## STAFF REPORT

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



HEARING

7/12/2022

DATE:

TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: Joseph Dodson, Associate Planner

208-884-5533

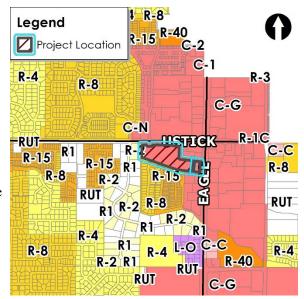
SUBJECT: H-2022-0035

Centrepointe Mixed-Use MDA

LOCATION: Project is located at 3030 N. Cajun Lane

and 3100 N. Centrepoint Way, near the southwest corner of N. Eagle Road and E. Ustick Road, in the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 5, Township 3N, Range

1E.



#### I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Request to modify the existing development agreement (Villasport, Inst. # 2019-060877) for the purpose of updating the concept plan and provisions to construct a mixed-use development consisting of commercial space and a multi-family development in lieu of an athletic club/spa and commercial building on 11.17 acres in the C-G zoning district, by Givens Pursley.

#### II. APPLICANT INFORMATION

A. Applicant:

Kristen McNeill, Givens Pursley – 601 W Bannock Street, Boise, ID 83702

B. Owner:

Mike Maffia, MGM Meridian, LLC – 5 Naranja Way, Portola Valley, CA 94028

C. Representative:

Same as Applicant

#### III. NOTICING

	City Council Posting Date
Legal notice published in newspaper	6/12/2022
Radius notice mailed to properties within 500 feet	6/10/2022

Public hearing notice sign posted	6/17/2022
NextDoor Posting	6/10/2022

#### IV. STAFF ANALYSIS

#### History

The subject application encompasses two (2) parcels surrounding the southwest corner of N. Eagle Road and E. Ustick Road. These parcels were part of a Development Agreement Modification and Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application in 2019 that removed the subject parcels from an existing Development Agreement (DA) for the purpose of entering into a new DA with a new conceptual plan and building elevations (H-2018-0121, DA Inst. # 2019-060877) and a request for a new athletic club and spa (indoor recreation facility), Villasport. The CUP approval for the indoor recreation facility has since expired and the property has been sold to the current owner. Therefore, the current DA contemplates a use that would require a new CUP approval and is under new ownership that has a different vision for the property.

## **Development Agreement Modification & Comprehensive Plan**

The approved DA (Inst. # 2019-060877) depicts an approximate 90,000 square foot 2-story gym with an outdoor pool adjacent to the south boundary and the existing residential development to the south and included some ancillary commercial along Eagle Road. Furthermore, a Traffic Impact Study (TIS) was required as part of the previous approvals and estimated approximately 3,213 additional daily trips in 2018. This volume of trips recommended certain roadway improvements including construction of an eastbound right-turn lane from Ustick Road into the shared private drive aisle—this drive aisle is technically unnamed as it is a commercial drive aisle but it is essentially an extension of N. Cajun Lane from the south. The right-turn lane and internal drive aisle connection to Cajun Lane is constructed and fully functional to date.

Through the subject DA Modification, the new owners are proposing to terminate the previous DA in order to enter into a new DA consistent with a new concept plan and associated provisions for a mixed-use development consisting of multi-family residential and commercial space. Specifically, the Applicant's narrative states the inclusion of 259 multi-family units and approximately 9,600 square feet of commercial space on the existing 11 acres in the C-G zoning district. The submitted concept plan is more detailed when compared to most concept plans submitted with DA Modifications. The Applicant chose this option to provide the City Council and Staff with as much detail as possible to ensure Staff more analysis on the proposed project.

Before getting into the details of the submitted concept plan and perspectives, Staff finds it necessary to analyze and discuss the project in a broader scope, specifically how it relates to other development in the area. The subject site is designated Mixed-Use Regional (MU-R) on the future land use map and is part of a much larger area of MU-R along the Eagle Road corridor that includes The Village, Regency at River Valley apartments, as well as multiple other commercial users and a large undeveloped area. Specifically, within the MU-R area in this southwest corner of Eagle and Ustick, there is the Jackson Square development and commercial buildings to the south and on the hard corner to the northeast. The Comprehensive Plan discusses that projects should not contemplate uses across arterials even if they share the same future land use designation as it is not anticipated for users or residents to readily walk or bike across these transportation facilities. However, Staff finds it prudent to analyze all projects in this area with at least the four corners of development around the Ustick and Eagle intersection because, in reality, the transportation impacts and expected users will come from and go beyond just the southwest corner of this intersection.

To the north are a number of big box stores (Kohl's, Dick's, and Hobby Lobby) and the new Brickyard vertically integrated development; to the north east is Lowe's and various other

commercial and restaurant buildings; to the east is Trader Joe's, multiple restaurants, and the Verraso townhomes; and to the southeast are traditional garden style apartments, restaurant users, and the Village. In terms of the ratio of commercial to residential within this area, there is currently a healthy mix of commercial and residential uses within walking distance of each other. Consistent with this discussion, Staff finds the addition of the proposed multi-family development and additional commercial pad sites would offer residential to support the mix of commercial uses in this area. Therefore, Staff believes the proposed project is generally consistent with the MU-R designation because the subject MU-R area currently consists of a number of retail, restaurant, office, and residential uses available to the region and the addition of these units should not over saturate this area with residential.

#### **Concept Plan**

The submitted concept plan (Exhibit VI.B below) depicts five (5) multi-family buildings with internal access (not garden style apartments) and two commercial buildings—the multi-family is split into three (3) 4-story buildings on the larger area of the site west of the Cajun Lane and two (2) 3-story buildings between the two commercial buildings Cajun Lane. The submitted plan depicts at least a 25-foot landscape buffer along the entire perimeter of the site except for the southeast area of the site that abuts commercial uses. Further, it appears no building is proposed within 150 feet of the existing residences to the south of the site and includes the 25-foot buffer, carport parking, a drive aisle, and surface parking between the proposed 4-story apartment buildings and the existing homes. For comparison, Villasport was approved approximately 65 feet from the existing homes. Staff finds this separation should significantly help mitigate any issues with the height disparity of the existing two-story homes to the south and the proposed 4-story buildings. The Applicant has provided a perspective drawing from the intersection of Centrepoint and E. Picard looking northeast to help show the view from the street (see section VI.B).

Overall, Staff finds the proposed layout to be an efficient use of the space for the proposed multifamily use and provides for the safest access available. However, Staff does have concerns with the viability of the proposed open space to meet code requirements and the design of the southeast portion of the site. According to the specific use standards for multi-family development (UDC 11-4-3-27), common open space may not be counted towards the required minimum when it is adjacent to arterials unless approved through the CUP process. Therefore, the proposed open space shown may not all be qualified open space if Planning and Zoning Commission do not approve it in its current location. This is concerning because if the Commission does not approve it, the proposed site plan and open space will not comply with the minimum open space standards and major revisions would likely be needed or a relatively major reduction in units would need to occur to reduce the amount of qualified open space needed.

Staff's other main concern is in regards to the southeast area of the project that depicts two commercial buildings and two multi-family buildings. The required landscape buffer to Eagle Road is 35 feet and the concept plan depicts a 25 foot buffer instead. In addition, the color concept plan depicts the multi-use pathway segment required within this buffer to be completely out of alignment with the two existing segments to the north and south. Because the design for the commercial and drive-through is shown to be directly abutting the 25-foot buffer, the Applicant will need to shift the entire commercial site west at least 10 feet to comply with UDC requirements. Furthermore, the Applicant will need to extend the multi-use pathway from the existing locations on their north and south boundary and place this pathway within the landscape buffer and not within ACHD right-of-way as currently shown.

These required revisions would likely create a need to redesign this area of the project because there will be a reduction in the area available for parking, open space, and circulation. Therefore, to help

mitigate this, and potentially increase the available commercial area, Staff has specific recommendations to City Council to revise the concept plan prior to the Council meeting:

- 1. Increase the Eagle Road buffer from 25 feet to 35 feet to comply with the UDC.
- 2. Continue the multi-use pathway in alignment with the existing locations stubbed to the north and south property lines.
- 3. Continue the pedestrian network shown along the southern boundary to connect from the west half of the site to the multi-use pathway along Eagle and provide for a connection from the commercial building sidewalks, consistent with code.
- 4. Remove one or both of two 3-story multi-family buildings or reduce their size to a point that allows more commercial space, more parking, and a plaza that can be more directly shared between the 3-story multi-family buildings and the commercial or the 4-story multi-family and the commercial—there are a number of ways this could be accomplished but Staff is recommending the following:
  - a. Remove building D in lieu of a larger shared plaza in its location.
  - b. Reduce or remove the plaza area currently shown as the noise and smell from the Eagle Road traffic largely reduces the appeal of outdoor seating along this corridor.
  - c. Increase the size of the retail building for added commercial space.

With the recommended revisions, the density can be slightly reduced which also reduces the amount of required parking (further discussion below), amount of qualified open space required, and allows the site to comply with dimensional and parking standards—Staff believes these revisions maintain the original intent of the Applicant's design but also increases the available commercial space and area for parking.

According to the site data table, the multi-family units consist of 41 studios, 108 1-bedroom units, and 110 2-bedroom units to total 259 units. The minimum parking required for the proposed distribution of unit types and clubhouse is 457 stalls with 218 of them covered; the Applicant is proposing 457 stalls with 218 covered and an additional 20 stalls for the commercial to total 477 parking stalls. The commercial drive-through has already received conditional use permit approval but the proposed multi-family residential would require a CUP in front of the Planning and Zoning Commission should Council approve this DA Modification.

However, the site plan contemplates a Starbucks as one of its commercial users which is considered a drive-through restaurant in our code and requires a different commercial parking ratio of 1 space for every 250 square feet. Therefore, the minimum commercial parking required for the proposed commercial area is 24 spaces and the Applicant would need to obtain 4 additional parking spaces in this area of the site based on the elements shown on the submitted plan. It has been Staff's experience that coffee shops, especially Starbucks, require parking beyond code minimums so the submitted concept plan causes concern for Staff, as discussed above. Further, should additional restaurant uses be proposed, additional parking would be required to meet code or they would not be allowed.

In addition, there are a number of parking spaces proposed west of Centrepoint Way with no other development on this area of the site. In order for future residents to use this parking lot they will need to cross Centrepoint Way which would be anticipated as a busy roadway with the existing residences and the addition of the proposed multi-family. Staff has concerns over the safety of access to this parking lot. Centrepoint Way is public right-of-way so if any crossing is proposed, the Applicant would need to work with ACHD to obtain approval to modify the intersection depicted on the concept plan. Staff supports the inclusion of bulb-outs and striping at a minimum in order to

# help create safer pedestrian access to and from these areas of the property and the Applicant should work with ACHD.

In addition to parking, overall access into the site is integral to the analysis of the proposed project. Main access is depicted from Ustick via the shared drive aisle near the center of the development and via Centrepoint Way near the west boundary; no access to Eagle is allowed or proposed. Two access points are depicted to each of these for the multi-family project in the center of the site with the east retail site and 3-story multi-family buildings proposed with an access to the shared drive aisle. All access points are aligned with any access points on opposing sides of the roadways. Because of the proposed use and the existence of the right-turn lane from Ustick to Cajun Lane, Staff supports the proposed accesses and does not find alternatives available without accessing the roadways to the south which are split between public right-of-way and a private lane.

As discussed above, the previous use was approved with a CUP and required a TIS, which noted that approximately 3,213 additional daily vehicle trips were anticipated. In anticipation of the proposed use and number of units, the Applicant reached out to ACHD to determine if a new TIS would be required. The proposed use of multi-family and the reduction in commercial area is anticipated to generate less trips than the previous use of an indoor recreation facility. Therefore, ACHD is not requiring a new TIS but instead requested an abbreviated study that includes turn lane analyses, parking analyses, and an updated trip generation study for the multi-family use. The Applicant performed the requested analyses and provided an abbreviated TIS report to ACHD and Staff. According to this document, the proposed multi-family project is anticipated to generate approximately 1,249 daily trips which is a reduction of approximately 1,964 trips per day. Therefore, the proposed project is anticipated to generate less than 40% of the previously anticipated vehicle trips. This is a significant reduction in vehicles trips for the adjacent local and private streets as well as to the intersection of Eagle and Ustick.

## V. DECISION

#### A. Staff:

Staff recommends approval of the proposed MDA with the proposed site plan revisions and per the DA provisions in Section VI.C.

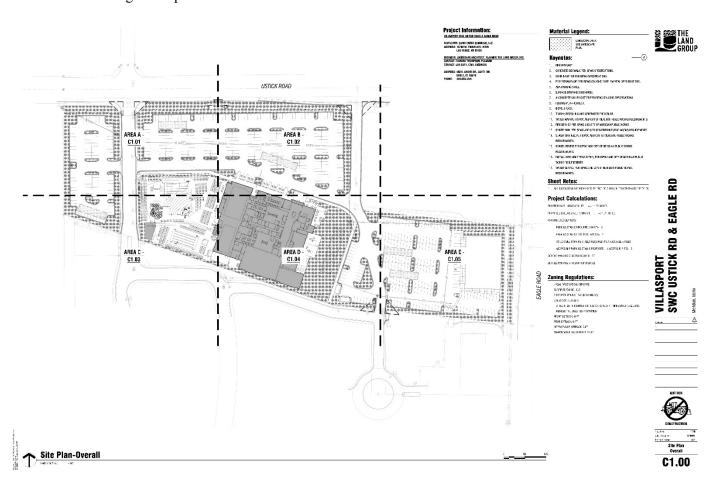
- B. The Meridian City Council heard these items on June 28, 2022 and July 12, 2022. At the public hearing, the Council moved to approve the subject Development Agreement Modification request.
  - 1. Summary of the City Council public hearing:
    - <u>a.</u> <u>In favor: Mike Maffia, Owner/Applicant; Deborah Nelson, Applicant Representative;</u> Brandon McDougald, Applicant Engineer;
    - <u>b.</u> <u>In opposition: Janet Bailey, neighbor; J.R. Schofield, neighbor; Wendy McKinney, resident; Joe White, neighbor;</u>
    - c. Commenting: Janet Bailey; J.R. Schofield; Wendy McKinney; Joe White; Julie Vrba;
    - d. Written testimony: 2 pieces Jared Schofield and Steve Grant, neighbors
    - e. Staff presenting application: Joseph Dodson, Associate Planner
    - <u>f.</u> Other Staff commenting on application: Bill Nary, City Attorney
  - 2. Key issue(s) of public testimony:
    - <u>a.</u> <u>Traffic and parking concerns with proposed multi-family use, specifically with cross-traffic through private street to the south and out to Eagle Road;</u>
    - <u>b.</u> Concerns with proposed height disparity of existing two-story single-family homes and proposed 4-story apartment buildings appreciation for Applicant's change to 3-story but still concerned with traffic circulation;

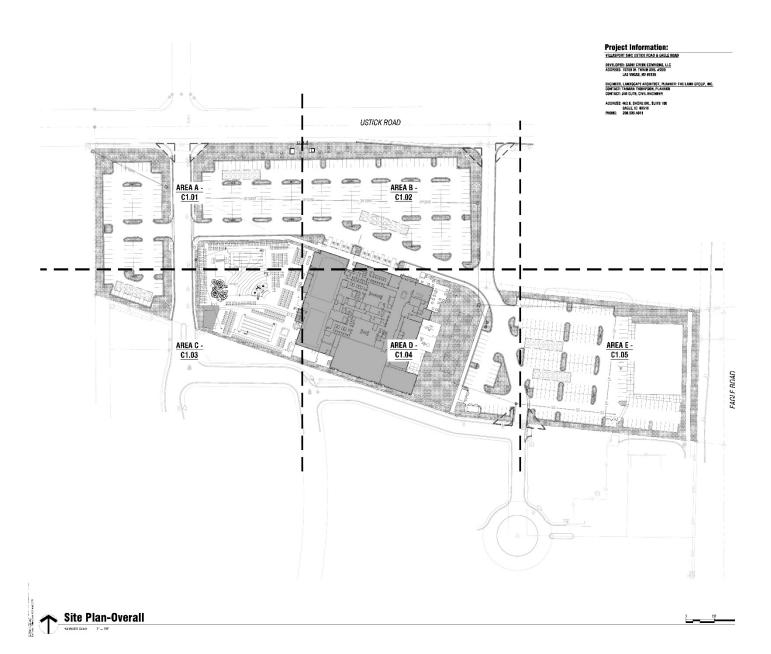
- <u>c.</u> Concerns with new proposed building along west property boundary and its transition of density and height to existing R-2 lots west of the site;
- 3. Key issue(s) of discussion by City Council:
  - a. <u>Issues presented by written testimony, specifically if any discussion occurred regarding continuing a masonry wall along west boundary;</u>
  - <u>b.</u> <u>Traffic flow for proposed multi-family use in terms of volume and anticipated circulation through existing development to the south;</u>
  - c. Volume of traffic of proposed use (Multi-family) versus existing approvals (Villasport);
  - <u>d.</u> <u>Height transition of existing approvals and proposed 4-story product type Council requested no more than 3-story tall buildings;</u>
  - e. <u>Proposed parking counts and location Council was not comfortable with parking area</u> west of Centrepoint Way and expressed a desire for all buildings to be self-parked within their respective areas of the site;
  - <u>f.</u> <u>Does Staff find proposed apartment along west boundary representative of adequate transitional density and use;</u>
  - g. Appreciation of Applicant's decision to reduce height of proposed buildings and selfpark areas of the project per Council's discussion;
  - h. Screening of west building to existing homes i.e. continuing wall along west boundary, including a buffer along west boundary, and additional dense landscaping beyond what code requires;
  - i. Design of Centrepoint Way and whether parking is allowed or should be restricted;

    Thought process of Applicant to propose more multi-family instead of office along west boundary discussion on Applicant's preferred option and market consideration;
- 4. City Council change(s) to Staff recommendation:
  - a. Strike DA provision VI.C.6;
  - <u>b.</u> Add provision to continue masonry wall along west boundary;
  - c. Limit height of buildings per Staff's recommended provision in presentation;
  - d. New provision to have Staff and Applicant work with ACHD to prohibit parking along Centrepoint Way.

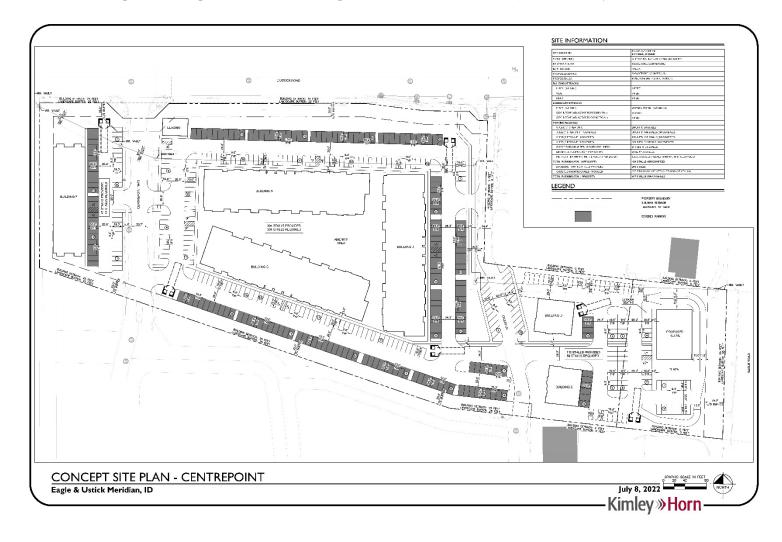
# VI. EXHIBITS

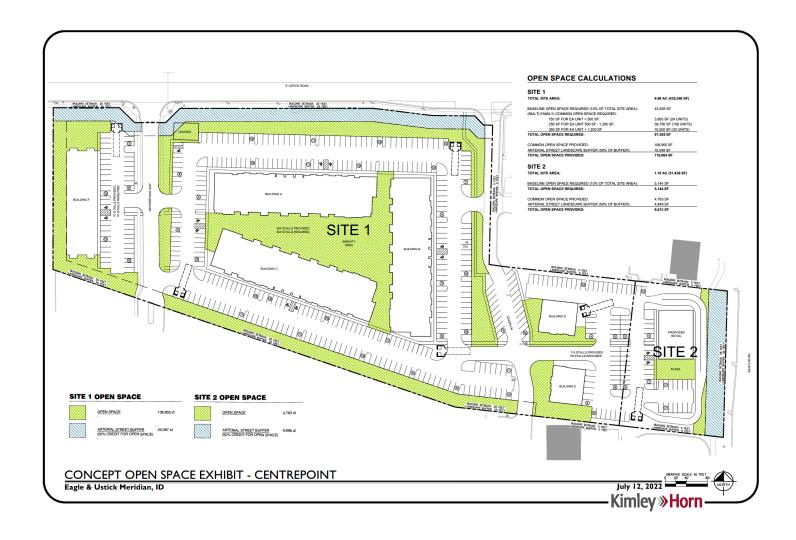
# A. Existing Concept Plan





# B. Proposed Conceptual Site Plan and Perspectives (NOT APPORVED) (REVISED July 2022):

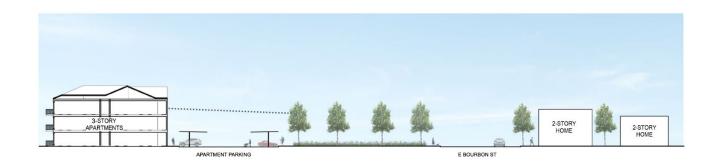








Page 11





- C. Staff's Recommended Development Agreement Provisions:
  - 1. Future development of this site shall be substantially consistent with the submitted concept plan and color renderings included in Section VI and the provisions contained herein.
  - 2. Future development shall comply with the standards outlined in the multi-family development specific use standards, UDC 11-4-3-27.
  - 3. All future pedestrian crossings that traverse shared drive aisles within the development shall be constructed with brick, pavers, stamped concrete, or colored concrete to clearly delineate the driving surface from the pedestrian facilities, per UDC 11-3A-19B.4b.
  - 4. The required landscape street buffers and multi-use pathway segment shall be constructed and vegetated with the first phase of development along E. Ustick Road and N. Eagle Road; the proposed 25-foot landscape buffer along the west and south boundaries shall be constructed with the first phase of development.
  - 5. Applicant shall work with ACHD to construct a safe pedestrian crossing from the multi-family site area to the parking lot along the west boundary across N. Centrepoint Way.
  - 6. Prior to the City Council hearing, revise the site plan generally consistent with Staff's recommendations in Section IV.
  - 7. With the future Conditional Use Permit for the multi-family development, the building along the west boundary shall be no more than two-stories in height and the three (3) buildings within the center of the project shall be no more than three-stories in height, consistent with the Applicant's revised concept plan and presentation to Council.
  - 8. Applicant shall continue the masonry wall along west property boundary consistent with adjacent development and to help buffer the proposed project.
  - 9. Staff and Applicant shall work with ACHD to mark Centrepoint Way as no-parking on both sides, should ACHD allow it.