

Agenda # 12

Commission Meeting Date: February 18, 2014

CITY OF GREAT FALLS COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

Item: Ordinance 3098 - to assign City zoning to a tract of land proposed to be

designated as Lot 5, Block 1, Division Addition located in the NE1/4 of Section 2, T20N, R3E, P.M.M. Cascade County, Montana (Voyager

Apartments Development)

From: Galen Amy, Planner II, Planning and Community Development

Initiated By: Accessible Space, Inc., Developer

Presented By: Craig Raymond, Director of Planning and Community Development

Action Requested: City Commission accept Ordinance 3098 on first reading and set a public

hearing for March 18, 2014.

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:

"I move that the City Commission (accept/deny) Ordinance 3098 on first reading and set a public hearing for March 18, 2014."

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

Recommendation: At the conclusion of a public hearing held October 23, 2012, the Planning Advisory Board conditionally approved the annexation of a tract of land, legally described above, and the Zoning Commission approved assigning a zoning classification of R-6 Multifamily high density residential district to said property upon annexation to the City. At the time, no citizens spoke at the public hearing for or against the project.

Staff recommends approval of the proposed annexation and zoning of ± 3.02 acres of unincorporated land, herein referred to as subject property, subject to the following conditions of annexation being fulfilled:

- 1. Final build-out of the project shall be in substantial compliance with the final approved site plan documents, drawings and renderings.
- 2. The final engineering drawings and specifications for the required public improvements to serve ASI Great Falls Elderly Housing Development shall be submitted to the City Public Works Department for review and approval prior to any building permits being issued by the City.
- 3. A Grading Plan, State Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities Permit, and Stormwater Management Plan shall be developed to City standards and shall

- be submitted to the City Public Works Department for review and approval prior to issuance of building permits.
- 4. Applicant shall submit proposed project drawings including architectural, landscape, signage and lighting plans as required for review and approval by the Design Review Board prior to submittal of permit plans.
- 5. A geotechnical investigation and report prepared by a Professional Engineer (and indemnifying the City) with recommended building foundation design shall be submitted to the Planning and Community Development Department for review and approval prior to issuance of building permits.
- 6. An Annexation Agreement shall be prepared containing terms and conditions for development of the subject property including, but not limited to, agreement by application to:
 - a. Install within two years of the date of final City Commission approval, the public improvements reference in Paragraph Two above; and
 - b. Indemnify the City for any damages attributable to adverse soil or groundwater conditions.

The City Commission public hearing was initially set for December 4, 2012, but due to project financing not being secured, it was vacated. The applicant has now fully secured funding that includes equity from the future sale of 2014 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credits, HOME funds from the City of Great Falls, HOME funds from the Montana Department of Commerce, Federal Home Loan Bank Affordable Housing Program funds and conventional construction and permanent debt. The estimated total development cost is \$7.4 million or about \$195,000 per unit. Upon Commission approval, the applicant plans to start construction in September 2014, with construction completed in September 2015, and 100% lease-up by December 2015.

Background: The applicant, Accessible Space, Inc., is requesting annexation of the subject property, which consists of ± 2.36 acres. The subject property is an unincorporated enclave that is a vacant, undeveloped field. The subject property is currently part of a larger lot comprised of ± 11.7 acres and a minor subdivision has been processed in the County to create the ± 2.36 acre subject lot being annexed. In addition to the subject property, per MCA requirements, the abutting portions of Division Road, comprised of ± 0.66 acres, must also be annexed as a part of the request. In total ± 3.02 acres will be annexed into the City.

The applicant is proposing a 38-unit accessible, affordable senior rental development be located on the subject property. The proposed development will consist of a two-story building that will include 32 one-bedroom and 6 two-bedroom apartments for residents age 55 and above. From a market perspective, the project meets an important and growing need in the City of Great Falls, as Great Falls currently exceeds the state average for elderly residents. The 2010 Census indicates 16.6% of Great Fall's population is 65 and over, higher than the Montana average of 14.8%.

The project will include common areas such as a dining room with kitchen, community rooms for meetings and social gatherings, a library/lounge, a computer lab, an exercise room and supportive service staff. The building's design will include accessible features that accommodate the current and changing needs of seniors and elderly seniors. The subject property is in close proximity to services and amenities such as healthcare, shopping, restaurants and other services important to senior residents, including those with disabilities.

Zoning Analysis

The subject property, upon annexation, shall be zoned R-6 Multi-family residential high density. This zoning is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. The Land Development Code states that the R-6 Multi-family high density residential zoning district is intended to accommodate multi-family units of the highest density allowed in the City. These districts are typically found close to work and leisure, and are close to the downtown.

The proposed 38-unit housing development is consistent with the R-6 zoning district standards and is compatible with the existing neighboring uses. Section 17.16.40.030 of the Land Development Code lists criteria for the basis of decision, which must be considered in conjunction with amending zoning:

- 1. The amendment is consistent with and furthers the intent of the City's growth policy;
- 2. The amendment is consistent with and furthers adopted neighborhood plans, if any;
- 3. The amendment is consistent with other planning documents adopted by the City Commission, including the river corridor plan, transportation plan, and sub-area plans;
- 4. The code with the amendment is internally consistent;
- 5. The amendment is the least restrictive approach to address issues of public health, safety, and welfare;
- 6. The City has or will have the financial and staffing capability to administer and enforce the amendment.

Zoning the subject property R-6 Multi-family high density residential will enhance health, safety and welfare through application of City Codes and provision of municipal services. Therefore, staff concludes the above-cited criteria are substantially met.

Infrastructure

The applicant will be required to improve the 40-foot road sections of Division Road along the subject parcel's frontage. The roadway will be improved to the City standards for sidewalks (western side only), paving, and curb and gutter. The owner will be reimbursed for a proportionate share of these improvements by the property owner to the east at such time as the property is annexed into the City. Division Road is classified as a Collector roadway. There is sufficient capacity on the roadway to accommodate additional vehicular traffic that would be generated by the proposed development.

The 8-inch City sewer main shall be extended in Division Road from its existing location in 16th Avenue Northwest to the most northern property line. The 8-inch City water main shall be extended from its existing location in Division Road, at the southern property line of the subject site, to the northern property line. The applicant will need to extend the storm drain from its existing location north, as required by Public Works.

The proposed development will have impervious surfaces of more than 15,000 square feet; therefore, the developer is required to provide a stormwater management plan in compliance with the City of Great Falls Storm Design Manual and City standards. The plan will be reviewed and approved by the Public Works Department prior to the issuance of building permits for the development.

2013 City of Great Falls Growth Policy Update

The proposed rezoning is consistent with the overall intent and purpose of the 2013 City Growth Policy Update. This project strongly supports the Social and Physical portions of the Growth Policy, specifically the goals and principles to: 1) encourage a safe, adequate and diverse supply of housing and fair housing opportunities in the City; and 2) develop new and diverse housing supply throughout the City, including single-family residential, multi-family, and housing for those with special needs.

Additional supportive Policies that this project is consistent with include:

Social - Housing

- Soc1.4.1 Work with the private sector and non-profits to increase housing opportunities in the city.
- Soc1.4.2 Expand the supply of residential opportunities including single family homes, apartments, manufactured homes and assisted living facilities.
- Soc1.4.3 Encourage, promote and support adequate and affordable home ownership in the City.
- Soc1.4.4 Promote a range of housing options and supportive networks to help the elderly remain independent and "age in place."
- Soc1.4.5 Continue to support the development of accessible housing units for those with physical and mental challenges and special needs, including members of the community with disabilities, etc.
- Soc1.4.6 Encourage a variety of housing types and densities so that residents can choose by price or rent, location and place of work.

Physical - Land Use

- Phy4.1.3 Create a balanced land use pattern that provides for a diversity of uses that will accommodate existing and future development in the City.
- Phy4.1.4 Foster the development of safe, walkable neighborhoods, with a mix of uses and diversity of housing types.
- Phy4.1.5 Encourage and incentivize the redevelopment or adaptive reuse of vacant or underutilized properties so as to maximize the City's existing infrastructure.

Environmental - Urban Form

Env2.3.1 In order to maximize existing infrastructure, identify underutilized parcels and areas with infill potential as candidates for redevelopment in the City.

The Growth Policy identifies that Great Falls embodies balanced, compatible growth, while at the same time sets the task to take a phased approach in terms of determining the status of unincorporated enclaves with respect to the City's needs. The subject property is located in one of the 34 enclaves in the City. This project will serve to annex a portion of an enclave in order to achieve both housing and infill development goals.

Neighborhood Council Input

The applicant originally gave a presentation to Neighborhood Council #3 on October 4, 2012. At that time, the Neighborhood Council voted in support of the project. The Council received current project information on February 4, 2014. At their regularly scheduled meeting on March 6, 2014, the Council will receive a presentation about the project. An account of any applicable discussion and comments will be provided in the agenda report for the public hearing on March 18, 2014.

It is anticipated the City Commission, at the public hearing on March 18, 2014, will consider the resolution to annex and an annexation agreement for the subject property simultaneously with Ordinance 3098.

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

Fiscal Impact: The annexation will marginally expand the fire and police service area, which will have a minimal fiscal impact on the City. While the project will be tax-exempt and therefore not subject to paying property taxes, it will benefit the community in terms of desirable new development, employment and additional services, all consistent with the intent of the Growth Policy.

Alternatives: The City Commission could deny acceptance of Ordinance 3098 on first reading and not set the public hearing. However, such action would deny the applicant due process and consideration of a public hearing, as provided for in City Code and State Statute.

Attachments/Exhibits: Aerial Map

Ordinance 3098 with Attachment A

Draft Amended Plat

Site Plan

Conceptual Rendering

Cc: Jim Rearden, Public Works Director

Dave Dobbs, City Engineer

Patty Cadwell, Neighborhood Council Coordinator

Jolene Wetterau, CDBG/HOME Administrator

Dan Billmark, Accessible Spaces, Inc., DBillmark@accessiblespace.org

Michael Knisely, Distyle Design, mknisely@distyledesign.com

Mitchell Development, melissa@mdandi.com

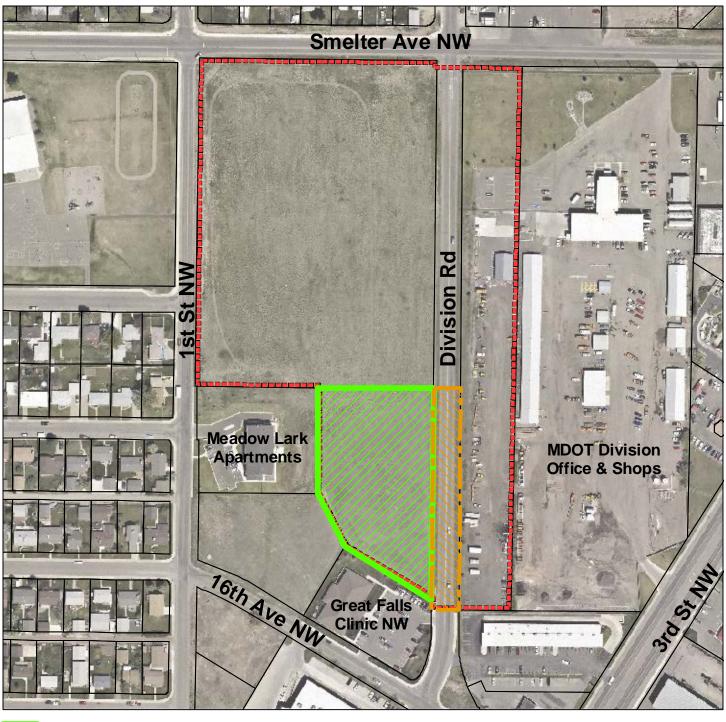
Trever McSpadden, Morrison-Maierle, Inc., tmcspadden@m-m.net

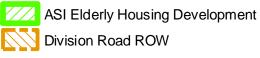
Eileen R. Piekarz, RCAC, EPiekarz@rcac.org

Hillary Lopez, Praxis Consulting Group, LLC, hilary@praxisreno.com

Jana Cooper, TD&H Engineering, Jana.Cooper@tdhengineering.com

Aerial Photo





City Limits

Tracts of Land



ORDINANCE 3098

AN ORDINANCE ASSIGNING A ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF R-6 MULTI-FAMILY HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO LOT 5, BLOCK 1, DIVISION ADDITION, LOCATED IN THE NE1/4 OF SECTION 2, T20N, R3E, P.M.M. CASCADE COUNTY, MONTANA

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WHEREAS, Accessible Space, Inc. has petitioned the City of Great Falls to annex Lot 5, Block 1, Division Addition, located in the NE1/4 of Section 2, T20N, R3E, P.M.M. Cascade County, Montana consisting of ±2.36 acres, herein referred to as subject property, and;

WHEREAS, Montana Code Annotated 7-2-4211 requires annexation of roads and right-of-way that are adjacent to the property being annexed, in this case consisting of ± 0.66 acres of Division Road; and,

WHEREAS, Accessible Space, Inc. has petitioned the subject property be assigned a zoning classification of R-6 Multi-family high density district upon annexation to the City; and,

WHEREAS, notice of assigning said zoning classification to subject property was published in the *Great Falls Tribune* advising that a public hearing on this zoning designation would be held on the 18th day of March, 2014, before final passage of said Ordinance herein; and,

WHEREAS, following said public hearing, it was found and decided that the said zoning designation be made;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. It is determined that the herein requested zoning designation will meet the criteria and guidelines cited in Section 76-2-304 Montana Code Annotated, and Section 17.16.40.030 of the Land Development Code of the City of Great Falls.

Section 2. That the zoning of Lot 5, Block 1, Division Addition, located in the NE1/4 of Section 2, T20N, R3E, P.M.M. Cascade County, Montana, be designated as R-6 Multi-family

high density district consistent with adjacent property upon annexation, attached hereto as Attachment A and by this reference made a part hereof.

Section 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect thirty (30) days after its passage and adoption by the City Commission or upon filing in the office of the Cascade County Clerk and Recorder the resolution annexing Lot 5, Block 1, Division Addition, located in the NE1/4 of Section 2, T20N, R3E, P.M.M. Cascade County, Montana, into the corporate limits of the City of Great Falls, Montana, whichever event shall occur later.

APPROVED by the City Commission on first reading February 18, 2014.

	Michael J. Winters, Mayor	
ATTEST:		
Lucy Hallett, Deputy City Clerk	_	
(CITY SEAL)		
APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:		
	_	
Sara Sexe, City Attorney		

State of Montana)
County of Cascade : ss
City of Great Falls)

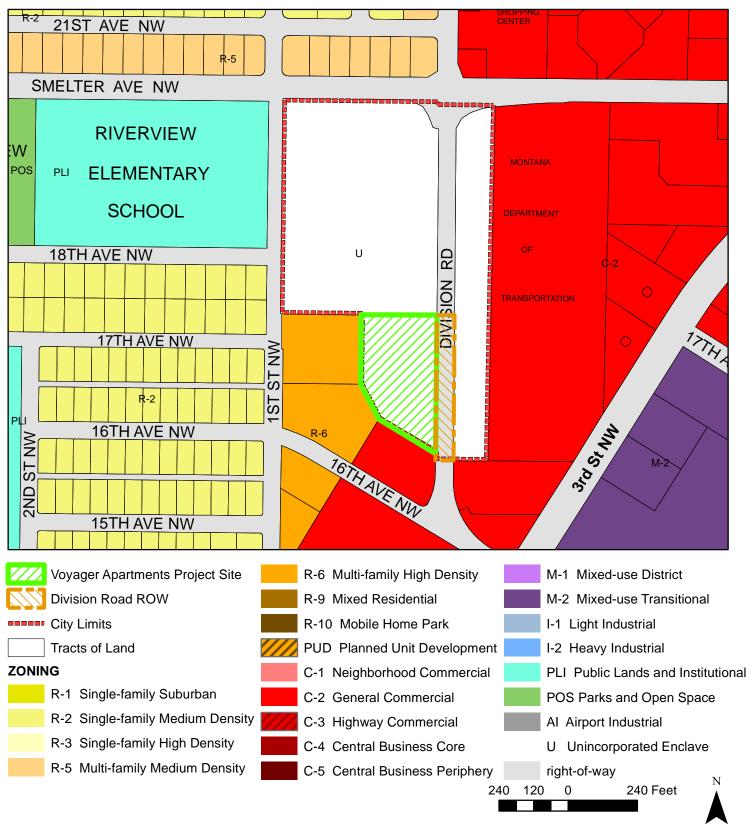
I, Lucy Hallett, City Clerk of the City of Great Falls, Montana, do certify that I did post as required by law and as prescribed and directed by the Commission, Ordinance 3098 in three conspicuous places within the limits of said City to-wit:

On the Bulletin Board, first floor, Civic Center Building; On the Bulletin Board, first floor, Cascade County Court House; On the Bulletin Board, Great Falls Public Library

Lucy Hallett, Deputy City Clerk

(CITY SEAL)

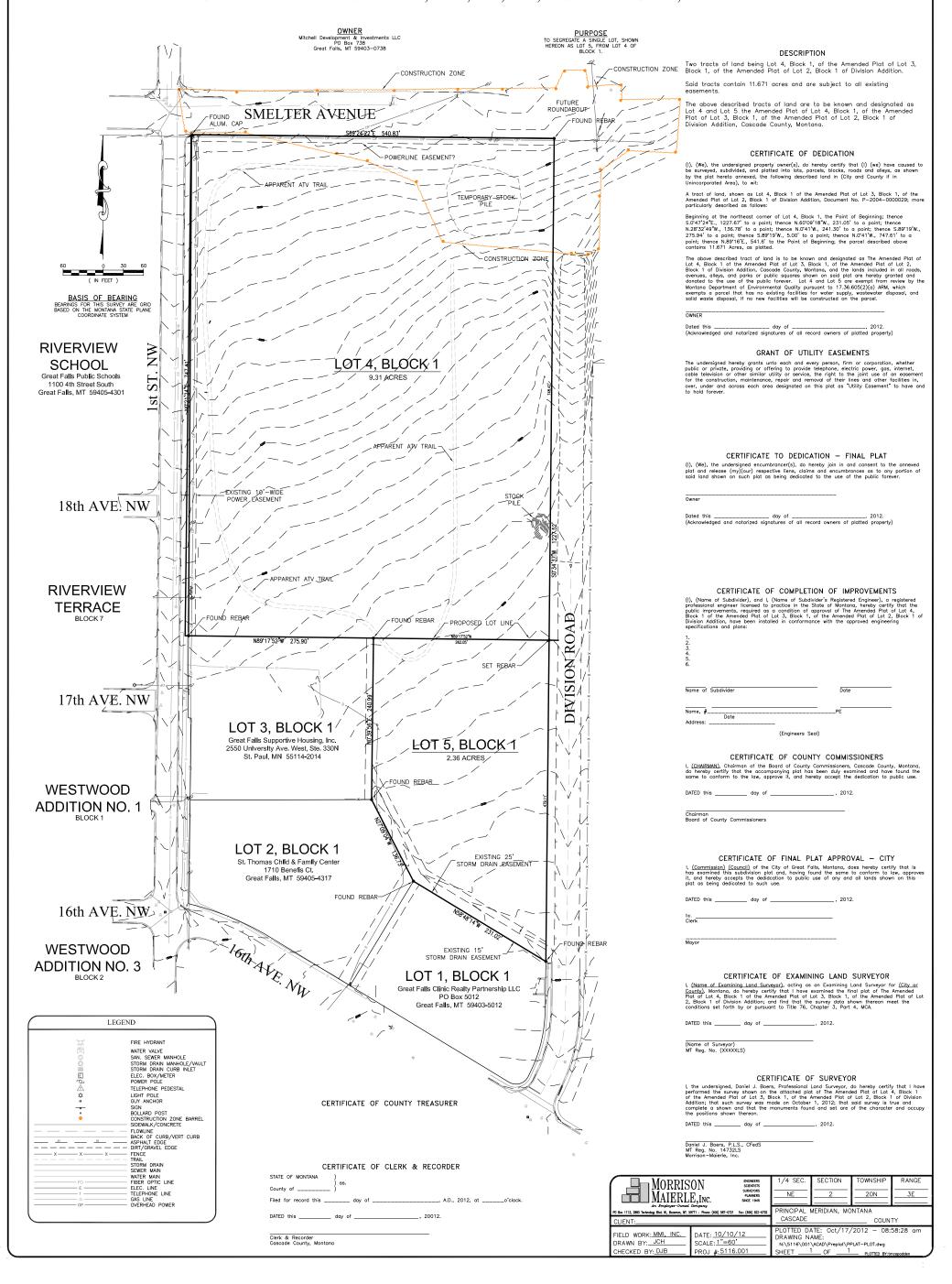
Ordinance 3098 Attachment A



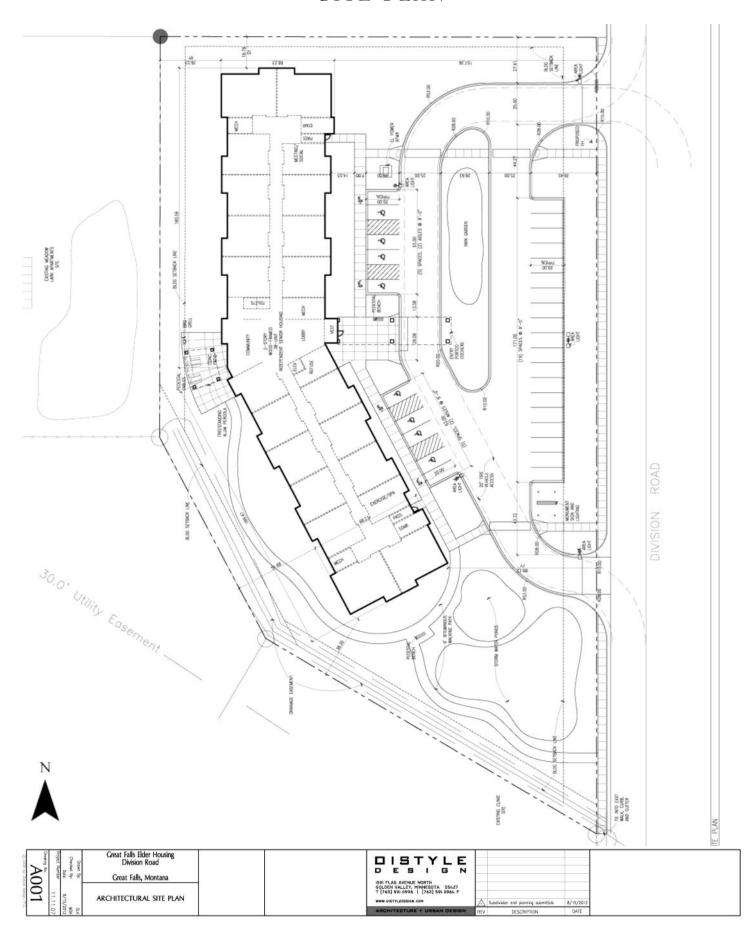
AMENDED PLAT

BEING THE AMENDED PLAT of LOT 4, BLOCK 1, of the AMENDED PLAT of LOT 3,BLOCK 1, of the AMENDED PLAT OF LOT 2, BLOCK 1 OF DIVISION ADDITION

A MINOR SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS,
SITUATED IN THE NE1/4 SECTION 2, T20N, R3E, P.M., CASCADE COUNTY, MONTANA



SITE PLAN



Conceptual Rendering

ASI Elderly Housing Development - Voyager Apartments

