

Agenda #\_\_\_\_\_11

Commission Meeting Date: March 19, 2013

## CITY OF GREAT FALLS COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

**Item:** Minor Subdivision with Amended Plat of Lot 1, Block 2 of the Amended Plat

of the Amended Plat of Lot 1 and Lot 4, Block 2, Great Falls Market Place Subdivision, Section 15, Township 20 North, Range 3 East, P.M.M., Cascade

County, Montana

**From:** Galen Amy, Planner I, Planning and Community Development

**Initiated By:** Owner Representative: Lupe Sandoval, CRM Architects & Planners, Inc.

**Presented By:** Mike Haynes, AICP, Director of Planning and Community Development

**Action Requested:** City Commission to approve with conditions the Amended Plat and

accompanying Findings of Fact

## **Suggested Motion:**

1. Commissioner moves:

"I move that the City Commission (approve with conditions/disapprove) the Amended Plat of the subject property and accept the Findings of Fact."

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, public comment, and calls the vote.

**Recommendation:** The Planning Advisory Board, during a meeting held on February 26, 2013, passed a motion recommending the City Commission approve the Amended Plat of the above legally described property, herein referred to as the subject property, and the accompanying Findings of Fact, subject to the conditions of approval in the Planning Advisory Board Staff Report:

- 1. Provide an Amended Plat of the subject property which shall incorporate corrections of any errors or omissions noted by Staff, including provision of a notification clause to purchasers regarding soil conditions.
- 2. Any future development in the subdivision is subject to review and approval by the City of Great Falls as necessary, and applicant shall be required to submit any plans including architectural, landscape, signage and lighting plans as required for review and approval by the Design Review Board.
- 3. Developer shall enter into a mutual access agreement between the owners of the proposed lot and parent lot.

## **Background**

The City Planning and Community Development Department received an application to subdivide the northeast corner of the subject property, where Home Depot is located, in order to accommodate a proposed Panda Express restaurant. The Panda Express restaurant is faster, more casual representation of the more upscale Panda Inn restaurant, from which the chain concept was derived. In 1997, the company began opening stand-alone restaurants with drive-through windows, such as the proposed project. It is the largest chain of Chinese fast food restaurants in the United States with 1,536 restaurants covering 44 States and Puerto Rico. Its headquarters are located in Rosemead, California.

## **Subdivision Request**

The subject property comprises  $\pm 11.662$  acres. The proposed northeastern lot (Lot 1-B) for said Panda Express restaurant, adjacent to Market Place Drive, will consist of  $\pm 32,876$  square feet, or  $\pm 0.755$  acres. The remaining lot (Lot 1-A) where Home Depot is located will consist of  $\pm 475,118$  square feet, or  $\pm 10.907$  acres (See Draft Amended Plat).

Home Depot is an existing, big-box retail home improvement store in the Market Place Subdivision that meets Land Development Code standards. Consideration of a minor subdivision application of the subject property for the proposed development requires a parking space analysis. Per City Code, retail home improvement centers are required to have 1 parking space per 300 s.f. of gross floor area. Home Depot is 130,442 s.f., so 435 parking spaces are required. In addition, City Code requires 9 of these spaces be ADA accessible when the total number of required parking spaces is between 401 and 500.

Currently the Home Depot parking lot has 549 parking spaces, 10 ADA accessible parking spaces, and 7 parking spaces that have been converted into shopping cart corrals. The proposed development would eliminate 94 of the existing parking spaces, leaving 455 total parking spaces, which is still a 20 space surplus for Home Depot's required 435 parking spaces.

#### **Subdivision Analysis**

The basis for a decision to approve, conditionally approve, or deny a proposed subdivision is whether it is demonstrated that development of the proposed subdivision meets the requirements of the Montana State Code Annotated (MCA). Staff has developed Findings of Fact for the proposed subdivision; Staff concludes the subdivision meets the basic requirements provided by 76-3-608(3) MCA (See attached Findings of Fact).

## **Zoning Analysis**

The subject property is located in the C-2 General Commercial zoning district. Panda Express, a restaurant with a drive-through, is permitted in the C-2 district. The newly created lot and said development will conform to the zoning requirements outlined in the Land Development Code and Development Standards. Additionally, it is understood by the property owners that they will be responsible for all current and future maintenance issues related to their own lots and will not hold the City responsible for any maintenance conflicts.

The property owners shall share access to Market Place Drive via the existing driveways and will have cross-access between lots. The developer shall enter into a mutual access agreement between the owners of the proposed lot and parent lot for full access to and egress from the subject site. Any future development of any lot shall meet requirements for the C-2 General commercial zoning district and shall be reviewed by the Planning and Community Development and Public Works Departments for consistency with all relevant code sections.

#### Infrastructure

#### Streets & Utilities

The applicant will not be required to provide improvements to Market Place Drive as it is an existing roadways that was built to City standards. There is an existing 2-inch water service and 4-inch sewer service located in Market Place Drive. As development occurs on the newly created lot, the owners will be required to pay to connect service lines to those mains.

## Stormwater Management

Market Place Subdivision is subject to an overall stormwater master plan, so a storm drainage plan and report is not required. Any disturbed improvements in the public boulevards would need to be restored, and any public sidewalk, curb or gutter, driveway improvements need to be permitted and done according to City requirements and standards. Lastly, any excavation in the public right-of-way needs a permit, and excavation in Market Place Boulevard shall be back-filled with flowable fill, and the pavement section shall be replaced.

#### Traffic Analysis

The proposed subdivision would accommodate construction of a 2,210 square foot fast-food restaurant with limited seating (48 seats) and a drive-through. The Institute of Traffic Engineers' Trip Generation Manual provides an average trip generation figure for a use of this type and size of 1,097 trip ends per day. Although no traffic count is available for Market Place Drive, the roadway serves as the primary feeder for a busy commercial area. The roadway appears to have capacity to carry additional traffic, although the additional trips and turning movements may generate complaints from area drivers. However, dispersing access to the site between the driveway on the east side and the driveway on the west side of the site will help reduce vehicle stacking and delay that might otherwise be concentrated at one location.

No additional driveways/curb cuts onto Market Place will be allowed to the subject property, and because the site will be accessed through the property from which the lot is being created, a mutual access agreement must be in place. The private drive adjacent to the east property line of the proposed lot is missing a stop sign that must be replaced by the developer.

Sidewalk currently exists adjacent to Market Place Drive, and the developer must place curb-stops in parking spaces adjacent to the sidewalk to prevent vehicles overhanging and blocking sidewalk movements. Although not mandatory, the developer may wish to consider sidewalk on the west side of the private drive adjoining the eastern edge of the proposed lot. The proposed drive-through is well designed, providing adequate stacking and safe internal vehicle circulation through the site (see Site Plan and Building Rendering).

#### 2005 City of Great Falls Growth Policy

The project is generally consistent with the overall aims and goals of the 2005 Growth Policy. The project is an infill opportunity within an existing shopping center which was designed with surplus parking. By utilizing the surplus parking and the existing infrastructure, the project promotes the more efficient use of existing development resources and expands dining choices for the consuming public.

Specifically, the project is consistent with the Growth Policy goals related to the Economic

Development. The Growth Policy's Economic goals call for diversifying the base economy, enhancing, strengthening and expanding the existing economic base and encouraging businesses and industries that will utilize existing infrastructure. The Growth Policy also calls for promoting redevelopment and infill as the primary community development mechanism. The Growth Policy states that the City should regulate new development to achieve a high degree of self containment. This regulation is encompassed in the approval process being sought by this applicant as a result of this request.

## Neighborhood Council Input

Per MCA and the Official Code of the City of Great Falls (OCCGF 17.16.4.010 Table 16-2), minor subdivisions do not require public notice notification. As a courtesy, Patty Cadwell, Neighborhood and Youth Council Coordinator, provided information regarding the proposed project to Neighborhood Council #1 on January 8, 2013. There were general questions about the project, but no comments, and the Council did not make a recommendation for or against the project.

**Concurrences:** Representatives from the City's Public Works and Fire Departments have been involved throughout the review and approval process for this project.

**Fiscal Impact:** The Panda Express Restaurant project will increase the tax base and represent some additional demand on City services.

**Alternatives:** If there are justifiable reasons to do so, the City Commission could deny the requested action to the extent allowed in City Code and State Statute.

**Attachments/Exhibits:** Findings of Fact

Aerial Map Zoning Map

Reduced copy of Draft Amended Plat

Site Plan

**Building Renderings** 

cc: Jim Rearden, Public Works Director

Dave Dobbs, City Engineer

Patty Cadwell, Neighborhood & Youth Council Coordinator

Lupe Sandoval, CRM Architects & Planners, Inc., Lupes@crmarchitects.com

Brian Cannard, HD Development of Maryland, Inc., brian cannard@homedepot.com

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

Amended Plat of Lot 1, Block 2 of the Amended Plat of the Amended Plat of Lot 1 and Lot 4, Block 2, Great Falls Market Place Subdivision, Section 15, Township 20 North, Range 3 East, P.M.M., Cascade County, Montana (PREPARED IN RESPONSE TO 76-3-608(3)MCA)

#### PRIMARY REVIEW CRITERIA

**Effect on Agriculture:** The lots within the subdivision are not currently being used for agricultural purposes. The proposed subdivision will not interfere with any irrigation system or present any interference with agricultural operations in the vicinity.

**Effect on Local Services:** When development occurs on the lot within the subdivision, they will connect to City water and sewer mains. There is no required extension of utility mains as a part of this request. The City shall provide water and sewer service to the lots, which will be required to pay standard City fees for these services.

The lots within the subdivision will receive law enforcement and fire protection service from the City of Great Falls. The nearest fire station is  $\pm 1.4$  miles from the subdivision site. Providing these services to the proposed restaurant in the subdivision is expected to be a negligible cost to the City. Increased tax revenues from improved properties will likely cover any increased costs.

The subdivision will have a negligible impact on the cost of road maintenance as the subdivision and roads are already established. The developer will not be required to improve Market Place Drive because it has existing curb, gutter and sidewalks.

**Effect on the Natural Environment:** The subdivision is not expected to adversely affect soils or the water quality or quantity of surface or ground waters. Any excess surface runoff will flow into existing storm drains.

Effect on Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat: The subdivision is located in an area containing urbanized development. The subdivision is not in an area of significant wildlife habitat and will not result in closure of public access to hunting or fishing areas, nor to public lands.

Effect on Public Health and Safety: Based on available information, the subdivision is not subject to abnormal potential natural hazards such as flooding, wildfire, snow or rockslides, nor potential man-made hazards such as high voltage power lines, high-pressure gas lines, high traffic volumes, or mining activity.

# REQUIREMENTS OF MONTANA SUBDIVISION AND PLATTING ACT, UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR MONUMENTATION, AND LOCAL SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

The subdivision meets the requirements of the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act and the surveying requirements specified in the Uniform Standards for Monumentation, and conforms to the design standards specified in the local subdivision regulations. The local government has complied with the subdivision review and approval procedures set forth in the local subdivision regulations.

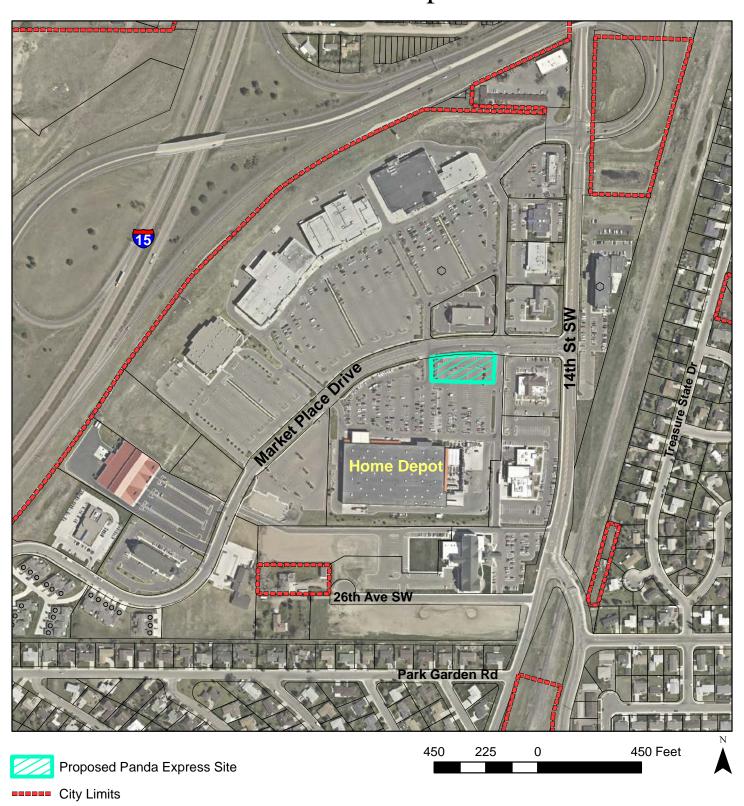
### **EASEMENT FOR UTILITIES**

There are no new easements required to accommodate public water mains or sanitary sewer mains and owner shall provide necessary utility easements to accommodate any private utilities to serve all lots of the minor subdivision.

#### LEGAL AND PHYSICAL ACCESS

Market Place Drive is public right-of-way maintained by the City of Great Falls. Legal and physical access to the proposed development is via the existing driveways off of Market Place Drive. The property owners will have cross-access between lots and the developer shall enter into a mutual access agreement between the owners of the proposed lot and parent lot for full access to and egress from the subject site.

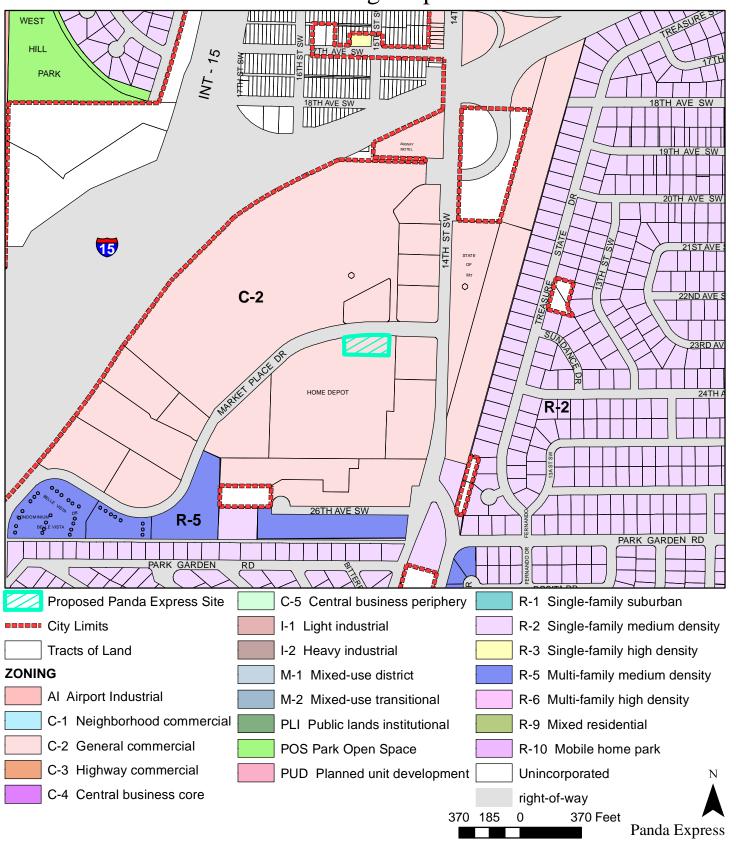
# Aerial Map

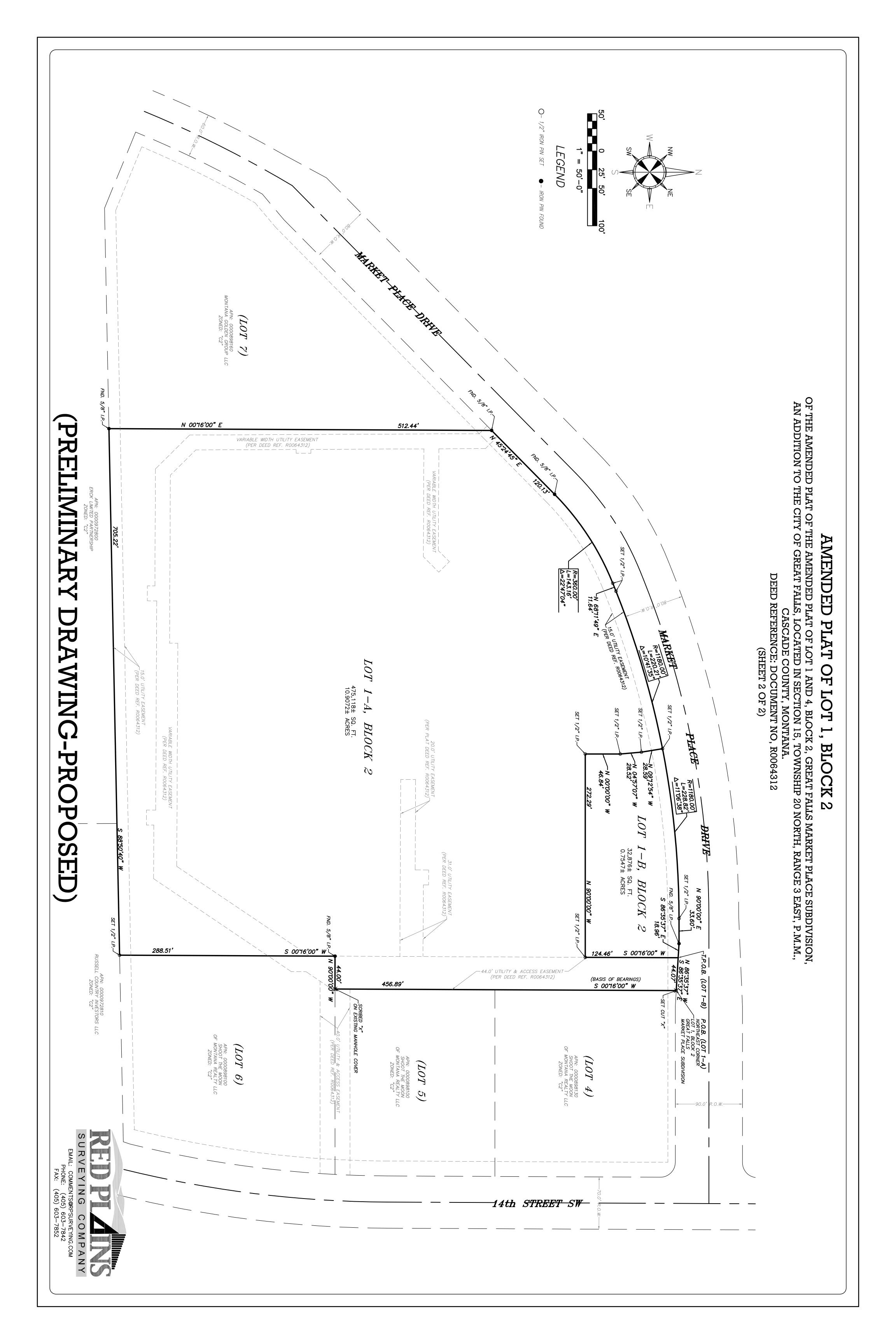


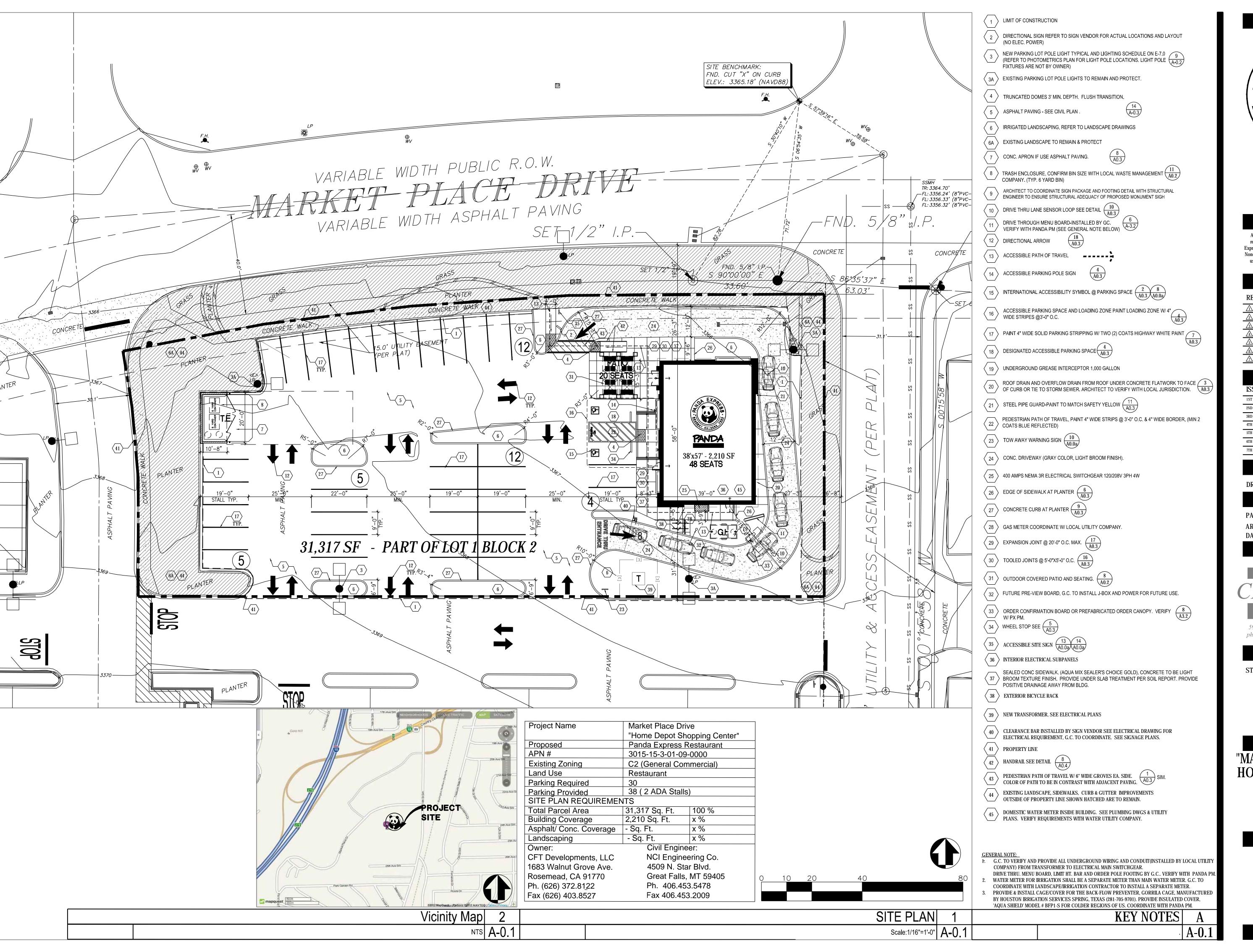
Tracts of Land

Panda Express

Zoning Map









PANDA RESTAURANT GROUP INC. 1683 Walnut Grove Ave. Rosemead, California

> Telephone: 626.799.9898 Facsimile: 626.372.8288

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DRAWN BY: CRM Architects & Planners, In

PANDA PROJECT #: S8-13-D3640
ARCH PROJECT #: CRM 1228.1

ATE: CRM 1228 10/10/12

CRM Architects & Plant Inc.

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1500 MARKET PLACE DRIVE GREAT FALLS, MT 59404

Prototype # Bright & Fresh

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SITE PLAN ARCHITECTURAL

PLANNING SUBMITTAL

## **Building Renderings**



