

Planning Commission
Staff Report
June 6, 2019



Case No:	19zone1015
Project Name:	Swiss Hall Residential
Location:	719 Lynn Street
Owner(s):	Swiss Village LLC
Applicant:	Swiss Village LLC
Jurisdiction:	Louisville Metro
Council District:	15- Kevin Triplett
Case Manager:	Julia Williams, AICP, Planning Supervisor

REQUEST(S)

- Change in zoning from R-5 to R-6
- Variance from Chapter 5.5.2.C.2 to reduce the 15 setback along Lynn Street to 10' (5' Variance)
- District Development plan/Subdivision plan

CASE SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

The applicant is proposing 41 multi-family units on approximately 2.38 ac for a density of 17.22 du/ac. 18 units are included in the existing "Swiss Hall" structure with another 23 units being provided in single family style units around the site. 78 parking spaces are proposed within driveways, garages, and surface spaces. An alley is proposed to connect two existing alleys at the rear of the property. Detention will be provided underground.

The site was proposed to be rezoned from R-5 to C-2 under case #17ZONE1066. That proposal was denied.

STAFF FINDING

Staff finds that the proposal meets the guidelines of the Comprehensive Plan and requirements of the Land Development Code. The variance and development plan are justified.

TECHNICAL REVIEW

Transportation Planning and MSD have preliminarily approved the proposal.

INTERESTED PARTY COMMENTS

None received.

STANDARD OF REVIEW FOR REZONING

Criteria for granting the proposed form district change/rezoning: KRS Chapter 100.213

1. The proposed form district/rezoning change complies with the applicable guidelines and policies Plan 2040; OR

2. The existing form district/zoning classification is inappropriate and the proposed classification is appropriate; OR
3. There have been major changes of an economic, physical, or social nature within the area involved which were not anticipated in Plan 2040 which have substantially altered the basic character of the area.

STAFF ANALYSIS FOR CHANGE IN ZONING

Following is staff's analysis of the proposed rezoning against the Guidelines and Policies of Plan 2040.

The site is located in the Traditional Neighborhood Form District

Traditional Neighborhood: This form is characterized by predominantly residential uses, by a grid pattern of streets with sidewalks and often including alleys. Residential lots are predominantly narrow and often deep, but the neighborhood may contain sections of larger estate lots, and also sections of lots on which appropriately integrated higher density residential uses may be located. The higher density uses are encouraged to be located in centers or near parks and open spaces having sufficient carrying capacity. There is usually a significant range of housing opportunities, including multi-family dwellings. Traditional neighborhoods often have and are encouraged to have a significant proportion of public open space such as parks or greenways, and may contain civic uses as well as appropriately located and integrated neighborhood centers with a mixture of mostly neighborhood-serving land uses such as offices, shops, restaurants and services. Although many existing traditional neighborhoods are 50 to 120 years old, the Traditional Neighborhood Form may be used when establishing new developments and redevelopments. Revitalization and reinforcement of the Traditional Neighborhood Form will require particular emphasis on (a) preservation and renovation of existing buildings in stable neighborhoods (if the building design is consistent with the predominant building design in those neighborhoods), (b) in the case of new developments or redevelopments using traditional building scales and site layouts, (c) the preservation of the existing or establishing a new grid pattern of streets and alleys, and (d) preservation of or creation of new public open spaces.

The proposal is for high density development located along a transit route and within walking distance of a commercial corridor and activity center that has been created along Preston Street. The site is separated from the adjacent single family residential and office zoning by existing and proposed ROW. The ROW provides sufficient transition between zoning. The proposal is for the rehabilitation and repurposing of the Swiss Hall building for residential use. The high density is located near an existing commercial activity corridor that has been created along Preston Street. The Intersection of Preston and Lynn begins the Traditional Marketplace Corridor. Access to the development is from Lynn Street which is a minor arterial level roadway. While the proposal does not permit mixed use, high density in this area promotes walking and using other forms of mobility to reduce vehicle miles traveled due to the commercial in the area.

All other agency comments should be addressed to demonstrate compliance with the remaining Guidelines and Policies of Plan 2040.

A checklist is attached to the end of this staff report with a more detailed analysis. The Louisville Metro Planning Commission is charged with making a recommendation to the Louisville Metro Council regarding the appropriateness of this zoning map amendment. The Louisville Metro Council has zoning authority over the property in question.

STANDARD OF REVIEW AND STAFF ANALYSIS FOR VARIANCE

- (a) The requested variance will not adversely affect the public health, safety or welfare.

STAFF: The variance will not adversely affect the public health, safety or welfare because the proposed 5' encroachment is for the porches facing the roadway and for covered parking near the alley. 10' is a common setback for homes in the area.

- (b) The requested variance will not alter the essential character of the general vicinity.

STAFF: The requested variance will not alter the essential character of the general vicinity because 10' is a common setback for homes in the area.

- (c) The requested variance will not cause a hazard or nuisance to the public.

STAFF: The requested variance will not cause a hazard or nuisance to the public because the proposed setback is common for the area and will not affect the sidewalk or public areas.

- (d) The requested variance will not allow an unreasonable circumvention of the zoning regulations.

STAFF: The requested variance will not allow an unreasonable circumvention of the zoning regulations because there are a variety of front setbacks in the area and 10' is common.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

1. The requested variance arises from special circumstances which do not generally apply to land in the general vicinity or the same zone.

STAFF: The requested variance does not arise from any special circumstances. The applicant is expanding into the required front yard which is a common in the area as the area has a variety of setbacks.

2. The strict application of the provisions of the regulation would deprive the applicant of the reasonable use of the land or create an unnecessary hardship on the applicant.

STAFF: The strict application of the provisions of the regulation would create an unnecessary hardship on the applicant because it would reduce the size of the multi-family unit but also reduce the usable space on the site because a 10' setback is common for the area.

3. The circumstances are the result of actions of the applicant taken subsequent to the adoption of the zoning regulation from which relief is sought.

STAFF: The circumstances are the result of actions of the applicant taken subsequent to the adoption of the zoning regulation from which relief is sought. The applicant is not responsible for common setbacks in the area and are trying to create a product that fits with the variety of setbacks in the area.

STANDARD OF REVIEW AND STAFF ANALYSIS FOR DDDP

- a. The conservation of natural resources on the property proposed for development, including: trees and other living vegetation, steep slopes, water courses, flood plains, soils, air quality, scenic views, and historic sites;

STAFF: There do not appear to be any environmental constraints or historic resources on the subject site. Tree canopy requirements of the Land Development Code will be provided on the subject site.

- b. The provisions for safe and efficient vehicular and pedestrian transportation both within the development and the community;

STAFF: Provisions for safe and efficient vehicular and pedestrian transportation within and around the development and the community has been provided, and Metro Public Works has approved the preliminary development plan.

- c. The provision of sufficient open space (scenic and recreational) to meet the needs of the proposed development;

STAFF: Open space requirements are being met on the site.

- d. The provision of adequate drainage facilities on the subject site in order to prevent drainage problems from occurring on the subject site or within the community;

STAFF: The Metropolitan Sewer District has approved the preliminary development plan and will ensure the provision of adequate drainage facilities on the subject site in order to prevent drainage problems from occurring on the subject site or within the community.

- e. The compatibility of the overall site design (location of buildings, parking lots, screening, landscaping) and land use or uses with the existing and projected future development of the area;

STAFF: The overall site design and land uses are compatible with the existing and future development of the area. Appropriate landscape buffering and screening will be provided to screen adjacent properties and roadways. Buildings and parking lots will generally meet all required setbacks.

- f. Conformance of the development plan with the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code.

STAFF: The development plan conforms to applicable guidelines and policies of the Comprehensive Plan and to requirements of the Land Development Code.

REQUIRED ACTIONS:

- **RECOMMEND** that the Louisville Metro Council **APPROVE** or **DENY** the **Change-in-Zoning** from R-5 to R-6
- **APPROVE** or **DENY** the **Variance**
- **APPROVED** or **DENY** the **Detailed District Development Plan/Subdivision Plan with Binding Elements**

Based upon the information in the staff report, the testimony and evidence provided at the public hearing, the Planning Commission must determine if the proposal is in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan; OR the existing form district/zoning classification is inappropriate and the proposed classification is appropriate; OR if there have been major changes of an economic, physical, or social nature within the area involved which were not anticipated in Plan 2040 which have substantially altered the basic character of the area.

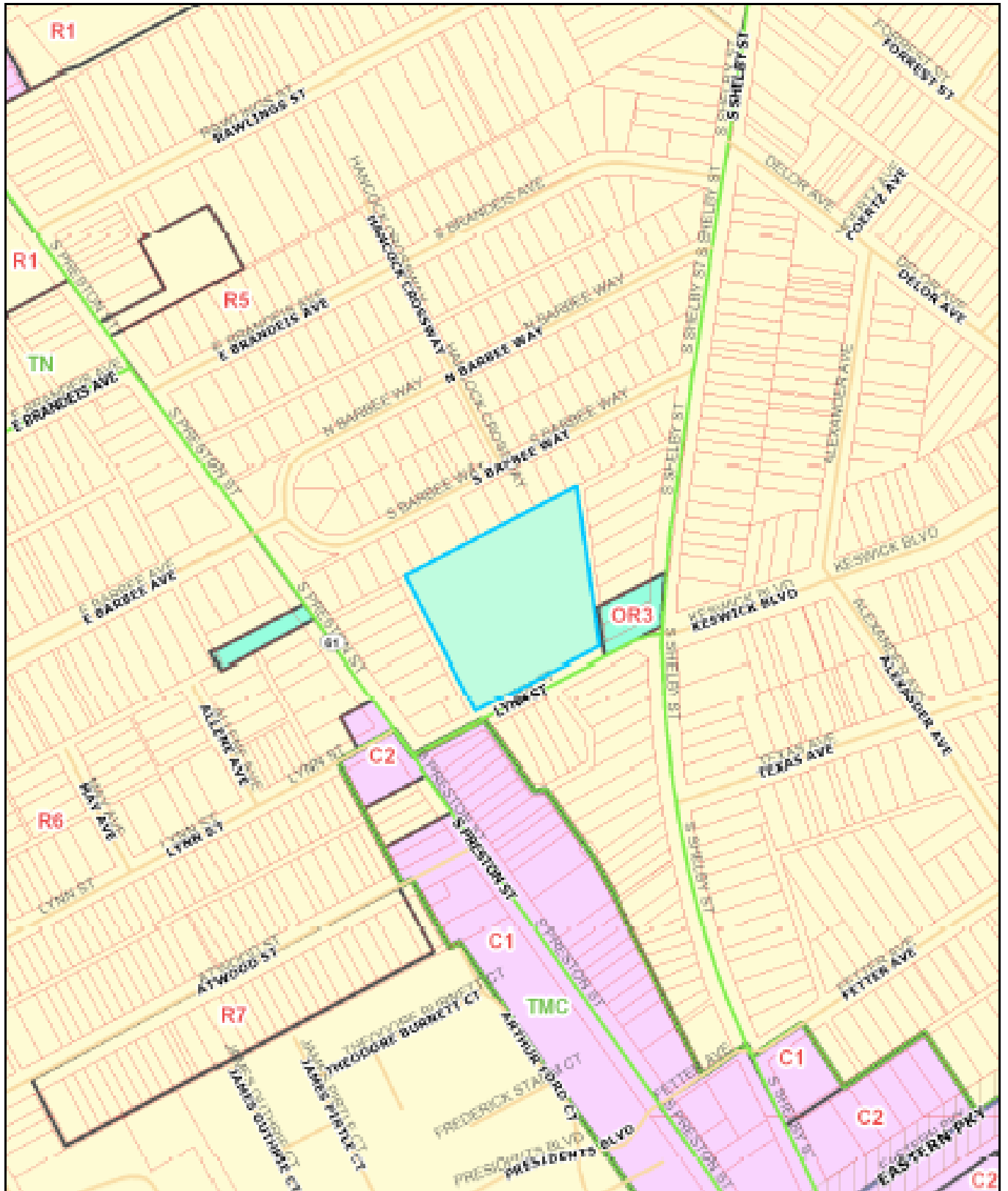
NOTIFICATION

Date	Purpose of Notice	Recipients
5/2/19	Hearing before LD&T on 5/16/19	1 st and 2 nd tier adjoining property owners Registered Neighborhood Groups in Council District 15
5/23/19	Hearing before PC on 6/6/19	1 st and 2 nd tier adjoining property owners Registered Neighborhood Groups in Council District 15
5/17/19	Hearing before PC	Sign Posting on property
	Hearing before PC	Legal Advertisement in the Courier-Journal

ATTACHMENTS

1. Zoning Map
2. Aerial Photograph
3. Staff Plan 2040 Checklist
4. Proposed Binding Elements

1. Zoning Map



2. Aerial Photograph



3. Staff Plan 2040 Checklist

- + Exceeds Guideline
- ✓ Meets Guideline
- Does Not Meet Guideline
- +/- More Information Needed
- NA Not Applicable

Traditional Neighborhood: Residential

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
1	Community Form: Goal 1	7. Locate higher density and intensity uses near major transportation facilities and transit corridors, employment centers, in or near activity centers and other areas where demand and adequate infrastructure exists or is planned.	✓	The proposal is for high density development located along a transit route and within walking distance of a commercial corridor and activity center that has been created along Preston Street.
2	Community Form: Goal 1	9. Ensure an appropriate transition between uses that are substantially different in scale and intensity or density of development. The transition may be achieved through methods such as landscaped buffer yards, vegetative berms, compatible building design and materials, height restrictions and setback requirements.	✓	The site is separated from the adjacent single family residential and office zoning by existing and proposed ROW. The ROW provides sufficient transition between zoning.
3	Community Form: Goal 2	9. Encourage new developments and rehabilitation of buildings that provide commercial, office and/or residential uses.	✓	The proposal is for the rehabilitation and repurposing of the Swiss Hall building for residential use.
4	Community Form: Goal 3	10. Encourage development to avoid wet or highly permeable soils, severe, steep or unstable slopes where the potential for severe erosion problems exists in order to prevent property damage and public costs associated with soil slippage and foundation failure and to minimize environmental degradation.	✓	Soils are not an issue with the proposal.
5	Community Form: Goal 4	2. Encourage preservation of distinctive cultural features including landscapes, natural elements and built features.	✓	Historic Preservation staff has no issues with the proposal as the existing building is being preserved.
6	Community Form: Goal 4	3. Encourage preservation and/or adaptive reuse of historic sites listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and/or recognized by the Louisville Metro Landmarks Commission or other national, state or local government historic preservation agencies.	✓	Historic Preservation staff has no issues with the proposal as the existing building is being preserved.

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
7	Mobility: Goal 1	4. Encourage higher densities and intensities within or near existing marketplace corridors, existing and future activity centers, and employment centers to support transit-oriented development and an efficient public transportation system.	✓	The proposal is for high density located near an existing commercial activity corridor that has been created along Preston Street. Transit is available along Lynn Street. The Intersection of Preston and Lynn begins the Traditional Marketplace Corridor.
8	Mobility: Goal 2	4. Avoid access to development through areas of significantly lower intensity or density development if such access would create significant nuisances.	✓	Access to the development is from Lynn Street which is a minor arterial level roadway.
9	Mobility: Goal 3	2. To improve mobility, and reduce vehicle miles traveled and congestion, encourage a mixture of compatible land uses that are easily accessible by bicycle, car, transit, pedestrians and people with disabilities. Housing should be encouraged near employment centers.	✓	The proposal is for multi-family located within walking distance is a commercial corridor. While the proposal does not permit mixed use, high density in this area promotes walking and using other forms of mobility to reduce vehicle miles traveled due to the commercial in the area.
10	Mobility: Goal 3	5. Evaluate developments for their impact on the transportation network (including the street, pedestrian, transit, freight movement and bike facilities and services) and air quality.	✓	The proposed high density zoning is located along a transit route and is connected to a larger sidewalk system in the area. Transportation Review and APCD do not have any concerns with the proposal.
11	Mobility: Goal 3	6. Ensure that those who propose new developments bear or share in rough proportionality the costs of transportation facilities and services made necessary by development.	✓	Transportation Planning is not requiring any roadway improvements.
12	Mobility: Goal 3	9. When existing transportation facilities and services are inadequate and public funds are not available to rectify the situation, the developer may be asked to make improvements, roughly proportional to the projected impact of the proposed development, to eliminate present inadequacies if such improvements would be the only means by which the development would be considered appropriate at the proposed location.	✓	Transportation Planning is not requiring any roadway improvements.
13	Mobility: Goal 3	10. Ensure that necessary improvements occur in accordance with long-range transportation plans and level of mobility criteria for all modes of travel.	✓	Transportation Planning is not requiring any roadway improvements.

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
14	Mobility: Goal 3	21. Prevent safety hazards caused by direct residential access to high speed roadways.	✓	There is no direct access to a high speed roadway.
15	Community Facilities: Goal 2	1. Locate development in areas served by existing utilities or capable of being served by public or private utility extensions.	✓	The current site is served by existing utilities. Utility expansion will be necessary to serve the entire site.
16	Community Facilities: Goal 2	2. Ensure that all development has an adequate supply of potable water and water for fire-fighting purposes. Locate only very low-density land uses on sites that use on-lot sewage disposal systems or on a private supply of potable water.	✓	An adequate water supply is available in the area.
17	Community Facilities: Goal 2	3. Ensure that all development has adequate means of sewage treatment and disposal to protect public health and to protect water quality in lakes and streams as determined by the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD).	✓	MSD has no issues with the proposal.
18	Livability: Goal 1	5. Encourage development that recognizes and incorporates the unique characteristics of identified general landscape types and native plant communities (e.g., upland hardwood forest) throughout Louisville Metro.	✓	The proposal will meet LDC requirements for any plantings on the site. The proposal is not located on a forest site or is otherwise generally known for significant plant species.
19	Livability: Goal 1	17. Determine site susceptibility to erosion; identify the presence of on-site carbonate conditions and features that are vulnerable to site disturbance; identify the extent of existing groundwater use and the impacts of the project on groundwater resources, flow patterns, and existing and proposed surface drainage. Then mitigate potential hazards to such systems resulting from the project.	✓	MSD has no issues with the proposal.
20	Livability: Goal 1	21. Mitigate negative development impacts to the integrity of the regulatory floodplain by encouraging development patterns that minimize disturbance and consider the increased risk of more frequent flooding events.	✓	MSD has no issues with the proposal.
21	Housing: Goal 1	1. Encourage a variety of housing types including, but not limited to, detached and attached single family, multi-family, mixed use, zero lot line, average lot, cluster, and co-housing. Allow for accessory residential structures and apartments. Housing types should reflect the Form District pattern.	✓	The proposal is for multi-family zoning located near single family residential zoning as well as commercial and office zoning. R-6 zoning allows for a variety of housing types with the exception of mixed use.

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
22	Housing: Goal 1	2. Promote housing options and environments that support aging in place. Encourage housing for older adults and people with disabilities to be located close to shopping and transit routes and, when possible, medical and other supportive facilities.	✓	The proposal provides high density zoning near single family zoning which would allow the aging population to stay in the same neighborhood by providing another housing type in the neighborhood that is close to commercial and located along a transit route for greater mobility to a variety of services in the community.
23	Housing: Goal 2	1. Encourage inter-generational, mixed-income and mixed-use development that is connected to the neighborhood and surrounding area.	✓	The proposal is not for mixed use zoning but is for high density zoning located near a commercial corridor and along a transit route which further connects the proposal to the neighborhood. The proposal allows for a housing type that could serve inter-generational and mixed income populations.
24	Housing: Goal 2	2. Locate housing within proximity to multi-modal transportation corridors providing safe and convenient access to employment opportunities, as well as within proximity to amenities providing neighborhood goods and services. Higher density, accessible residential uses should be located along transit corridors and in or near activity centers.	✓	The proposal is located along a transit route. There are sidewalks along the site and within the well connected neighborhood to link the residents of the proposal to the nearby commercial corridor.
25	Housing: Goal 3	1. Encourage provision of fair and affordable housing by providing a variety of ownership options and unit costs throughout Louisville Metro. Expand opportunities for people to live in quality, variably priced housing in locations of their choice by encouraging affordable and accessible housing in dispersed locations throughout Louisville Metro.	✓	The proposal provides a different housing option for this area which encourages existing residents to have another option should they want to stay in the area.
26	Housing: Goal 3	2. As neighborhoods evolve, discourage displacement of existing residents from their community.	✓	The proposal provides a different housing option for this area which encourages existing residents to have another option should they want to stay in the area.
27	Housing: Goal 3	3. Encourage the use of innovative methods such as clustering, mixed-use developments, co-housing, and accessory apartments to increase the production of fair and affordable housing.	✓	The proposal is not for mixed use zoning but is located near a commercial corridor and is along a transit route. R-6 zoning allows for single family and multi-family which could increase the production of fair and affordable housing.

4. Proposed Binding Elements

1. The development shall be in accordance with the approved district development plan, all applicable sections of the Land Development Code (LDC) and agreed upon binding elements unless amended pursuant to the Land Development Code. Any changes/additions/alterations of any binding element(s) shall be submitted to the Planning Commission or the Planning Commission's designee for review and approval; any changes/additions/alterations not so referred shall not be valid.
2. Construction fencing shall be erected when off-site trees or tree canopy exists within 3' of a common property line. Fencing shall be in place prior to any grading or construction to protect the existing root systems from compaction. The fencing shall enclose the entire area beneath the tree canopy and shall remain in place until all construction is completed. No parking, material storage or construction activities are permitted within the protected area.
3. Before any permit (including but not limited to building, parking lot, change of use, site disturbance) is requested:
 - a. The development plan must receive full construction approval from Construction Review, Louisville Metro Public Works and the Metropolitan Sewer District.
 - b. Encroachment permits must be obtained from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.
 - c. The property owner/developer must obtain approval of a detailed plan for screening (buffering/landscaping) as described in Chapter 10 prior to requesting a building permit. Such plan shall be implemented prior to occupancy of the site and shall be maintained thereafter.
 - d. A major subdivision plat creating the lots and roadways as shown on the approved district development plan shall be recorded prior to issuance of any certificates of occupancy.
 - e. A Tree Preservation Plan in accordance with Chapter 10 of the LDC shall be reviewed and approved prior to obtaining approval for site disturbance.
 - f. The materials and design of proposed structures shall be substantially the same as depicted in the rendering as presented at the June 6, 2019 Planning Commission hearing. A copy of the approved rendering is available in the case file on record in the offices of the Louisville Metro Planning Commission.
4. A certificate of occupancy must be received from the appropriate code enforcement department prior to occupancy of the structure or land for the proposed use. All binding elements requiring action and approval must be implemented prior to requesting issuance of the certificate of occupancy, unless specifically waived by the Planning Commission.
5. The applicant, developer, or property owner shall provide copies of these binding elements to tenants, purchasers, contractors, subcontractors and other parties engaged in development of this site and shall advise them of the content of these binding elements. These binding elements shall run with the land and the owner of the property and occupant of the property shall at all times be responsible for compliance with these binding elements. At all times during development of the site, the applicant and developer, their heirs, successors; and assignees, contractors, subcontractors, and other parties engaged in development of the site, shall be responsible for compliance with these binding elements.