing grade, maximizing open space, and adding lot lines and buildings as a final step of the design process, the Estes Reserve project will have excellent curb appeal while also maintaining the original natural integrity of the land.

The site is within Drainage Basin 50 (Lake Lincoln) and drains to the northeast. Via the development review committee process, the city engineering department reviewed and approved the drainage calculations and stormwater plan. A St. Johns River Water Management District permit will also be required for the project to be provided at the Final Engineering and Construction Plan phase of the approval process.

Sections 115-7, 8, and 9 outline standards for transportation, parks, and landscaping. A trip generation statement and request for an exemption from a tier 1 traffic analysis (TIA) were prepared by Traffic and Mobility Consultants for the subdivision and submitted for review by Lake County Public Works (Bates/Estes are county roads) and the city's transportation consultant, Kimley-Horn. The traffic impact is de-minimis and exempt from a full TIA.

Regarding parks, the subdivision plan provides for a greenway park with trail on the western portion of the site. The provided park space on the subdivision plan exceeds the minimum park space required by the Land Development Regulations (0.36 acres vs. minimum 0.25 acres). A landscape buffer compliant with city regulations is proposed along Estes Road.

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends approval of the Preliminary Subdivision plat for the Estes Reserve Subdivision. The minimum required 55 feet wide by 120 feet deep House Lot is consistent with the Suburban Residential Future Land Use and the Suburban Neighborhood Design District. While the City is experiencing much growth and urbanizing in some areas, the

majority of other residential development in the City is consistent with the proposed lot size and density.

Policy Implications:

None

Alternatives:

Approve Resolution Number 23-18

Deny Resolution Number 23-18

Budget/Staff Impact:

None

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