

Planning Commission

Staff Report

October 12, 2020



Case No:	19ZONE1017
Project Name:	Langdon Place 6-Plex
Location:	9121 Blossom Lane
Owner(s):	Leigh Ann Properties LLC
Applicant:	Leigh Ann Properties LLC
Jurisdiction:	Louisville Metro
Council District:	17 – Markus Winkler
Case Manager:	Dante St. Germain, AICP, Planner II

REQUESTS

- **Change in zoning** from R-4 Single Family Residential to R-5A Multi-Family Residential
- **Detailed District Development Plan** with Binding Elements

CASE SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

The subject site is located in the City of Langdon Place, at the intersection of Blossom Lane and Weissinger Road. The site is proposed to be rezoned to R-5A to allow the construction of a residential two-story 6-plex. Access to the parcel would be achieved from Weissinger Road. Parking would be provided in an associated parking lot interior to the site.

The site is surrounded by residential uses, with a historic property, the Jesse Murray House, to the north. Multi-family residential is located to the east, west and south, with the historic property to the north under single family use. The site is within the study area for the Westport Corridor Small Area Plan.

STAFF FINDING

Staff finds that the proposal meets the guidelines of the Comprehensive Plan and the requirements of the Land Development Code.

TECHNICAL REVIEW

Westport Corridor Small Area Plan

Plan 2040

Land Development Code (Louisville Metro)

MSD and Transportation Planning have provided preliminary approval of the proposal. The site is within the study area for the Westport Corridor Small Area Plan. The plan provides no specific recommendations for this site. Two general recommendations are applicable to the site:

C.14: Follow urban design guidelines as recommended within the urban design chapter of this plan for residential and non-residential developments and redevelopments.

C.15: Encourage new development or redevelopment to provide green infrastructure, transportation connections, and open spaces through the design standards recommended within the urban design and mobility chapters of this plan.

INTERESTED PARTY COMMENTS

Four interested party comments have been received by staff in opposition to the request.

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

The site is located in the Neighborhood Form District

The Neighborhood Form is characterized by predominantly residential uses that vary from low to high density and that blend compatibly into the existing landscape and neighborhood areas. High-density uses will be limited in scope to minor or major arterials and to areas that have limited impact on the low to moderate density residential areas.

The Neighborhood Form will contain diverse housing types in order to provide housing choice for differing ages, incomes and abilities. New neighborhoods are encouraged to incorporate these different housing types within a neighborhood as long as the different types are designed to be compatible with nearby land uses. These types may include, but not be limited to, large lot single family developments with cul-de-sacs, traditional neighborhoods with short blocks or walkways in the middle of long blocks to connect with other streets, villages and zero-lot line neighborhoods with open space, and high density multi-family housing.

The Neighborhood Form may contain open space and, at appropriate locations, civic uses and neighborhood centers with a mixture of uses such as offices, retail shops, restaurants and services. These neighborhood centers should be at a scale that is appropriate for nearby neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Form should provide for accessibility and connectivity between adjacent uses and neighborhoods by automobile, pedestrian, bicycle and transit.

Neighborhood streets may be either curvilinear, rectilinear or in a grid pattern and should be designed to support physical activity for all users and invite human interaction. Streets are connected and easily accessible to each other, using design elements such as short blocks or bike/walkways in the middle of long blocks to connect with other streets. Examples of design elements that encourage this interaction include narrow street widths, street trees, sidewalks, shaded seating/gathering areas and bus stops. Placement of utilities should permit the planting of shade trees along both sides of the streets.

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

The proposed zoning district would permit the construction of a small multi-family development, a six-plex. Six-plexes are an example of “missing middle” housing, a style of housing that is under-represented in Louisville Metro and which provides options in between detached single-family residences and high-density multi-family. When small multi-family options are provided, they allow for an expansion of ownership options and price points in the neighborhood, and throughout Louisville Metro. The proposed zoning district change would therefore increase the variety of housing options, which is encouraged by Plan 2040.

The proposed zoning district and site plan are generally in compliance with the plan elements and CHASE principles of Plan 2040.

All other agency comments should be addressed to demonstrate compliance with the remaining Goals, Objectives 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 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: No natural resources appear to exist on the site except for tree canopy. Tree canopy requirements will be met.

- (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: There are no open space requirements pertinent to the current proposal.

- (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 is compatible with the existing and future development of the area. The site is surrounded by a mix of single- and multi-family development.

- (f) Conformance of the development plan with the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code. Revised plan certain development plans shall be evaluated for conformance with the non-residential and mixed-use intent of the form districts and comprehensive plan.

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

REQUIRED ACTIONS

- **RECOMMEND** that Metro Council **APPROVE** or **DENY** the **Change-in-Zoning** from R-4 to R-5A
- **APPROVE** or **DENY** the **Detailed District Development Plan with Binding Elements**

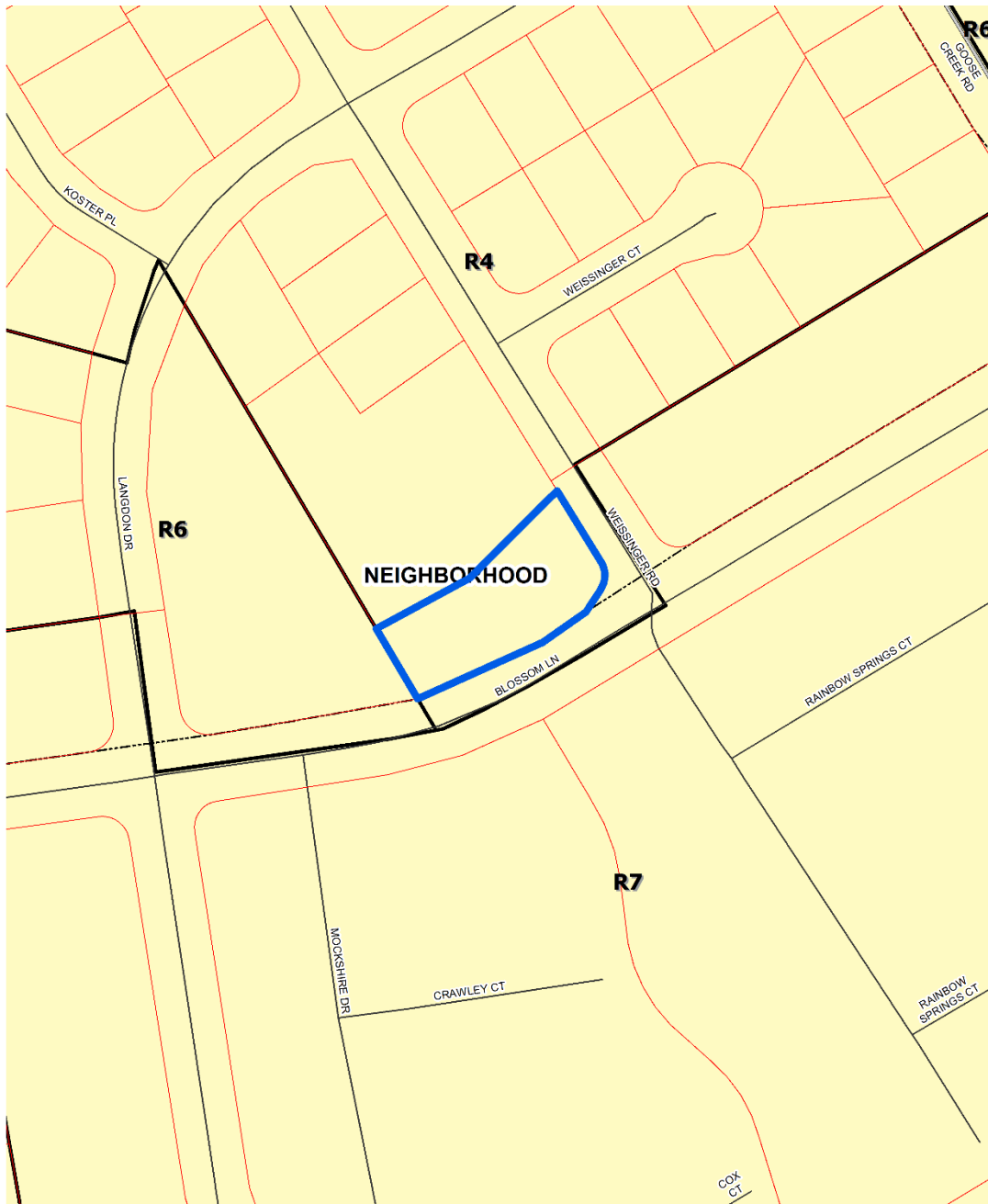
NOTIFICATION

Date	Purpose of Notice	Recipients
08/27/2020	Hearing before LD&T	1 st and 2 nd tier adjoining property owners Registered Neighborhood Groups in Council District 17
09/17/2020	Hearing before PC	1 st and 2 nd tier adjoining property owners Registered Neighborhood Groups in Council District 17
09/15/2020	Hearing before PC	Sign Posting on property
09/19/2020	Hearing before PC	Legal Advertisement in the Courier-Journal
10/02/2020	Hearing before PC	1 st and 2 nd tier adjoining property owners Registered Neighborhood Groups in Council District 17
10/05/2020	Hearing before PC	Sign Posting on property

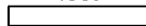
ATTACHMENTS

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

1. Zoning Map



9121 Blossom Lane
feet



140

Map Created: 3/12/2019

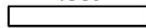


Copyright (c) 2019, LOUISVILLE AND JEFFERSON COUNTY METROPOLITAN SEWER DISTRICT (MSD), LOUISVILLE WATER COMPANY (LWC), LOUISVILLE METRO GOVERNMENT and JEFFERSON COUNTY PROPERTY VALUATION ADMINISTRATOR (PVA). All Rights Reserved.

2. Aerial Photograph



9121 Blossom Lane
feet



140

Map Created: 3/12/2019



Copyright (c) 2019, LOUISVILLE AND JEFFERSON COUNTY METROPOLITAN SEWER DISTRICT (MSD), LOUISVILLE WATER COMPANY (LWC), LOUISVILLE METRO GOVERNMENT and JEFFERSON COUNTY PROPERTY VALUATION ADMINISTRATOR (PVA). All Rights Reserved.

3. Staff Plan 2040 Checklist

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

Neighborhood: Residential

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
1	Land Use & Development Goal 1: Community Form	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 proposed zoning district would not permit higher density or intensity uses.
2	Land Use & Development Goal 1: Community Form	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 proposed zoning district would not allow uses that are substantially different in scale, or intensity or density of development, compared with what is currently present on adjoining parcels.
3	Land Use & Development Goal 2: Community Form	9. Encourage new developments and rehabilitation of buildings that provide commercial, office and/or residential uses.	✓	The lot is currently vacant and no demolition is proposed to take place.
4	Land Use & Development Goal 3: Community Form	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.	✓	No wet or highly permeable soils, or severe, steep or unstable slopes are apparent on the site.
5	Land Use & Development Goal 4: Community Form	2. Encourage preservation of distinctive cultural features including landscapes, natural elements and built features.	✓	The lot is currently vacant and mostly cleared. The applicant proposes to preserve some of the existing tree canopy between the new construction and the existing historic house.

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
6	Land Use & Development Goal 4: Community Form	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.	NA	No historic assets are apparent on the site.
7	Land Use & Development Goal 1: Mobility	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 proposed zoning district would not permit higher density or intensity uses.
8	Land Use & Development Goal 2: Mobility	4. Avoid access to development through areas of significantly lower intensity or density development if such access would create significant nuisances.	✓	The proposal is for a lower intensity/density zoning district and access will be achieved via a local street.
9	Land Use & Development Goal 3: Mobility	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 site is approximately 1/3 rd mile from an employment center at the intersection of Westport Road and Goose Creek Road.
10	Land Use & Development Goal 3: Mobility	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.	✓	Transportation Planning has approved the proposal.
11	Land Use & Development Goal 3: Mobility	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 has approved the proposal.
12	Land Use & Development Goal 3: Mobility	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 has approved the proposal.

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
13	Land Use & Development Goal 3: Mobility	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 has approved the proposal.
14	Land Use & Development Goal 3: Mobility	21. Prevent safety hazards caused by direct residential access to high speed roadways.	✓	No direct residential access to high speed roadways is proposed.
15	Land Use & Development Goal 2: Community Facilities	1. Locate development in areas served by existing utilities or capable of being served by public or private utility extensions.	✓	The relevant utilities have approved the proposal.
16	Land Use & Development Goal 2: Community Facilities	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.	✓	LWC has approved the proposal.
17	Land Use & Development Goal 2: Community Facilities	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 approved the proposal.
18	Land Use & Development Goal 1: Livability	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.	✓	Tree canopy requirements will be met on the site by preserving existing canopy.
19	Land Use & Development Goal 1: Livability	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.	✓	No karst features are evident on the site.
20	Land Use & Development Goal 1: Livability	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 approved the proposal.

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
21	Land Use & Development Goal 1: Housing	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 proposed zoning district would expand the availability of multi-family housing in the neighborhood.
22	Land Use & Development Goal 1: Housing	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 would promote aging in place by increasing the variety of ownership options and price points in the neighborhood, allowing older residents to move into more affordable units without leaving the neighborhood.
23	Land Use & Development Goal 2: Housing	1. Encourage inter-generational, mixed-income and mixed-use development that is connected to the neighborhood and surrounding area.	✓	Intergenerational mixed-income and mixed-use development will be encouraged by the proposal by increasing the options for housing in the neighborhood.
24	Land Use & Development Goal 2: Housing	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 subject site is located in proximity to Westport Road, a multi-modal transportation corridor, and within 1/3 rd mile to an employment and shopping center.
25	Land Use & Development Goal 3: Housing	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 would increase the variety of ownership and unit costs throughout Louisville Metro, and expand opportunities for people to live in quality, variably priced housing in locations of their choice.
26	Land Use & Development Goal 3: Housing	2. As neighborhoods evolve, discourage displacement of existing residents from their community.	✓	The subject parcel is currently vacant.
27	Land Use & Development Goal 3: Housing	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.	✓	Innovative methods of housing will be permitted by the proposed zoning district.

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. No outdoor advertising signs, small freestanding signs, pennants, balloons, or banners shall be permitted on the site.
3. 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.
4. Before any permit (including but not limited to building, parking lot, change of use, site disturbance, alteration permit or demolition permit) is requested:
 - a. The development plan must receive full construction approval from Construction Review, Louisville Metro Public Works and the Metropolitan Sewer District.
 - b. The property owner/developer must obtain approval of a detailed plan for screening (buffering/landscaping) as described in Chapter 10 prior to requesting a certificate of occupancy. Such plan shall be implemented prior to occupancy of the site and shall be maintained thereafter.
 - c. A Tree Preservation Plan in accordance with Chapter 10 of the LDC shall be reviewed and approved prior to obtaining approval for site disturbance.
 - d. The materials and design of proposed structures shall be substantially the same as depicted in the rendering as presented at the October 1, 2020 Planning Commission meeting. A copy of the approved rendering is available in the case file on record in the offices of the Louisville Metro Planning Commission.
5. 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.
6. 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.