RENO

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Reno City Planning Commission

Wednesday, November 3, 2021 ● 5:00 PM

Reno City Council Chamber, One East First Street, Reno, NV 89501

Commissioners				
Kathleen Taylor, Chair 326-8859				
Alex Velto, Vice Chair	326-8858	Mark Johnson	326-8864	
J.D. Drakulich	326-8861	Arthur Munoz	326-8862	
Peter Gower	326-8860	Silvia Villanueva	326-8863	

1 Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Munoz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2 Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Kathleen Taylor	Chair	Absent	
J.D. Drakulich	Commissioner	Present	
Peter Gower	Commissioner	Present	
Mark Johnson	Commissioner	Present	
Arthur Munoz	Commissioner	Present	
Alex Velto	Commissioner	Present	
Silvia Villanueva	Commissioner	Absent	

The meeting was called to order at 5:46 PM.

3 Public Comment

Murray Kane spoke regarding the master plan being part of the decision making process. He also requested a future agenda item for a new regulation that requires any member of the Planning Commission that has received a campaign contribution from an applicant to recuse themselves from making a decision on that applicant's project.

One email received and was forwarded to the Commission and has been entered into the record. No voicemails were received.

4 Public Hearings

4.1 Staff Report (For Possible Action): Case No. LDC22-00008 (Rancho IV) – A request has been made for: 1) a tentative map to establish a 142-lot townhome subdivision; and 2) a conditional use permit for a) a subdivision with over 100 units in the MF14 zone, b) hillside development, c) cuts and fills, and d) disturbance of a major drainageway. The ±28.04 acre site is located at the terminus of Vista Rafael Parkway and Stoltz Road. The site is within the MultiFamily Residential – 14 units per acre (MF-14) zoning district and has a Master Plan land use designation of Mixed Neighborhood (MX). [Ward 4] 5:52 PM

John Krmpotic, KLS Planning and Design, gave an overview of the project.

Brook Oswald, Associate Planner, presented the staff report.

Public Comment:

Dionne Lim was absent when called to speak and her comment in opposition was read into the record.

Monika Malmoinir spoke in opposition.

Manuel Souza spoke in opposition.

Murray Kane spoke in opposition.

Carol Cox spoke in opposition.

Ron Lee spoke in opposition.

Brooke Siem spoke in opposition.

Mark Spalding spoke in opposition.

Claudia Klovski spoke in opposition.

Steve Klovski - opposed - did not wish to speak.

Cindi Lee spoke in opposition.

Cynthia Fedrivic spoke in opposition.

Tracy Candela spoke in opposition.

Jay Quiggle spoke in opposition.

Staff received over 70 emails in opposition that were forwarded to the Commission and entered into the record.

Voicemails:

Daniel Glenn

Betsy Clark

Chris Hildenbrand

Disclosures: All commissioners present visited the site, spoke with the applicant's

representative, and read emails.

Questions:

Mr. Oswald confirmed for Commissioner Gower that the primary access will be off of Vista Raphael and the secondary access will be gated and used for emergency access only off of Hoge Road. Pedestrian access will be provided at the secondary access.

Mr. Oswald confirmed for Commissioner Gower that the anticipated amount of traffic generated from the project does not meet the city's threshold to require additional traffic analysis. Engineering staff does not anticipate it to impact the levels of service on the surrounding street networks.

Mr. Oswald explained for Commissioner Gower how the project plans to deal with parking. The majority of the units will be duets with two parking stalls in a garage and two additional parking stalls in a driveway. The planned parking for the smaller units will also meet the required parking standard.

Commissioner Gower asked about design requirements or mitigations to prevent overnight parking or guest parking in the eight total trailhead stalls.

Mr. Oswald stated he anticipates the HOA would enforce their CC&Rs to ensure that those would not be used by residents or for overnight parking so that the ability for the public to use those as trailhead parking would not be impacted.

Mike Mischel, Engineering Manager, explained for Commissioner Johnson that the roadway width will be 30 feet of asphalt with no parking on either side of the road.

Mr. Krmpotic confirmed for Commissioner Johnson that the roadway would be signed for no street parking.

Mr. Krmpotic confirmed for Commissioner Gower that the roadway grade will be six percent.

Mr. Oswald confirmed for Commissioner Drakulich that Vista Raphael is the only anticipated primary access to this site.

Mr. Oswald answered questions from Commissioner Johnson regarding wetlands. Jurisdictional wetlands are regulated by the Army Corp of Engineers. Staff does not anticipate any impact to wetlands from the proposed grading.

Mr. Oswald demonstrated for Commissioner Johnson where the drainageway is located and where the emergency access road goes across the drainageway. No development will impact the drainageway other than the secondary emergency access.

Mr. Oswald answered questions from Commissioner Munoz regarding tree mitigation requirements.

Jason Gilles, Tech Engineering, explained for Commissioner Munoz details of the proposed access on Vista Raphael and stated this is the best solution they came up with.

Mr. Gilles answered questions from Commissioner Munoz regarding the Eisan Avenue access road and where it crosses the drainage area.

Commissioner Johnson asked if the developer has considered not including units 1-6 in order to minimize the number of existing trees that would be impacted as suggested by one of the public comment voicemails heard tonight.

Mr. Krmpotic stated he would need to talk with Chris Fausett about that.

Commissioner Gower asked what assurances there are that the required number of trees planted will reach maturity.

Mr. Oswald explained the process that would be used to assure that Condition No. 17 regarding tree mitigation has been meet.

In response to public comments heard tonight, Mr. Oswald explained for Commissioner Gower that this is not an area that we would anticipate buckwheat being present. He also stated that radon did not come up in any of our analysis.

Chris Pingree, Director of Development Services, explained there are radon mitigation plans that are put into place when there is a geotechnical report back on soils being disturbed. That is part of the process that is reviewed at the building permit phase.

Mr. Oswald confirmed for Commissioner Gower that staff worked with Fire Marshall Tray Palmer on crafting the conditions for mitigation of wildlife urban interface (WUI) concerns.

Mr. Oswald confirmed for Commissioner Gower that this project was reviewed under the current ReImagine Reno Master Plan, which has a stronger stance on environmental issues. He also confirmed that staff finds the project is in substantial conformance with the master plan.

Mr. Krmpotic reviewed on a map for Commissioner Drakulich the parking and pedestrian access to the trail network.

Mr. Oswald responded to questions from Commissioner Munoz regarding potential impacts on views for existing neighbors. Staff worked with the developer on grading, architecture, and landscaping to try and minimize the impact of this development to the extent that we can.

Michael Pagni, McDonald Carano, responded to Commissioner Velto's request to discuss tree removal and viewshed issues. City Code does not prohibit the removal of trees. It recognizes that trees will be removed for development and Council has mandated mitigation measures. This project will comply with the required mitigations. With regard to existing residents in the area potentially losing views, this is not open space and it is zoned for development. Legally you don't have a right to a viewshed unless you have an easement to conserve a viewshed.

Discussion:

Commissioner Gower stated that he understands where public commenters are coming from and discussed his role here tonight. The role of this commission is to get the information for a proposed development on private property. This property owner has a right to develop his property. Our role is to make sure that development happens appropriately.

Commissioner Munoz addressed accusations made during public comment and stated he does not come in here and make decisions that are best for developers. He tries to make decisions that are best for our city and our communities.

Commissioner Drakulich thanked the people that came and spoke their mind. He talked about this being a growing community.

Commissioner Johnson stated we don't come in here with preconceived notions and that's why we ask questions. In terms of making the findings, there are a lot of safeguards put in place based on the master plan and Title 18. We have limited the number of units that can be there based on our hillside development code. He stated that the biggest question he has is looking at the first finding for general approval criteria regarding consistency with the master plan that states the decision making authority shall weigh competing plan goals, policies and strategies and may approve an application that provides a public benefit even if the development is contrary to some of the goals, policies, or strategies in the master plan. It is an opportunity for the Planning Commission to decide on a case by

case bases which policies are most important if they are in conflict with each other. He stated that he can make the project specific findings but is struggling with the one that is asking them to weigh the 142 units of new development as promoted by the master plan against the distinct modification of a natural environment. He struggles with seeing the benefit of those 142 homes over what is a predominant area of landscape on that part of the town.

Commissioner Munoz asked Commissioner Johnson if he is suggesting that eliminating some of the units as suggested during public comment would help him make that finding.

Commissioner Johnson stated that is looking at one specific element. It addresses one of the points we heard a lot of information about but he is also looking at the grading plan. There is a lot of open space but that open space is being manipulated. There is a lot of work that needs to be done to develop this site to the maximum extent that is being proposed. That is what I'm weighing, is there a project here that satisfies both the desire for the landowner to use the land they have but meet the requirements to have minimal impact on a currently undeveloped area at the foot of public land. This project is 142 homes which is the maximum they can build on the site based on the slope analysis. The addition or subtraction of those six homes probably doesn't impact my thinking one way or the other.

Commissioner Gower asked Commissioner Johnson if he is indicating through his comments that his perspective is that the new master plan sets a higher bar for this development compared to the earlier phases of this project.

Commissioner Johnson stated yes, the bar has been raised but the bigger question is in looking at where this is on the site compared to the earlier phases. This is adjacent to BLM land and is at the base of a trail network.

Commissioner Drakulich asked Commissioner Johnson if he is considering asking the developer to discuss removing units.

Commissioner Johnson stated he does not want to redesign a project.

Commissioner Velto stated this project achieves a lot of the goals in the master plan. This is a project that is conveniently located to build housing that is more affordable. When I'm weighing competing goals, I'm going to come down on the side of affordable housing, especially when the development complies with the requirements the city has outlined for hillside development.

It was moved by Commissioner Drakulich, seconded by Commissioner Gower, in the

case of LDC22-00008 (Rancho IV Tentative Map), based upon compliance with the applicable findings, to approve the tentative map, and associated conditional use permits, subject to conditions. The motion failed with three (3) in favor and two (2) oppositions by Commissioners Johnson and Munoz. Technical denial.

The appeal process was read into the record.

(Recess at 8:05 p.m. Meeting resumed at 8:20 p.m.)

RESULT: DEFEATED [3 TO 2]
MOVER: J.D. Drakulich, Commissioner
SECONDER: Peter Gower, Commissioner

AYES: J.D. Drakulich, Peter Gower, Alex Velto

NAYS: Mark Johnson, Arthur Munoz
ABSENT: Kathleen Taylor, Silvia Villanueva

Resolution No.: Staff Report (For Possible Action - Recommendation to City Council): Resolution No. 03-21 Case No. LDC22-00002 (Plumb Lane Business Park) – A request has been made for: 1) a Master Plan amendment from ±5.88 acres of Public/Quasi-Public/Wells Avenue Neighborhood Plan - Public Facility (PQP/WANP - PF) to Suburban Mixed-Use/Wells Avenue Neighborhood Plan – Urban Residential/Commercial (SMU/WANP - UR/C) and ±0.38 acres of Single-Family Neighborhood/Wells Avenue Neighborhood Plan – Single-Family (SF/WANP - SF) to SMU/WANP - UR/C, and; 2) a rezoning from ±5.2 acres of Public Facility (PF) to General Commercial (GC), ±0.68 acres of PF to Professional Office (PO), and ±0.38 acres of Single-Family Residential 8 units per acre (SF-8) to PO. The ±6.26 acre site is generally located on the northeast corner of the Yori Avenue and Casazza Drive intersection and east of Yori Avenue between Casazza Drive and East Plumb Lane. [Ward 3] 8:21 PM

Mike Railey, Christy Corporation, gave an overview of the project.

Kyle Chisholm, Associate Planner, presented the staff report.

Public Comment:

Connie Silveira expressed concern regarding what would be proposed on the two parcels zoned single family.

Staff received one public comment via email that was forwarded to the Planning Commission and is part of the record.

Disclosures: Commissioner Johnson is familiar with the site, read emails, and spoke with the applicant's representative. Commissioners Drakulich, Munoz, Gower and Velto are familiar with the site and read emails.

Questions:

Mr. Railey answered questions from Commissioner Johnson regarding parking and confirmed that any development on sites that abut Casazza would require an additional review due to neighborhood adjacency.

It was moved by Commissioner Munoz, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, in the case of LDC22-00002 (Plumb Lane Business Park), based upon compliance with the applicable findings, to adopt the amendment to the Master Plan by resolution and recommend that City Council approve the Master Plan and zoning map amendments, subject to conformance review by the Regional Planning Commission. The motion carried unanimously with five (5) commissioners present.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Arthur Munoz, Commissioner
SECONDER: Mark Johnson, Commissioner

AYES: Drakulich, Gower, Johnson, Munoz, Velto ABSENT: Kathleen Taylor, Silvia Villanueva

4.3 Staff Report (For Possible Action - Recommendation to City Council): Case No. LDC21-00077 (3715 Warren Way Rezoning) - A request has been made for a zoning map amendment from Single-Family - 3 units per acre (SF-3) to Multi-Family - 21 units per acre (MF-21). The ±0.65 acre project site is located west of Warren Way ±306 feet north of its intersection with West Peckham Lane. The site has a Master Plan land use designation of Suburban Mixed Use (SMU). [Ward 2] 8:36 PM

Derek Wilson, Rubicon Design Group, gave an overview of the request.

Grace Whited, Assistant Planner, presented the staff report.

Public Comment:

Staff received five online comments that were forwarded to the Planning Commission and have been entered into the record.

Disclosures: All commissioners present are familiar with the site and read emails.

Questions:

Ms. Whited answered a question from Commissioner Munoz regarding how many units would be allowed on the site with the zone change.

It was moved by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Drakulich, in the case of LDC21-00077 (3715 Warren Way Rezoning), based upon compliance with the applicable findings, to recommend that City Council approve the zoning map amendment by ordinance. The motion carried unanimously with five (5) commissioners present.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Mark Johnson, Commissioner
SECONDER: J.D. Drakulich, Commissioner

AYES: Drakulich, Gower, Johnson, Munoz, Velto ABSENT: Kathleen Taylor, Silvia Villanueva

4.4 Staff Report (For Possible Action - Recommendation to City Council): Case No. LDC22-00013 (Prism North Valleys Distribution Center) - A request has been made for a zoning map amendment from Mixed-Use Suburban (MS) to Industrial Commercial (IC). The ±7 acre site consists of two parcels located on the north side of North Virginia Street, ±545 feet west of its intersection with Doubleback Road. The site has a Master Plan land use designation of Industrial (I). [Ward 4] 8:43 PM

Mike Railey, Christy Corporation, presented an overview of the request.

Kyle Chisholm, Associate Planner, presented the staff report.

Public Comment:

Nick Knecht, in favor, comments read into record.

Johnny Acoe, in opposition, was not present to speak.

Edward Ercolini, in opposition, comments read into record.

Staff received several comments that were forwarded to the Planning Commission and have been entered into the record.

Disclosures: Commissioner Drakulich read emails. Commissioners Johnson, Munoz, Velto and Gower read emails and are familiar with the site.

Questions:

Mr. Chisholm explained for Commissioner Munoz that existing nonconforming uses may continue but not expand. The intention is to phase out the nonconforming uses over time and transform the area.

Mr. Railey explained for Commissioner Drakulich that the applicant is in contract to purchase the property.

Mr. Railey confirmed for Commissioner Gower that the owners of both parcels have signed an affidavit consenting to this request.

Mr. Chisholm also confirmed that both owners provided authorization.

It was moved by Commissioner Drakulich, seconded by Commissioner Gower, in the case of LDC22-00013 (Prism North Valleys Distribution Center), based upon compliance with the applicable findings, to recommend that City Council approve the zoning map amendment by ordinance. The motion carried unanimously with five (5) commissioners present.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: J.D. Drakulich, Commissioner
SECONDER: Peter Gower, Commissioner

AYES: Drakulich, Gower, Johnson, Munoz, Velto ABSENT: Kathleen Taylor, Silvia Villanueva

4.5 Staff Report (For Possible Action): Case No. LDC22-00014 (The Village at Arrowcreek) – A request has been made for a tentative map to develop a 124 lot single-family residential subdivision. The ±10.229 acre site is located on the east side of Arrowcreek Parkway ±540 feet south of its intersection with Zolezzi Lane. The site is within the Mixed-Use Suburban (MS) zoning district and has a Master Plan land use designation of Suburban Mixed Use (SMU). [Ward 2] 8:58 PM

Karen Downs, Manhard Consulting, presented an overview of the project.

Grace Whited, Assistant Planner, presented the staff report.

Public Comment:

Jeff Solomon spoke regarding traffic concerns.

Voicemails:

Susan Herz in opposition.

Margo Piscovich in opposition.

Vince Porto in opposition.

Bernice Taylor in opposition.

Staff received several emails that were forwarded to the Planning Commission and have been included in the record.

Disclosures: Commissioners Gower, Johnson and Velto visited the site and read emails. Commissioners Munoz and Drakulich read emails, visited the site and talked with the applicant's representative.

Questions:

Ms. Whited explained for Commissioner Johnson that Condition No. 7 states that prior to approval of any final map the applicant shall provide approvals from the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) for any additional improvements or right-of-way that will be required. Staff did not want to make specific conditions in case the RTC did not approve them down the road.

Ms. Whited confirmed for Commissioner Johnson that the parking requirement in the new code is based on square footage, not the number of bedrooms. Two garage parking spots will be available per unit leaving street parking available for guests.

Ms. Whited explained for Commissioner Drakulich that a third vehicle for any unit would require alternative parking accommodations.

Mike Mischel, Engineering Manager, explained for Commissioner Gower that traffic studies are required depending on the volume of traffic a project is anticipated to generate. This project did not require a full traffic study.

Mr. Mischel explained for Commissioner Gower RTC's plans to widen Arrowcreek Pkwy from Rubblestone to S. Virginia in 2023. He also explained that Condition No. 7 requires coordination with RTC for enough right-of-way to allow for that street widening.

Loren Chilson, Headway Transportation, answered questions from Commissioner Gower regarding traffic ratings and mitigation recommendations made in the traffic study. He explained how widening the two northbound lanes along the project frontage will mitigate the increase in traffic.

Ms. Downs answered questions from Commissioner Gower regarding the timing of the

project completion and the proposed RTC improvements. The project could be built any time during the four-year tentative map and the RTC improvements are anticipated in 2023.

Ms. Downs answered questions from Commissioner Munoz regarding mitigation for drainage and flooding concerns. Drainage for the project and the offsite flows that currently come to the site go into the existing inlet facility.

Mr. Mischel clarified that they analyzed what the project would generate and what was tributary to them on the west side. The specific flood concerns brought up by Commissioner Munoz were not necessarily evaluated in the preliminary hydrology study. In the final hydrology study, we will make sure that gets analyzed and addressed.

Ms. Whited confirmed for Commissioner Johnson that the general findings should be in the packet and they were analyzed during the review.

Discussion:

Commissioner Gower expressed concern regarding the timing of the project relative to traffic improvements. The drainageway issue addressed by Commissioner Munoz is also a concern. The density seems high but is a step down from MF-21 projects. The proximity to S. Virginia warrants a higher density because we have the infrastructure and services there.

Commissioner Munoz stated he has significant concerns. Right now with the answers they were given, he is not able to make tentative map finding h regarding physical land characteristics such as floodplain, slope, and soil. It doesn't seem like that was taken into consideration and that is a major concern.

Commissioner Drakulich stated he shares concerns expressed by Commissioners Gower and Munoz. Traffic was concerning coming into this. He is looking for more detailed answers and asked if Engineering can do a stronger drainage study so we have a better understanding.

Commissioner Johnson agreed this is less dense than neighboring multi-family apartments and stated he is both intrigued and concerned with the overall development of the site plan. He is concerned not having a good clear view of how exactly it is going to work, not so much with traffic offsite but internally, and the parking and potential situations we could be creating. With regard to the comments on drainage and traffic, it makes a couple of the findings difficult to make, but he is also trying to reconcile that with the way the site design is put together.

Commissioner Drakulich agreed it is an intriguing design and is a step down from the development to the west and north. It is more of an attainable housing product that is needed but he shares some of Commissioner Johnson's concerns as well.

Commissioner Velto stated he is not as concerned about the general traffic. He is concerned with drainage because there is not enough information about it. He asked legal counsel if there is something they can do to not vote yes or no on the project but allow there to be opportunity to have that issue addressed.

Karl Hall, City Attorney, stated that he felt Mr. Mischel answered that question when he said that on the final map they will make sure the drainage works.

Chris Baker, Manhart Consulting representing the applicant, stated he understands the hydrology concern. There have been significant improvements along Arrowcreek Pkwy and he thinks the situation we are seeing is due to an existing feature that is probably not being maintained properly and is allowing dumping into undeveloped property.

Commissioner Munoz clarified that Mr. Baker is saying that the improvements that have been made are forcing more water onto the property. There could be something there as far as it not being developed yet but usually what we have had to mitigate in the North Valleys is when there is development, there has to be some kind of catch basin or a detention reservoir placed on each property that is developed and that is not being done here.

Commissioner Gower asked who owns and maintains the outflow facility in the corner of the property and how staff would review any changes that might be made to it.

Mr. Mischel stated that particular issue would be part of the final hydrology study. He stated he is not sure who owns the facility. Information like that needs to be identified in the study so staff can review it.

Commissioner Gower stated he is not comfortable making a decision on this and deferring hydrology information to the final map. He suggested continuing this item in order to get more information on this facility and potentially some engineering that staff can respond to.

Commissioner Velto asked the applicant if they would support a continuance.

Mr. Baker stated he wanted to confirm what the request is. Right now the facility is for pass through hydrology that is not generated on our side. What we are required to do as

part of the tentative map is to show that we have no net increase of flow coming off of our site. The flow we are talking about is upstream flow that is pass through for an existing facility that may be owned by the city that is not functioning correctly.

Commissioner Gower stated he understands the applicant's requirement is to address the hydrology of the development on their site. We have a unique situation where you have an existing outflow facility that happens to be on your property and we don't know who owns or maintains it. A second concern is that we don't want to be in a situation where we are saying we are good with approving a tentative map and placing development in an area where it is clear that this facility is not functioning properly and there is backflow onto the property where you are proposing up to 24 homes. He stated he does not feel comfortable with the lack of information to say we are good to move forward with this tentative map.

Mr. Baker confirmed for Commissioner Velto that they would support a continuance in order to come up with the additional information the commission needs to accurately determine whether or not the findings can be made.

It was moved by Commissioner Gower, seconded by Commissioner Munoz, in the case of LDC22-00014 (The Village at Arrowcreek) to continue the item to the November 18, 2021, meeting with a request to have the applicant bring more information regarding the ownership of the outflow facility on the northwest corner of the property and who maintains it to make sure there is no backflow and flooding concerns for the proposed development. Motion carried unanimously with five (5) commissioners present.

RESULT: CONTINUED [UNANIMOUS] Next: 11/18/2021 6:00 PM

MOVER: Peter Gower, Commissioner SECONDER: Arthur Munoz, Commissioner

AYES: Drakulich, Gower, Johnson, Munoz, Velto ABSENT: Kathleen Taylor, Silvia Villanueva

5 Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Liaison Report

Commissioner Johnson reported that the October meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for December 6.

6 Staff Announcements

- 6.1 Report on status of Planning Division projects.
- 6.2 Announcement of upcoming training opportunities.
- 6.3 Report on status of responses to staff direction received at previous meetings.

6.4 Report on actions taken by City Council on previous Planning Commission items.

Chris Pingree, Director of Development Services, announced that Council adopted the ordinances for NV Center 1&2 rezoning. The budget augmentation for five new positions in the Development Services department was approved. Angela Fuss has been with us another week. The new Planning Manager will start next Monday.

7 Commissioner's Suggestions for Future Agenda Items (For Possible Action)

Commissioner Johnson discussed the need for transcriptions of public comment voicemails to edit out personal information for privacy concerns.

Commissioner Munoz requested information on the process to request safety equipment for parks in Ward 4.

Chris Pingree, Director of Development Services, suggested putting that into the public records request. That would get to the proper chain of command of who could implement that.

Commissioner Gower requested a future presentation from Regional Planning staff regarding growth projections for the region.

8 Public Comment

None

9 Adjournment (For Possible Action)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 p.m.