

Case No. 15ZONE1004 Findings of Fact

00:51:00 On a motion by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Louisville Metro Planning Commission finds that the requested Waiver for the pedestrian connection will not adversely affect adjacent property owners since completed sidewalks will be provided along National Turnpike and Tolls Road with full pedestrian connections into the site; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that Guideline 7, Policy 1 states that developments should be evaluated for their impact on the street and roadway system and to ensure that those who propose new developments bear or reasonably share in the costs of the public facilities and services made necessary by development. Guideline 9, Policy 1 states that new development should provide, where appropriate, for the movement of pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users with sidewalks along the streets of all developments where appropriate. The waiver will not violate specific guidelines of Cornerstone 2020 since full pedestrian connectivity will be provided from the ROWs along National Turnpike and Tolls Road in conjunction with the vehicular access points; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that the extent of the waiver of the regulation is the minimum necessary to afford relief to the applicant since the pedestrian connections being provided will allow full pedestrian, transit and cyclist access to the proposed development; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that the strict application of the provisions of the regulation would deprive the applicant of the reasonable use of the land or would create an unnecessary hardship on the applicant since the additional pedestrian connection from Patrick Henry Road would interrupt the needed berming and buffering potentially creating a nuisance situation along the residential area to the north; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that the requested Waiver for the Amenity Area will not adversely affect adjacent property owners since the amenity area will only serve the privately owned subject site; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that the waiver will not violate specific guidelines of Cornerstone 2020 since amenity areas will be provided on the site to accommodate the office use portions of the property; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that the extent of the waiver of the regulation is the minimum necessary to afford relief to the applicant since the site does not have sufficient spacing to provide outdoor amenity areas equaling ten percent of the entire structure and mix of uses; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that the strict application of the provisions of the regulation would deprive the applicant of the reasonable use of the land or would create an unnecessary hardship on the applicant by requiring additional amenity area beyond the amount requested as part of the development plan; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that the proposal meets the intents of **Guideline 1 – Community Form**. The community form district for this area is Suburban Neighborhood which is characterized by predominantly residential uses, but this large piece of vacant property, although surrounded on three sides with high density residential (apartment) uses, is really more in keeping with the workplace uses on large tracts of land located up and down National Turnpike in this area. The Suburban Workplace Form District is a form characterized by predominately industrial and office uses where buildings are set back from the street in a landscaped setting. Suburban Workplaces often contain a large scale use, as proposed in the case of this application for a large warehouse or light manufacturing building, and DPDS staff at the pre-application conference recommended a change to the Suburban Workplace Form District; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that the proposal meets the intents of Guideline 2 – Centers. The Intents of this Guideline are to promote an efficient use of land and investment in existing infrastructure, to lower utility costs by reducing the need for extensions, to reduce commuting time and transportation-related air pollution, and to encourage commercial revitalization in developing areas; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that this application complies with these Intents of this Guideline because National Turnpike is a wide arterial highway with adequate traffic-carrying capacity where utilities already exist to accommodate expansion of the business park type uses already proliferating across National Turnpike from this site. The property is surrounded by single apartment buildings and large apartment complexes which are surrounded by residential subdivisions. Because this larger area is already predominantly a Workplace Area which attracts large number of employees and because housing is also located, commuting times can be reduced and transportation-related air pollution is thus not exacerbated by this application. Those already traveling from distant locations to this larger Suburban Workplace Area will find more employment opportunities as a consequence of this proposed development, whereas those residing nearby will shorten their trips from home to work; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that applicable Policies 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 14, 15 and 16 of this Guideline all pertain to where activity centers are located and how they are designed. This application complies with these applicable Policies of this Guideline given that another warehouse/light industrial facility directly across National Turnpike from a large number of like kind (some older and some newer) facilities assures that the location of this one is appropriate; it keeps employment within an area where other workplace activities are located; many of the large industrial/warehouse manufacturing facilities in the area are older and whereas some are newer, this

will be the newest, and the design shown in the PowerPoint presentation at the public hearing, which also demonstrates that this use and its design is appropriate for this center of workplace activity; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that the proposal meets the intents of **Guideline 3 – Compatibility**. The intents of this Guideline are to allow a mixture of land uses near each other as long as they are designed to be compatible with each other, to prohibit the location of sensitive land uses in areas where accepted standards for noise, lighting, odors or similar nuisances might be violated and to preserve the character of existing neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that this application complies with the Intents of this Guideline based on the site plan accompanying this application as shown in the applicant's exhibit books; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that applicable Policies 1, 2 and 4 of this Guideline pertain to the assurance of compatibility through design; the photographs included in the applicants public hearing exhibit book application demonstrate that the proposed plan shows how setback areas will be screened and buffered; setbacks will be adequate, along residential property lines where there will be berms as well landscaping and the potential for fencing as needed; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that applicable Policies 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of this Guideline all pertain to the potential nuisances caused by odors, traffic, noise, lighting and aesthetics; these Policies can be further addressed through binding elements as may be called for; but the Land Development Code (LDC) specifically addresses issues such as lighting by requiring that it be directed down and away from residential properties; the LDC also addresses aesthetics by requiring buildings, including ones of this kind, be designed in ways to break up long expanses of non-descript facades; it is not anticipated that no odors will be involved with the warehouse or light industrial activities that are expected in these buildings; and all activities, except trucks coming and going (mostly during normal working hours) will occur within the proposed buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that applicable Policies 17, 18 and 19 of this Guideline pertain to the location of industries near other industries and the handling of hazardous materials; this application complies with these applicable Policies of this Guideline because, as stated, this proposed light industrial/warehouse facility is located in close proximity to others, and moreover hazardous materials are not anticipated at this site; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that applicable Policies 21, 22, 23, 24 and 29 pertain to transitions, screening, buffering, setback and impacts from parking, loading and delivery; the site plan accompanying this application demonstrates the setbacks that are provided, requiring no waivers or variances, except for one certain sidewalk connection and also except for total amount of amenity space; a landscaped

berm will be included to protect residential properties to minimize the impacts of tractor trailers arriving and departing and while they load and unload; and other facilities of this kind, particularly those managed by the operator of this facility, experience tractor trailer arrivals and departures generally during normal business hours; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that the proposal complies with the intents of **Guideline 6 – Economic Growth and Sustainability**. The Intents of this Guideline are to assure the availability of necessary land to facilitate industrial development, to reduce public and private costs for land development, and to ensure that regional scale workplaces and industrial land uses have access to people, goods and services and appropriate locations to conduct their businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that this application complies with these Intents of this Guideline given that this area of National Turnpike is one where facilities of this same kind proliferate; many of them are older, whereas this one will be new and will assure adequate screening and buffering, good site and building design. The Jacobs Engineering Traffic Impact Study finds that National Turnpike has adequate traffic-carrying capacity; other essential infrastructure is located proximate to this site; Louisville has become a center for distribution facilities because of UPS, and it is also becoming increasingly attractive to light industrial because of a good workforce, affordable wage rates and low utility costs; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that applicable Policies 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 of this Guideline all pertain to preserving workplaces, assuring good access to them, locating industries proximate to transportation facilities and the redevelopment of older industrial areas; this application complies with all of these applicable Policies of this Guideline given that this property has remained vacant for many years and as said, this area is one where lots of facilities of this kind are already located; National Turnpike provides good access to the airport and to the Snyder Freeway and I-65 as well as to the Watterson Expressway and I-64; this particular operator of this facility is already managing facilities in the nearby business park and it has demolished some older buildings and replaced them with new ones; and this will be a new facility like the newest of the kind that it recently constructed; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that the proposal meets the intents of **Guidelines 7, 8, and 9 – Circulation, Transportation Facility Design, and Alternative Forms of Transportation**. The Intents of these Guidelines are to assure the safe and proper functioning of street systems, to assure that roads such as National Turnpike do not exceed their carrying capacities, to ensure that internal and external circulations are safe, that transportation facilities have adequate carrying capacity and that alternative means of transportation are accommodated; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that this application complies with the Intents of these Guidelines given that National Turnpike has adequate carrying capacity; it is a wide arterial highway that leads from the Snyder Freeway to the Watterson

Expressway, providing access to I-65 and I-64 as well as the airport; and there are no issues with traffic congestion in or around these areas; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that applicable Policies 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 18 of **Guideline 17**; applicable Policies 7, 9, 10 and 11 of **Guideline 8**; and Policies 1, 2, 3 and 4 of **Guideline 9** all pertain to the specific issues that Metro Public Works and Transportation Planning expect to be addressed on the detailed district development plans filed with any given application; those agencies have their particular standards which elaborate more specifically as to these particular policies; this application complies with these applicable Policies of these Guidelines because Heritage Engineering has experience with the particular standards of these agencies, and accordingly Heritage has designed the DDDP with particular attention to issues of access, internal circulation, adequacy of parking, adequacy of loading and maneuvering, site design and alternative means of transportation to the extent applicable; Jacobs Engineering Group has performed a Traffic Impact Study, determining that this proposed project has not adverse impacts on nearby road systems; and these applicable transportation agencies have reviewed the DDDP and Traffic Impact Study in detail, and have given their preliminary stamp of approval, thus assuring compliance with these applicable Policies of these Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that the proposal meets the intents of **Guideline 10 – Storm-water Management**. The Intents and applicable Policies 1, 3, 6, 7, 10 and 11 of this Guideline pertain to the issues of assuring that the hydraulic capacity of natural systems is accommodated so to ensure that drainage systems designs minimize damage to streams and nearby properties; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that this application complies with these Intents and applicable Policies of this Guideline given that the DDDP has been designed to assure that drainage is captured by internal catch basins and delivered to a detention basin via installed storm pipes; post development rates of runoff cannot exceed predevelopment conditions, which is the purpose of the detention basin included within this DDDP; further, MSD must assure the adequacy of the storm-water management system, and it has given its stamp of preliminary approval the DDDP, thus demonstrating compliance with these applicable Policies of this Guideline; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that the proposal meets the intents of **Guidelines 11 & 12 – Water and Air Quality**. The Intents and applicable Policies of these Guidelines seek to assure that water and air quality are protected; this application complies with the Intents and applicable Policies given that regulations have been promulgated by MSD and the Air Pollution Control District (APCD) as to water quality; also, the application must assure eventual compliance with MSD's soil erosion and sedimentation control plus water quality ordinances; and as to air quality, locating this facility in close proximity to workforce housing as well as to facilities of a like kind assures minimizing vehicle miles traveled, thus reducing impacts on air quality; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that the proposal meets the intents of **Guideline 13 – Landscape Character**. The Intents and applicable Policies 1, 2, 4 and 6 of this Guideline seek to assure that facilities of this or any kind provide adequate screening, buffering and landscaping to protect adjoining uses; and this application complies with these Intents and applicable Policies given that a berm with landscaping will be installed around some of the facility to protect nearby residential properties, whereas trees will be installed to also assure adequate screening; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that the proposal respects the existing FEMA floodplain along the western property perimeter. Tree canopy requirements of the Land Development Code will be provided on the subject site; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that provisions for safe and efficient vehicular and pedestrian transportation within and around the development and the community has been provided, and Metro Public Works and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet have approved the preliminary development plan; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that the needed open space and amenity area will be provided on the site; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that the Metropolitan Sewer District has approved the preliminary development plan and will ensure the provisions of adequate drainage facilities on the subject site in order to prevent drainage problems from occurring on the subject site or within the community; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that 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 meet all required setbacks; and

WHEREAS, the Commission further finds that, based on the evidence and testimony presented, the staff report, and applicant's findings of fact that all of the applicable Guidelines of Cornerstone 2020 and the Comprehensive Plan are being met; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Louisville Metro Planning Commission does hereby **RECOMMEND** to the Louisville Metro Council that the Change in Form District from Neighborhood to Suburban Workplace and the Change in zoning from C-1 to EZ-1 be **APPROVED**; and does hereby **APPROVE** the Waiver from Chapter 5.9.2.a.b.i of the Land Development Code to not provide the required pedestrian connection from Patrick Henry Road (Waiver #1) and Waiver from Chapter 5.12.2 of the Land Development Code to reduce the required outdoor amenities to 5,000 SF (Waiver #2) **AND** the Detailed District Development plan