City of Las Vegas

AGENDA MEMO

CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 7, 2007
DEPARTMENT: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
ITEM DESCRIPTION: ABEYANCE - VAR-17742 - APPLICANT/OWNER LARRY AND PATRICIA SCHEUSNER FAMILY TRUST, POULOS FAMILY TRUST, AND ASHTON BOYD FAMILY TRUST

THIS ITEM WAS HELD IN ABEYANCE FROM THE JANUARY 17, 2007 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT THE REQUEST OF THE APPLICANT.

** CONDITIONS **

Staff recommends DENIAL. The Planning Commission (4-3/se, sd, bg vote) recommends APPROVAL, subject to:

Planning and Development

1. Conformance to the conditions for Rezoning (ZON-17740), and Site Development Plan Review (SDR-17745), if approved.

2. This approval shall be void two years from the date of final approval, unless a certificate of occupancy has been issued or upon approval of a final inspection. An Extension of Time may be filed for consideration by the City of Las Vegas.

** STAFF REPORT **

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This is a request for a Variance to allow a proposed apartment building to be eight feet from the north property line where the residential adjacency standards require a setback of 198 feet and to allow trash enclosures to be 10 feet from residentially zoned property where 50 feet is the minimum setback required on 1.38 acres on the north side of Bridger Avenue between Ninth Street and Tenth Street.

The request does not meet the criteria for the approval of variances, as the hardship is self-created and the applicant could revise the development to comply with residential adjacency requirements.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Related Relevant City Actions by P&D, Fire, Bldg., etc.	
01/04/61	The Board of City Commissioners approved a Special Use Permit for an office at 227 South 9TH Street
12/07/06	The Planning Commission recommended approval of companion items ZON-17740, VAR-17741, VAR-17743, VAC-17744 and SDR-17745 concurrently with this application. The Planning Commission voted 4-3/se, sd, bg to recommend APPROVAL (PC Agenda Item #16/ar).
Pre-Application Meeting	
08/18/06	The requirements for a variance application were reviewed.
Neighborhood Meeting	
	A neighborhood meeting is not required for this type of application

Details of Application Request	
Site Area	
Net Acres	1.38 Acres

Surrounding Property	Existing Land Use	Planned Land Use	Existing Zoning
Subject Property	Offices, multi-family dwellings, single family dwellings.	Mixed Use	R-4
North	Single family dwelling	Mixed Use	R-4
South	Apartments	Mixed Use	R-4
East	Apartments	Mixed Use	R-4
West	Apartments and Non-profit organization	Mixed Use	C-V and C-2

Special Districts/Zones	*Yes*	*No*	*Compliance*
Special Area Plan			
Downtown Centennial Plan		X	
Redevelopment Plan Area	X		Y
Special Districts/Zones	*Yes*	*No*	*Compliance*
Special Purpose and Overlay Districts		X	
Trails	X		Y
Rural Preservation Overlay District		X	
Development Impact Notification Assessment		X	
Project of Regional Significance		X	

Redevelopment Area

The subject site is located within the Downtown Redevelopment Area, where special funding may be available for proposed projects. Developments are subject to all requirements of Title 19.

Trails

The Master Plan Transportation Trails Element depicts a trail along Ninth Street adjacent to this site. If this trail is constructed, it will be constructed by the city, and therefore the applicant is not required to show the trail on the submitted plans.

DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Per Title 19.08, the following standards apply:

Standard	*Required/Allowed*	*Provided*	*Compliance*
Min. Lot Size	7,000 square feet	1.38 acres	Y
Min. Lot Width	N/A	180 feet	Y
Min. Setbacks			
• Front (west)	• 10 Feet	• 0 Feet	• N*
• Side (north)	• 5 Feet	• 8 Feet	• Y**
• Corner (south)	• 5 Feet	• 0 Feet	• N*
• Rear (east)	• 20 Feet	• 0 Feet	• N*
Min. Distance Between Buildings	N/A	1 building	Y
Max. Lot Coverage	N/A	81 %	Y
Max. Building Height	5 Stories or 55 Feet	66 Feet	N***

*These setbacks do not comply with the R-5 standards. This issue will be considered under Variance VAR-17743.

**This setback complies with the R-5 standards, but does not comply with the Residential Adjacency Standards. This issue will be considered under Variance VAR-17742.

***The proposed height does not comply with the R-5 standards. This issue will be considered under Variance VAR-17743.

Per Title 19.08.06, the following standards apply:

Residential Adjacency Standards	***Required/Allowed***	***Provided***	***Compliance***
3:1 proximity slope	198 feet from north property line	8 feet	N
Adjacent development matching setback	5 feet	8 feet	Y
Trash Enclosure	50 feet from north property line	10 Feet	N

These setback issues will be considered under Variance VAR-17742.

Existing Zoning	***Permitted Density***	***Units Allowed***	***Proposed Zoning***	***Permitted Density***	***General Plan***	***Permitted Density***
R-4	50 du/ac	69	R-5	unlimited	MXU	greater than 25.49 du/ac

Per Title 19.12, the following standards apply:

Landscaping and Open Space Standards				
Standards	***Required***		***Provided***	***Compliance***
	Ratio	***Trees***		
Parking Area	1 tree/ 6 spaces	2 trees	2 trees	Y
Buffer: Min. Trees	1 tree/20 linear feet	27 trees	24 trees	N
Min. Zone Width	10 feet along 9th Street 10 feet along Bridger Avenue 10 feet along Tenth Street 6 feet along north property line		0 feet along 9th Street 4 feet along Bridger Avenue 10 feet along Tenth Street 5 feet along north property line	N N Y N

The applicant has requested a waiver to allow a reduction of the landscaping buffer requirements to allow 0 feet along a portion of the west property line, zero feet along Bridger Avenue, and five feet along the north property line.

Pursuant to Title 19.10, the following parking standards apply:

Parking Requirement							
		Required			***Provided***		***Compliance***
			Parking		*Parking*		
Use	***Number of Units***	***Parking Ratio***	Regular	Handi-capped	Regular	Handi-capped	
Apartments	300 one-bedroom units	1.25 spaces per unit plus one guest space for every six units	425 spaces	9 spaces	150 spaces	9 spaces	N
TOTAL (including handicap)			425 spaces	9 spaces	150 spaces	9 spaces	N
Percent Deviation					65 %		

This parking issue will be addressed under Variance VAR-17741.

Waivers		
Request	**Requirement**	**Staff Recommendation**
6 feet along north property line	5 feet along north property line	Denial
0 feet along 9th Street	10 feet along 9th Street	Denial
4 feet along Bridger Avenue	10 feet along Bridger Avenue	Denial

Because the site plan could be redesigned to include a less-intense use which would allow compliance with the city's landscaping standards, staff is recommending denial of all landscaping waivers.

ANALYSIS

The site is currently developed with two apartment buildings, two single-family dwellings, and an office building. The applicant proposes to demolish these structures and construct a 300-unit apartment building which will require a variance (VAR-17743) to allow the building to be zero feet from the west property line where ten feet is the minimum setback required, zero feet from the east property line where 20 feet is the minimum setback required, and zero feet from the south property line where five feet is the minimum setback required. Because the site plan could be redesigned to include a less-intense use which would allow compliance with the city's setback standards, staff is recommending denial of these setback variances.

The applicant has also requested a variance (VAR-17743) to allow a building height of 66 feet where the R-5 (Apartment) standards allow a maximum height of 55 feet. Because the site plan could be redesigned to include a less-intense use which would allow compliance with the city's height requirements, staff is recommending denial of this variance.

Because there is an existing single-family dwelling north of this site and adjacent to 9th Street, any proposed development of this site is required to comply with the proximity slope requirements of the Residential Adjacency standards. When applied to the height of the building as currently proposed (66 feet), these standards require a setback of 198 feet from the north property line which is adjacent to the existing single-family dwelling north of this site. The applicant has requested a variance (VAR-17742) to allow a setback of eight feet from the north property line where 198 feet is the minimum setback required. Because the site plan could be redesigned to include a less-intense use which would allow compliance with the city's Residential Adjacency standards, staff is recommending denial of this variance.

The Residential Adjacency standards also require trash enclosures to be setback at least 50 feet from single-family residential development. The applicant has requested a variance (VAR-17742) to allow the trash enclosure to be 10 feet from single-family development. Because the site plan could be redesigned to include a trash enclosure which would allow compliance with the city's Residential Adjacency standards, staff is recommending denial of this variance.

The applicant has requested a variance (VAR-17741) to allow 150 parking spaces on this site where 425 are required. Because there is no hardship associated with this site, and because staff finds that this proposed development is too intense for the subject property, staff is recommending denial of this parking variance. As part of this development, the applicant is proposing to vacate a portion of an existing 20-foot wide public alley that currently bisects this site and connects Carson Avenue and Bridger Avenue. In order to mitigate the vacation of this portion of the alley, the applicant proposes to construct a new alley, which will connect the un-vacated portion of the existing alley to Tenth Street. Because staff is recommending denial of the rezoning, site development plan review and variances associated with this development, staff is recommending denial of the alley vacation. A 10-foot wide landscape buffer that complies with city standards is proposed along Tenth Street. The applicant has requested waivers to allow no perimeter landscaping along Ninth Street where ten feet is required; to allow four feet along Bridger Avenue where 10 feet is required; and to allow five feet along the north property line where six feet is required. Because the site plan could be redesigned to include a less-intense use which would allow compliance with the city's landscaping standards, staff is recommending denial of all landscaping waivers.

The elevations depict a stucco exterior with aluminum accents.

FINDINGS

In accordance with the provisions of Title 19.18.070(B), Planning Commission and City Council, in considering the merits of a Variance request, shall not grant a Variance in order to:

1. Permit a use in a zoning district in which the use is not allowed;
2. Vary any minimum spacing requirement between uses;
3. Relieve a hardship which is solely personal, self-created or financial in nature."

Additionally, Title 19.18.070L states:
"Where by reason of exceptional narrowness, shallowness, or shape of a specific piece of property at the time of enactment of the regulation, or by reason of exceptional topographic conditions or other extraordinary and exceptional situation or condition of the piece of property, the strict application of any zoning regulation would result in peculiar and exceptional practical difficulties to, or exceptional and undue hardships upon, the owner of the property, a variance from that strict application may be granted so as to relieve the difficulties or hardship, if the relief may be granted without substantial detriment to the public good, without substantial impairment of affected natural resources and without substantially impairing the intent and purpose of any ordinance or resolution."

No evidence of a unique or extraordinary circumstance has been presented, in that the applicant has created a self-imposed hardship by designing a project that does not comply with the Residential Adjacency Standards. In view of the absence of any hardships imposed by the site's physical characteristics, it is concluded that the applicant's hardship is preferential in nature, and it is thereby outside the realm of NRS Chapter 278 for granting of Variances.

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ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 9

SENATE DISTRICT 3

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