Planning Commission
February 20, 2025

Agenda Item # 15

SUB-003209-2025 & ZON-UDC-003210-2025

View additional details on this proposal and all application materials using the following link:

Applicant Materials for Consideration – Subdivision

Applicant Materials for Consideration – Rezoning

DETAILS

Location:
3300 Knollwood Drive

Subdivision Name:
The Knollwood Place, First Addition

Applicant / Agent:
Jerry Byrd, Byrd Surveying, Inc.

Property Owners:
GK Land Holdings, LLC

Current Zoning:
R-1, Single-Family Residential Suburban District &
B-1, Buffer Business Suburban District

Proposed Zoning:
R-3, Multi-Family Residential Suburban District

Future Land Use:
Low Density Residential
& Traditional Center

Applicable Codes, Policies, and Plans:

- Unified Development Code
- Subdivision Regulations
- Map for Mobile Comprehensive Plan

Proposal:

- Subdivision approval to create one (1) legal lot of record.
- Rezoning from R-1 & B-1 to R-3.
  - Any use permitted in the proposed district would be allowed at this location if the zoning is approved. The Planning Commission may consider other zoning districts than the proposed sought by the applicant for this property.

Commission Considerations:

1. Subdivision proposal with nine (9) conditions; and
2. Rezoning with one (1) condition.

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PLANNING COMMISSION
VICINITY MAP - EXISTING AERIAL

The site is surrounded by residential units.

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APPLICANT The Knollwood Place, First Addition

REQUEST Subdivision, Rezoning from R-1 and B-1 to R-3

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SITE HISTORY

Rezoning of the North portion of the site from R-A, Residence Agriculture District, to B-1, Buffer Business District, was adopted by City Council at its April 7, 1981, meeting.

The South portion of the site was recently recorded as Lot 1 of The Knollwood Place Subdivision, the plat for which was approved by the Planning Commission in April 2024 and subsequently recorded in Probate Court.

There are no Board of Zoning Adjustment cases associated with the site.

STAFF COMMENTS

Engineering Comments:

Subdivision:

FINAL PLAT COMMENTS (should be addressed prior to submitting the FINAL PLAT for review):

A. Provide all of the required information on the SUBDIVISION PLAT (i.e. signature blocks, signatures, certification statements, written legal description, required notes, legend, scale, bearings and distances) that is required by the current Alabama State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.
B. Revise NOTES #7 – Delete "…(FLIGHT 21 - #85)…".
C. Revise NOTES #7 – Revise "…LOT A – 100,000 SF." to "LOT A – NONE."
D. Email a pdf copy of the FINAL SUBDIVISION PLAT and LETTER OF DECISION to the Permitting Engineering Dept. for review at land.disturbance@cityofmobile.org prior to obtaining any signatures. No signatures are required on the drawing.

Rezoning:

1. Any work performed in the existing ROW (right-of-way) such as driveways, sidewalks, utility connections, grading, drainage, irrigation, or landscaping will require a ROW permit from the City of Mobile Engineering Permitting Department (251-208-6070) and must comply with the City of Mobile Right-of-Way Construction and Administration Ordinance (Mobile City Code, Chapter 57, Article VIII).
2. A Land Disturbance Permit application shall be submitted for any proposed land disturbing activity with the property. A complete set of construction plans including, but not limited to, drainage, utilities, grading, storm water detention systems and paving will need to be included with the Land Disturbance permit. This Permit must be submitted, approved, and issued prior to beginning any of the construction work.
3. Any and all proposed land disturbing activity within the property will need to be submitted for review and be in conformance with Mobile City Code, Chapter 17, Storm Water Management and Flood Control); the City of Mobile, Alabama Flood Plain Management Plan (1984); and, the Rules For Erosion and Sedimentation Control and Storm Water Runoff Control.
4. Any existing or proposed detention facility shall be maintained as it was constructed and approved. The Land Disturbance Permit application for any proposed construction includes a requirement of a Maintenance and Inspection Plan (signed and notarized by the Owner) for the detention facility. This Plan shall run with the land and be recorded in the County Probate Office prior to the Engineering Department issuing their approval for a Final Certificate of Occupancy.
5. The approval of all applicable federal, state, and local agencies (including all storm water runoff, wetland and floodplain requirements) will be required prior to the issuance of a Land Disturbance permit. The Owner/Developer is responsible for acquiring all of the necessary permits and approvals.
6. The proposed development must comply with all Engineering Department design requirements and Policy Letters.

Traffic Engineering Comments:

Driveway number, size, location, and design to be approved by Traffic Engineering and conform to AASHTO standards. Any required on-site parking, including ADA handicap spaces, shall meet the minimum standards as defined in Article 3, Section 64-3-12 of the City's Unified Development Code.

Urban Forestry Comments:

Property to be developed in compliance with state and local laws that pertain to tree preservation and protection on both city and private properties [Act 929 of the 1961 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature (Acts 1961, p. 1487), as amended, and City Code Chapters 57 and 65]. Private removal of trees in the right-of-way will require approval of the Mobile Tree Commission. Removal of heritage trees from undeveloped residential sites, developed residential sites in historic districts, and all commercial sites will require a tree removal permit.

Fire Department Comments:

All projects within the City Limits of Mobile shall comply with the requirements of the City of Mobile Fire Code Ordinance (2021 International Fire Code). Fire apparatus access is required to be within 150' of all non-sprinklered commercial buildings and within 300' of all sprinklered commercial buildings. Fire water supply for all commercial buildings will be required to meet the guidance of Appendices B and C of the 2021 International Fire Code. The minimum requirement for fire hydrants is to be within 400' of non-sprinkled commercial buildings, within 600' of sprinkled commercial buildings, and within 100' of fire department connections (FDC) for both standpipes and sprinkler systems.

Planning Comments:

Subdivision

The purpose of this application is to create one (1) legal lot of record from an existing legal lot of record and one (1) metes-and-bounds parcel. The site is served by public water and sanitary sewer.

The site has frontage along Knollwood Drive, a major collector street requiring a 100-foot-wide right-of-way, and Medical Park Drive, a minor street with curb and gutter requiring a 50-foot-wide right-of-way. The plat depicts a sufficient right-of-way widths along both streets, making additional dedication unnecessary.

A 25-foot corner radius at the intersection of Knollwood Drive and Medical Park Drive was dedicated with the recording of the most recent subdivision and should be retained on the Final Plat, if approved.

The lot, as proposed, exceeds the minimum area requirements for lots served by public water and sanitary sewer in R-1 Suburban and B-1 Suburban districts, and it will exceed the same requirements for similar lots in an R-3 Suburban district if the rezoning request is approved. The lot's size is labeled in both square feet and acres on the preliminary plat, as required by Section 5.A.2(e)(4) of the Subdivision Regulations. This information should be retained on the Final Plat, if approved; or provision of a table with the same information on the Final Plat will suffice.

The proposed lot meets the minimum 60-foot width requirement of Section 6.C.2(b)(2) of the Subdivision Regulations for residential lots located within the Suburban sub-district.

A 25-foot front yard setback is illustrated along Knollwood Drive and Medical Park Drive on the preliminary plat, in compliance with Section 5.C.2.(i) of the Subdivision Regulations, and Article 2, Section 64-2-7.E. of the Unified

Development Code (UDC), for lots in an R-3 Suburban district. If approved, this information should be retained on the Final Plat.

A 100-foot setback is illustrated where the site adjoins a single-family residential subdivision, to the West. This exceeds the applicable setback and protection buffer requirements of the UDC for lots in any zoning district. While side yard setbacks are not required to be depicted on a subdivision plat, provision of such a large setback may be acceptable to the property owner and the surrounding neighborhood to prevent development within at least 100 feet of the adjoining subdivision; however, the side yard setback may be removed from the plat prior to its recording in Probate Court.

If approved, the subdivision would result in the lot being split-zoned, R-1 and B-1. As such, the request for Subdivision Approval will be contingent upon approval of the associated Rezoning request.

Rezoning

As mentioned, if the subdivision request is approved it will result in the lot being split-zoned R-1 and B-1. The applicant's justification for the rezoning can be viewed using the link on Page 1 of this report. In this instance, the subdivision of land may make reclassification necessary and desirable to eliminate split zoning. If approved, the Rezoning process should be completed prior to signing the Final Plat for the proposed subdivision.

The site is bordered by B-1 properties, to the North, East, South, and Northwest, only two (2) of which are developed. Properties to the Southwest are zoned R-1 and are all developed with single-family dwellings.

The site plan submitted with the rezoning application conceptualizes the construction of an apartment complex dedicated to housing elderly people, a use permitted by right in an R-3 Suburban district. The property is currently undeveloped, therefore, if approved, full compliance with the development standards of the UDC will be required and must be illustrated on all site plans submitted for review with the associated development permits.

SUBDIVISION CONSIDERATIONS

Standards of Review:

Subdivision review examines the site with regard to promoting orderly development, protecting general health, safety and welfare, and ensuring that development is correlated with adjacent developments and public utilities and services, and to ensure that the subdivision meets the minimum standards set forth in the Subdivision Regulations for lot size, road frontage, lot configuration, etc.

Considerations:

If the Planning Commission considers approving the Subdivision request, the following conditions could apply:

1. Retention of the right-of-way widths of Knollwood Drive (100 feet) and Medical Park Drive (50 feet) on the Final Plat;
2. Retention of the 25-foot corner radius at the intersection of Knollwood Drive and Medical Park Drive;
3. Retention of the 25-foot minimum building setback line along both street frontages;
4. Retention of the lot size label in both square feet and acres on the Final Plat, or the furnishing of a table on the Final Plat providing the same information;
5. Completion of the Rezoning process to eliminate the potential for split-zoning prior to signing the Final Plat;

6. Compliance with all Engineering comments noted in this staff report;
7. Placement of a note on the Final Plat stating all Traffic Engineering comments noted in this staff report;
8. Compliance with all Urban Forestry comments noted in this staff report; and,
9. Compliance with all Fire Department comments noted in this staff report.

REZONING CONSIDERATIONS

Standards of Review:

The Unified Development Code (UDC) in 64-5-5.E. states that Rezonings are intended to carry out the objective of a sound, stable and desirable development and that casual change or amendment would be detrimental to the achievement of that objective.

The UDC goes on to say that zoning changes should be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. However, the Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Plan (FLUP) and Map (FLUM) are meant to serve as a general guide, not a detailed lot and district plan; they are not a legal mandate for development. The FLUP and FLUM allow the Planning Commission and City Council to consider individual cases based on several factors including: surrounding development, classification requested, timing of the request, and the appropriateness and compatibility of the proposed use the zoning classification.

The UDC states that an application for rezoning shall include a statement of the justification for the proposed amendment that addresses all of the following:

A) Consistency. Whether the proposed amendment is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan;
B) Mistake. For a Rezoning, whether there was a mistake or error in the original zoning map; and
C) Compatibility. Whether the proposed amendment is compatible with:
    (1) The current development trends, if any, in the vicinity of the subject property;
    (2) Surrounding land uses;
    (3) Would adversely impact neighboring properties; or
    (4) Cause a loss in property values.
D) Health, Safety and General Welfare. Whether the proposed amendment promotes the community's public health, safety, and general welfare;
E) Capacity. Whether the infrastructure is in place to accommodate the proposed amendment; and
F) Change. Whether changed or changing conditions in a particular area make an amendment necessary and desirable.
G) Benefits Consideration. In addition, consideration should also be given to the City's and the larger community's best interests and the need, benefit, or public purpose of the proposed request.

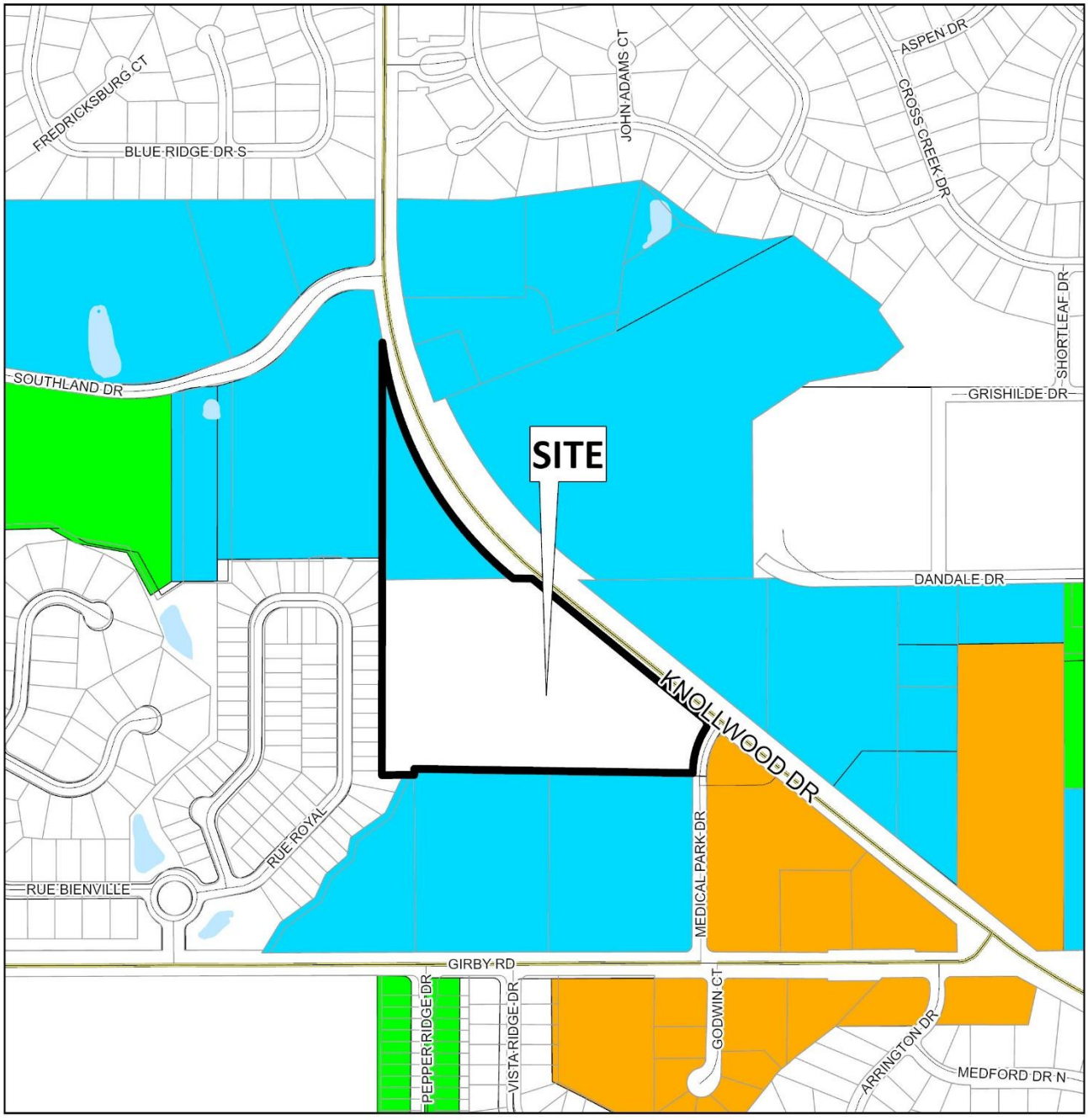
The applicant's responses to address the above criteria are available in the link on page one (1).

Considerations:

If the Planning Commission considers a recommendation of approval of the Rezoning request to the City Council, the following condition could apply:

1. Full compliance with all municipal codes and ordinances.

LOCATOR ZONING MAP



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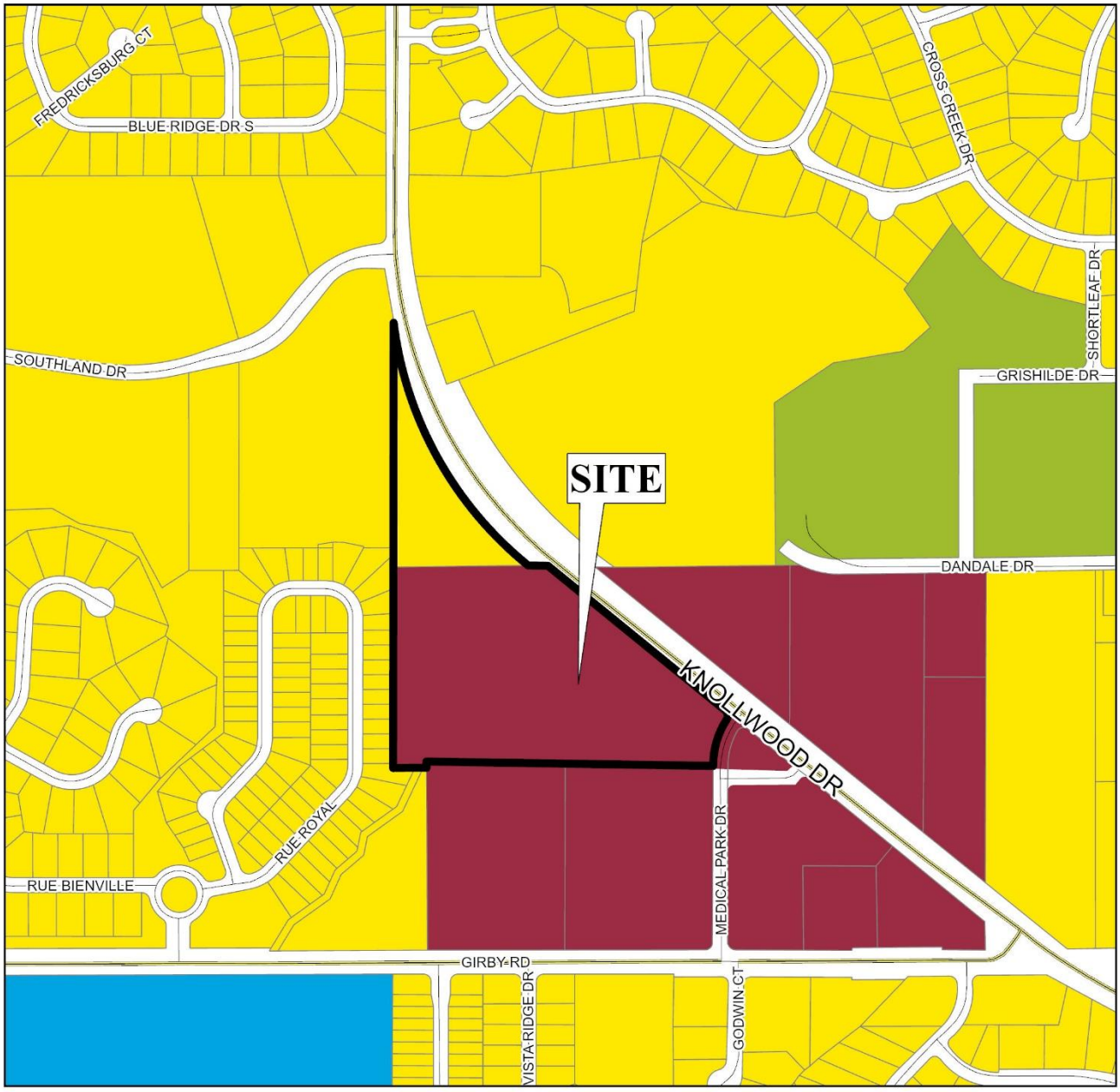
FLUM LOCATOR MAP



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- Low Density Residential
- Mixed Density Residential
- Downtown
- District Center
- Neighborhood Center - Traditional
- Neighborhood Center - Suburban
- Traditional Corridor
- Mixed Commercial Corridor
- Downtown Waterfront
- Light Industry
- Heavy Industry
- Institutional
- Parks & Open Space
- Water Dependent

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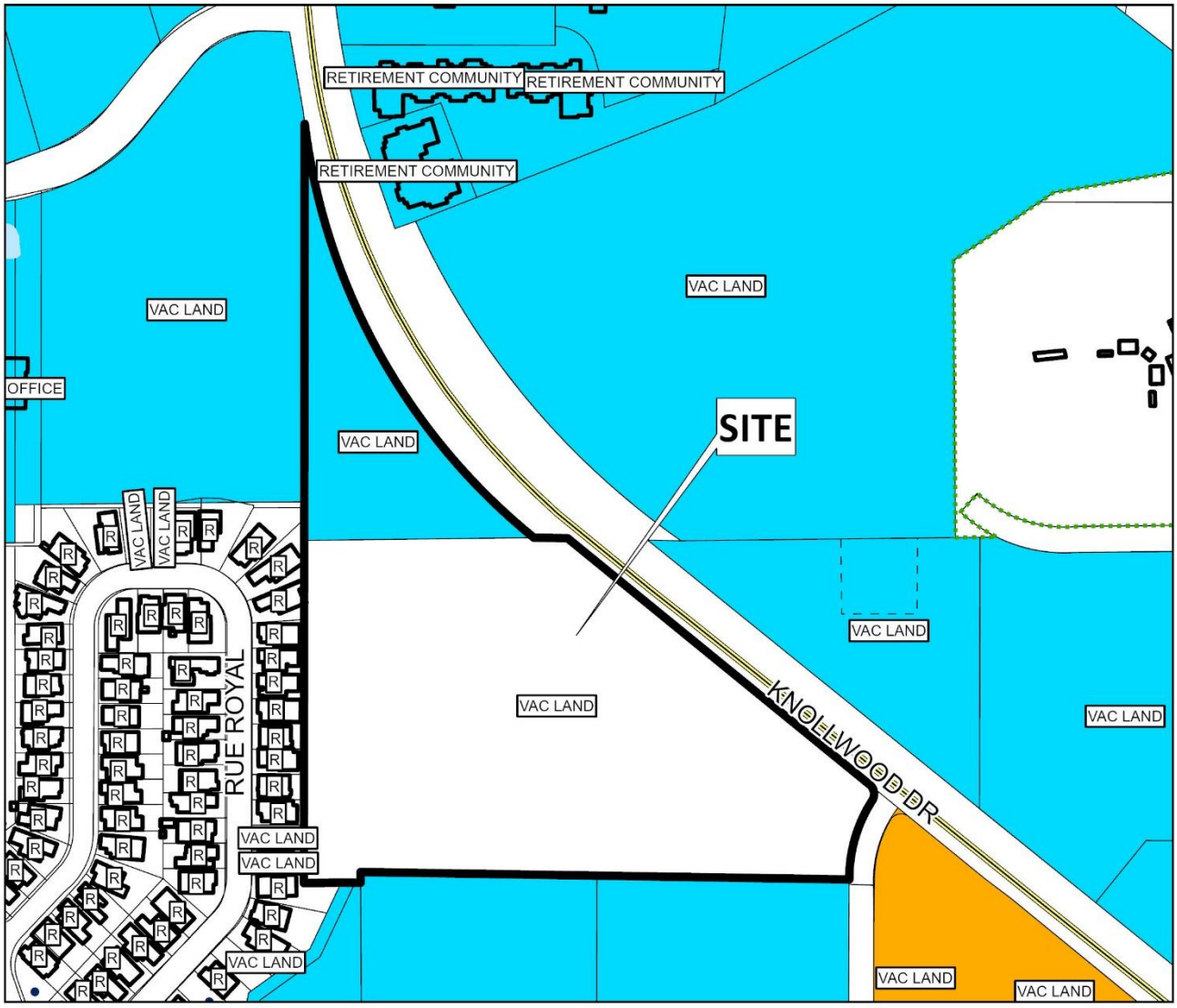
PLANNING COMMISSION
VICINITY MAP - EXISTING ZONING



The site is surrounded by residential units.

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R-A	R-3	B-1	B-2	B-5	ML	I-2	OPEN	T-3	T-5.2
R-1	R-B	T-B	B-3	CW	MH	PD	SD	T-4	T-6
R-2	H-B	LB-2	B-4	MM	I-1	MUN	SD-WH	T-5.1	

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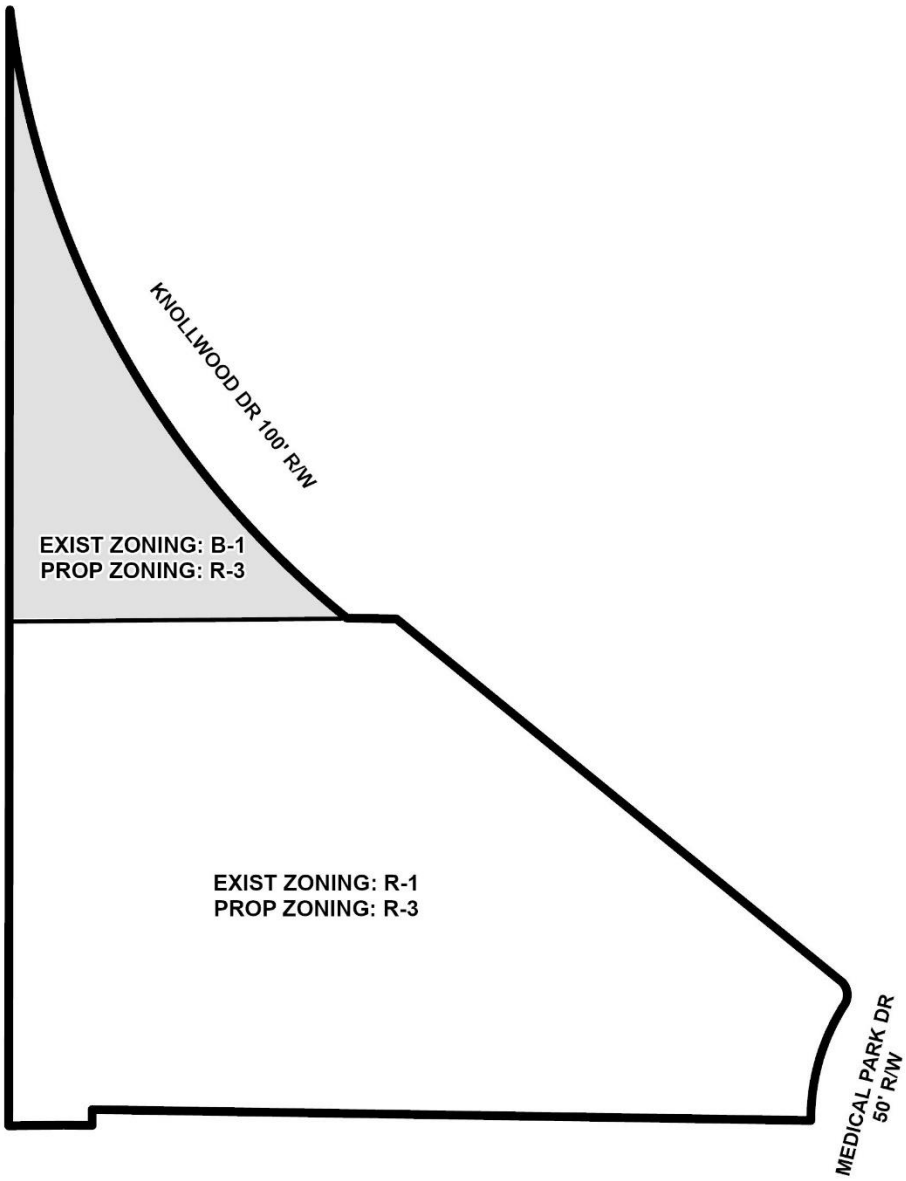
SITE PLAN

The site plan illustrates the proposed buildings, setbacks, and drives.

APPLICATION NUMBER 15 DATE February 20, 2025 APPLICANT The Knollwood Place, First Addition REQUEST Subdivision, Rezoning from R-1 and B-1 to R-3	N NTS

DETAIL SITE PLAN



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ZONING DISTRICT CORRESPONDENCE MATRIX																
		LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (LDR)	MIXED DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (MXDR)	DOWNTOWN (DT)	DISTRICT CENTER (DC)	NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER - TRADITIONAL (NC-T)	NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER - SUBURBAN (NC-S)	TRADITIONAL CORRIDOR (TC)	MIXED COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR (MCC)	LIGHT INDUSTRIAL (LI)	HEAVY INDUSTRY (HI)	INSTITUTIONAL LAND USE (INS)	PARKS & OPEN SPACE (POS)	DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT (DW)	WATER DEPENDENT USES (WDWRU)
RESIDENTIAL - AG	R-A												□		
ONE-FAMILY RESIDENCE	R-1	■				■		■					□		
TWO-FAMILY RESIDENCE	R-2	■				■		■					□	○	
MULTIPLE-FAMILY	R-3	○	■			■	■						□	○	
RESIDENTIAL-BUSINESS	R-B		○			■		■					□	○	
TRANSITIONAL-BUSINESS	T-B		○		■	■	■	■					□		
HISTORIC BUSINESS	H-B			■		■		■					□		
VILLAGE CENTER	TCD					■	■						□		
NEIGH. CENTER	TCD					■	■						□		
NEIGH. GENERAL	TCD					■							□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-6			■									□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-5.1			■		■		□					□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-5.2			■		■							□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-4			■		■		□					□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-3			■		■							□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	SD-WH									○	○		□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DD	SD	○	○	○	○	○	○	○		○	○		□		
BUFFER BUSINESS	B-1		□			□	■	■	■				□	○	
NEIGH. BUSINESS	B-2		○			□	■	■	■				□	○	
LIMITED BUSINESS	LB-2		○			□	■	■	■				□	○	
COMMUNITY BUSINESS	B-3				■				■			○	□	○	
GEN. BUSINESS	B-4			■					■			○	□	○	
OFFICE-DISTRIBUTION	B-5								■	■			□	□	
LIGHT INDUSTRY	I-1									■			□	□	□
HEAVY INDUSTRY	I-2										■		□		□

Zoning District Correspondence Matrix

- ■ Directly Related
- ○ Elements of the zoning category are related to the future LU category, but with qualifications (such as a development plan with conditions)
- □ Land use category is appropriate, but the district does not directly implement the category (e.g., open space in an industrial district)

Residential Land Use

LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (LDR)

This designation applies to existing residential neighborhoods found mostly west of the Beltline or immediately adjacent to the east side of the Beltline.

The primary land use in the LDR districts is residential and the predominant housing type is the single-family housing unit, detached or semi-detached, typically placed within a street grid or a network of meandering suburban streets. The density in these districts ranges between 0 and 6 dwelling units per acre (du/ac).

These neighborhoods may also contain small-scale, low-rise multi-unit structures at appropriate locations, as well as complementary retail, parks and civic institutions such as schools, community centers, neighborhood playgrounds, and churches or other religious uses if those uses are designed and sited in a manner compatible with and connected to the surrounding context. The presence of individual ancillary uses should contribute to the fabric of a complete neighborhood, developed at a walkable, bikeable human scale.

NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER (NC)

This land use designation applies to smaller hubs of mixed commercial, community, and recreational activity that cater to adjacent residential areas. Many of these centers exist today in some form. Therefore, the following common principles apply not just to the future development of new centers, but also to the redevelopment (wholesale or incremental) of existing centers.

General Principles for Neighborhood Centers:

- NC should support a limited amount of commercial employment
- NC should incorporate some residential use, which may vary in type from detached single family, townhouse, accessory and live-work units in mixed use and low-rise multifamily structures.
- The residential density in NC designations –ranging from 4 to 10 du/ac— must be compatible in character with that of surrounding residential development, providing appropriate transitions in height, massing and other buffering from one land use district to the next.
- The retail and housing uses should merge around vibrant, compact, accessible nodes, located at key neighborhood intersections or along short road segments.
- The NC nodes should be connected to the surrounding neighborhood and nearby public uses (e.g., schools, parks, etc.) via well-designed sidewalks and complete streets.

While the above-listed principles are common to all NC districts, the design attributes of neighborhood centers generally vary depending on whether a center is in a more "traditional" or more "suburban" context.

Additional Attributes of Neighborhood Centers:

- NC in traditional contexts: These tend to be in those areas east of the Beltline and correspond to MxDR neighborhoods. In these NCs, buildings should orient to the street, with on-site parking typically pushed to the back of the site. The design qualities of the public realm are emphasized, including the provision of continuous sidewalks, tree canopy, pedestrian amenities, on-street parking and bicycle facilities where appropriate.
- NC in suburban contexts: These generally are located among the LDR land use designations in the areas west of the Beltline. Where they exist, these centers currently have a more pronounced vehicular orientation. Therefore, the emphasis is on retrofitting to improve internal walkability (e.g., through the addition of sidewalks, tree canopy, protection from the elements) and external connectivity to the surrounding areas (via sidewalks, paths and trails, street crossings, transit stops, etc.) and to increase the mix and density of uses (e.g., infill of outparcels, addition of housing, etc.).