

City of Santa Fe
Planning Commission
Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

Case #2015-57

Gerhart Apartments General Plan Amendment

Case #2015-58

Gerhart Apartment Rezoning to R-21

Owner's Name – Storm River LLC

Agent's Name – Scott Hoeft of Santa Fe Planning Group

THIS MATTER came before the Planning Commission (Commission) for hearing on August 6, 2015 and September 3, 2015 upon the application (Application) of Scott Hoeft of Santa Fe Planning Group as agent for Storm River LLC (Applicant).

The Applicant requests an amendment to General Plan Future Land Use map to change the designation of 11.83± acres of land from Low Density Residential (1-3 dwelling units per acre) to High Density Residential (12-29 dwelling units per acre) and requests rezoning of 11.83± acres of land from R-1 (Residential, 1 dwelling unit per acre) to R-21 (Residential, 21 dwelling units per acre). The property is located at 2800 South Meadows Road.

After conducting a public hearing and having heard from staff and all interested persons, the Commission hereby FINDS, as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

General

1. The Commission heard testimony and took evidence from staff, the Applicant, and six members of the public interested in the matter.
2. Santa Fe City Code (Code) §14-3.2(D) sets out certain procedures for amendments to the General Plan (Plan), including, without limitation, a public hearing by the Commission and recommendation to the Governing Body based upon the criteria set out in Code §14-3.2(E).
3. Code §14-3.5(B) sets out certain procedures for rezonings, including, without limitation, a public hearing by the Commission and recommendation to the Governing Body based upon the criteria set out in Code §14-3.5(C).
4. Code §14-3.1 sets out certain procedures to be followed on the Application, including, without limitation, (a) a pre-application conference [§14-3.1(E)]; (b) an Early Neighborhood Notification (ENN) meeting [§14-3.1(F) and (c) compliance with Code Section 14-3.1(H) notice and public hearing requirements.

5. Code §14-3.1(F) establishes procedures for the ENN meeting, including (a) scheduling and notice requirements [Code §14-3.1(F)(4) and (5)]; (b) regulating the timing and conduct of the meeting [Code §14-3.1(F)(5)]; and (c) setting out guidelines to be followed at the ENN meeting [§14-3.1(F)(6)].
6. A pre-application conference was held on January 22, 2015 in accordance with the procedures for subdivisions set out in Code § 14-3.1(E).
7. An ENN meeting was held on the Application on March 16, 2015 at the El Camino Real Academy.
8. Notice of the ENN meeting was properly given.
9. The ENN meeting was attended by the Applicant and City staff; there were 10 members of the public in attendance and concerns were raised.
10. The Applicant voluntarily held a second meeting with the neighbor members.
11. Commission staff provided the Commission with a report (Staff Report) evaluating the factors relevant to the Application.
12. Code §14-3.2(B)(2)(b) requires the City's official zoning map to conform to the General Plan, and requires an amendment to the Plan before a change in land use classification is proposed for a parcel shown on the Plan's land use map.
13. The Commission is authorized under Code §14-2.3(C)(7)(a) to review and make recommendations to the Governing Body regarding proposed amendments to the General Plan.
14. City Land Use Department staff reviewed the Application and related materials and information submitted by the Applicant for conformity with applicable Code requirements and provided the Commission with a written report of its findings Staff Report, subject to certain conditions (the Conditions) set out in such report.

General Plan Amendment

15. Under Code § 14-3.2, an amendment to the General Plan requires submittal of an application for review and recommendation to the Governing Body by the Planning Commission.
16. The Commission has considered the criteria established by Code §14-3.2(E)(1)(a) and finds the following facts: (a) *Consistency with growth projections for the City, economic development goals as set forth in a comprehensive economic development plan for the City, and with existing land use conditions, such as access and availability of infrastructure.* [§14-3.2(E)(1)(a)]. The South Meadows Road extension and the NM 599 interchange provide sufficient access to support development that is much more intense than the current R-1 and R-3 that apply to the project site and to much of the nearby land.
17. The Commission has considered the criteria established by Code §14-3.2(E)(1)(b) and finds the following facts: (b) *Consistency with other parts of the Plan.* [§14-3.2(E)(1)(b)]. General Plan Policies encourage compact urban form and development at a higher intensity to make the most efficient use of utilities, roads and parks and encourage pedestrian linkages.

18. The Commission has considered the criteria established by Code §14-3.2(E)(1)(c) and finds the following facts: (c) *The amendment does not: (i) allow uses or a change that is significantly different from or inconsistent with the prevailing use and character of the area. [§14-3.2(E)(1)(c)].* The proposed high density residential development is an appropriate use located between a school and future fire station and near a future commercial area. This growing area is in transition, near an interchange and features a variety of uses in the surrounding areas.
19. The Commission has considered the criteria established by Code §14-3.2(E)(1)(c) and finds the following facts: (c) *The amendment does not: (ii) affect an area of less than two acres, except when adjusting boundaries between districts. [§14-3.2(E)(1)(c)].* The site is 11.83± acres which is well beyond the minimum requirement of two acres.
20. The Commission has considered the criteria established by Code §14-3.2(E)(1)(c) and finds the following facts: (c) *The amendment does not: (iii) benefit one of a few landowners at the expense of the surrounding landowners or the general public [§14-3.2(E)(1)(c)].* The proposed General Plan Amendment will not benefit a few landowners at the expense of surrounding landowners.
21. The Commission has considered the criteria established by Code §14-3.2(E)(1)(d) and finds the following facts: (d) *An amendment is not required to conform with Code §14-3.2(E)(1)(c) if it promotes the general welfare or has other adequate public advantage or justification [§14-3.2(E)(1)(d)].* The proposal already conforms with Code §14-3.2(E)(1)(c).
22. The Commission has considered the criteria established by Code §14-3.2(E)(1)(e) and finds the following facts: (e) *Compliance with extraterritorial zoning ordinances and extraterritorial plans [§14-3.2(E)(1)(e)].* This criterion is no longer relevant since the adoption of SPaZZo and the relinquishment of the land use regulatory authority outside the city limits and the transfer of authority from extraterritorial jurisdiction to the City.
23. The Commission has considered the criteria established by Code §14-3.2(E)(1)(f) and finds the following facts: (f) *Contribution to a coordinated, adjusted and harmonious development of the municipality which will, in accordance with existing and future needs, best promote health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity or the general welfare as well as efficiency and economy in the process of development [§14-3.2(D)(1)(f)].* A high density market rate residential apartment development in the proposed location is well situated near a school, fire station, a future commercial area, the Santa Fe river trail and proximity to the 599 interchange.
24. The Commission has considered the criteria established by Code §14-3.2(E)(1)(g) and finds the following facts: (g) *Consideration of conformity with other city policies, including land use policies, ordinances, regulations and plans.* There are no identified inconsistencies with any other adopted policies.
25. The Commission has considered the criteria established by Code §14-3.2(E)(2)(a) and finds the following facts: (a) *the growth and economic projections contained within the general plan are erroneous or have changed.* New school uses, new

- fire stations, new parks/trail and commercial areas all make up the ongoing changes that are occurring in this area.
26. The Commission has considered the criteria established by Code §14-3.2(E)(2)(b) and finds the following facts: *no reasonable locations have been provided for certain land uses for which there is a demonstrated need.* A high density residential development that is adjacent to a school makes for a safer, more convenient trip to school, without crossing busy streets and the future fire station on the north side of the property increases safety to the development.
27. The Commission has considered the criteria established by Code §14-3.2(E)(2)(c) and finds the following facts: *conditions affecting the location or land area requirements of the proposed land use have changed, for example the cost of land space requirements, consumer acceptance, market or building technology.* New school uses, new fire stations, new parks/trail and commercial areas all make up the ongoing changes that are occurring in this area.

Rezoning

28. Under Code §14-3.5(C), the Commission may review the proposed rezonings and make recommendations to the Governing Body by the Planning Commission.
29. The Commission has considered the criteria established by Code §14-3.5(C)(1)(a) and finds the following facts: *One or more of the following conditions exist: (i) there was a mistake in the original zoning; (ii) there has been a change in the surrounding area, altering the character of the neighborhood to such an extent as to justify changing the zoning; or (iii) a different use category is more advantageous to the community, as articulated in the Plan or other adopted City plans [Code §14-3.5(C)(1)(a)].* Recent changes in the surrounding areas do alter the character of the neighborhood to such an extent as to justify changing the zoning and a different use category is more advantageous to the community, as articulated in the General Plan and other adopted city plans.
30. The Commission has considered the criteria established by Code §14-3.5(C)(1)(b) and finds the following facts: *All the rezoning requirements of Code Chapter 14 have been met [Code §14-3.5(C)(1)(b)].* All the rezoning requirements of Code Chapter 14 have been met.
31. The Commission has considered the criteria established by Code §14-3.5(C)(1)(c) and finds the following facts: *The proposed rezoning is consistent with the applicable policies of the Plan [Section 14-3.5(C)(1)(c)].* The proposed rezoning is consistent with the Plan.
32. The Commission has considered the criteria established by Code §14-3.5(C)(1)(d) and finds the following facts: *The amount of land proposed for rezoning and the proposed use for the land is consistent with City policies regarding the provision of urban land sufficient to meet the amount, rate and geographic location of the growth of the City [Code §14-3.5(C)(1)(d)].* The nearby future commercial development and proximity to the interchange for the subject property makes the site

well-suited to higher density development rather than a low density single family subdivision.

33. The Commission has considered the criteria established by Code §14-3.5(C)(1)(e) and finds the following facts: *(e)The existing and proposed infrastructure, such as the streets system, sewer and water lines, and public facilities, such as fire stations and parks, will be able to accommodate the impacts of the proposed development [Section 14-3.5(C)(1)(e)];* The subject area features new streets, such as South Meadows Road, a new interchange at NM 599, new water and sewer lines and new public facilities with a future fire station and proposed new parks. A new school is immediately adjacent to the subject site.
34. The Commission has considered the criteria established by Code §§14-3.5(D)(1),(2) and finds the following facts: *If the impacts of the proposed development or rezoning cannot be accommodated by the existing infrastructure and public facilities, the city may require the developer to participate wholly or in part in the cost of construction of off-site facilities in conformance with any applicable city ordinances, regulations or policies; If the proposed rezoning creates a need for additional streets, sidewalks or curbs necessitated by and attributable to the new development, the city may require the developer to contribute a proportional fair share of the cost of the expansion in addition to impact fees that may be required pursuant to Section 14-8.14.* The apartment project can be accommodated by existing infrastructure and public facilities. The area features new infrastructure such as water, sewer, NM 599 interchange and a possible new fire station.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Under the circumstances and given the evidence and testimony submitted during the hearing, the Commission CONCLUDES as follows:

General

1. The proposals were properly and sufficiently noticed via mail, publication, and posting of signs in accordance with Code requirements.
2. The ENN meeting complied with the requirements established under the Code.

The General Plan Amendment

3. The Commission has the power and authority at law and under the Code to review the proposed amendment to the Plan and to make recommendations to the Governing Body regarding such amendment.
4. The Applicable Requirements have been met.

The Rezoning

5. The Applicant has the right under the Code to propose the rezoning of the Property.
6. The Commission has the power and authority at law and under the Code to review the proposed rezoning of the Property and to make recommendations regarding the proposed rezoning to the Governing Body.
7. The Applicable Requirements have been met.

**WHEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED ON THE ____ DAY OF OCTOBER, 2015 BY
THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SANTA FE:**

That for the reasons set forth in the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Commission recommends approval of the General Plan Amendment to High Density Residential to the Governing Body.

That for the reasons set forth in the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Commission recommends approval of the rezoning request to R-21 to the Governing Body, subject to Staff Conditions.

Michael Harris, Chair

Date:

FILED:

Yolanda Y. Vigil
City Clerk

Date:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Zachary Shandler
Assistant City Attorney

Date: