

STAFF REPORT

December 18, 2003

No. 03UR019 - Conditional Use Permit to allow a church in a Medium Density Residential Zoning District **ITEM 27**

GENERAL INFORMATION:

PETITIONER	Alvin Ficek, Heartland GMAC Real Estate for the Rapid City Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses
REQUEST	No. 03UR019 - Conditional Use Permit to allow a church in a High Density Residential Zoning District
EXISTING LEGAL DESCRIPTION	Lots 1 thru 4, Block 7; and Lots 5 and 6, Block 8; Morningside Subdivision, Section 26, T2N, R7E, BHM, Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota
PARCEL ACREAGE	Approximately 2.31 acres
LOCATION	Along Oriole Drive
EXISTING ZONING	High Density Residential District
SURROUNDING ZONING	
North:	Low Density Residential District
South:	Low Density Residential District w/Planned Residential Development
East:	Medium Density Residential District/Public District
West:	Medium Density Residential District
PUBLIC UTILITIES	City water and sewer
DATE OF APPLICATION	11/21/2003
REPORT BY	Todd Tucker

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Conditional Use Permit to allow a church in a High Density Residential Zoning District be continued to the January 22, 2004 Planning Commission Meeting.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The applicant is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to allow a church in a High Density Residential Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct the church on the south side of Oriole Drive west of West Boulevard. There are two multi-family housing buildings located on the north side of Oriole Drive across from the proposed church site.

The proposed church site is located on Lots 1 through 4 of Block 7 and Lots 5 and 6 of Block 8. The total area of the proposed church site, which contains six lots and an undeveloped portion of Oriole Drive, is 104,040 square feet or 2.38 acres. As previously mentioned there is an

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undeveloped portion of Oriole Drive, which is a public right of way, located within the proposed church site. A separate application has been made to vacate that portion of Oriole Drive located between Lots 2 and 3 of Block 7 and Lots 5 and 6 of Block 8.

STAFF REVIEW:

Staff has reviewed this request for a Conditional Use Permit as it relates to the applicable provisions of the Rapid City Municipal Code and has noted the following issues:

Utilities:

The Engineering Division staff noted that any extension of the water main, whether it be public or a private system, will require that design plans by a professional engineer be submitted for review and approval prior to issuance of a Building Permit. The Engineering Division also noted that a site development plan must be submitted for water, sewer, storm drainage, street, or sidewalk improvements prior to issuance of a Building Permit.

As part of the companion Vacation of Right of Way request (03VR012) the Engineering Division staff noted that there are existing water and sewer mains located in the Oriole Drive right of way. That Vacation of Right of Way would eliminate access to the dead-end manhole, and place curbing and landscaping directly over the water main and sanitary sewer main. The site plan submitted shows the building in a location that would not interfere with the underground utilities located in the right of way; however, there would be parking, sidewalk, and landscaping located directly over them.

As part of that same companion request it was recommended that the area proposed for vacation would need to be retained as a utility easement. This would require that the property owner enter into a covenant to insure that all future removals and/or restoration of surface improvements be the sole responsibility of the owner.

Drainage:

The Engineering Division staff noted that no storm water drainage information has been provided. Based on the high percentage of the site that will be covered with impervious surface, on-site detention may be necessary to preclude damage to down stream properties. Preliminary drainage information must be provided to insure that adequate protections can be constructed with the development to mitigate the impacts of the proposed development. This information must be provided prior to Planning Commission approval of the request.

Fire Safety:

The Fire Department staff noted that through conversations with Mr. Ernie Landrum, the Building Committee Secretary for the Rapid City congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, the project was assumed to be an A-2.1 occupancy. The Uniform Fire Code identifies an A-2.1 occupancy as an assembly area with an occupancy load of 300 or more, without a legitimate stage. Based on this classification the required minimum fire flow would be 2500 gallons per minute and require three hydrants: one onsite and two located at a 450 foot spacing.

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The Fire Department staff also noted that a fire detection and alarm system plus a fire sprinkler system will be required throughout the facility. A 96 foot cul-de-sac will be required at the end of Oriole Drive due to the access through the church parking lot, and that Oriole Drive will be the only access to the church. The parking lot layout and turning radiuses must accommodate the ladder truck.

Building Permit:

The Building Inspection Division staff noted that a Building Permit must be obtained prior to any construction, and a Certificate of Occupancy must be obtained prior to occupancy of the building.

Access:

The approval of the companion vacation request (03VR012), without the requirement to replat the property into a single parcel, will result in an existing lot not having any legal access. Lot 5 of Block 8 will abut Oriole Drive by only one single point which does not provide sufficient access to the lot. The applicant has indicated that they would be willing to enter into a developmental lot agreement to tie Lots 2 and 3 of Block 7 and Lots 5 and 6 of Block 8 together; however, a developmental lot agreement will not prevent the owner from selling the lots individually which would leave Lot 5 of Block 8 with no legal access. Replatting the property into a single parcel would facilitate the vacation of the easement, allow the identification of the necessary easements, and insure that legal and physical access is provide to all lots.

Zoning Requirements:

The proposed church will have a gross floor area of approximately 8,464 square feet. The building plans indicate that the structure will be 32 feet in height. There is no steeple proposed for the building. The site plan submitted indicates 142 parking spaces provided with four of those being handicapped accessible. Ordinance 17.50.270 of the Rapid City Municipal Code requires .25 parking stalls will be provided for every seat or 18 inches of linear bench. A detailed floor plan must be provided to accurately determine if sufficient parking is provided. The Rapid City Municipal Code Section 17.50.270 requires five handicapped accessible stalls be provided with one being van accessible. The site plan shows only four handicapped accessible stalls one being van accessible. The van accessible stall indicated does not have the access isle located on the driver's right hand side which is required by Rapid City Municipal Code. A revised site plan must be provided showing five handicapped accessible stalls with one being van accessible with the access aisle located on the drivers right hand side.

Ordinance 17.50.300 of the Rapid City Municipal Code requires landscaping be provided for multiple-family zoning districts. The site plan submitted shows 124,250 points provided which exceeds the 95,161 required. The landscaping plan submitted shows numerous shrubs and trees along the exterior of the parking lot which will provide a visual screening from the adjacent properties and streets.

Staff recommends this item be continued to the January 22, 2004 Planning Commission to allow the applicant time to address the issues as identified above.

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Engineering Division Recommendations:

1.

Fire Department Recommendations:

Traffic Engineering Division Recommendations:

Transportation Planning Division Recommendations:

Urban Planning Division Recommendations: