



# City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## STAFF REPORT

June 11, 2014

### SUP – 2477 RESERVOIR STREET CAMPUS VIEW APARTMENTS

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

- Applicant:** Carmel Quinn Falls, Leon Nelson, and HGC, Inc. with representative Ed Blackwell of Blackwell Engineering
- Tax Map:** 81-A-8
- Acreage:** 2.039 +/- acres
- Location:** 2477 Reservoir Street
- Request:** Public hearing to consider a request for a special use permit within the R-3, Medium Density Residential District per Section 10-3-48.4 (6) of the Zoning Ordinance to allow multiple family dwellings of up to 12 units per building.

#### LAND USE, ZONING, AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

The Comprehensive Plan designates this area as Medium Density Mixed Residential. This designation states that these largely undeveloped areas continue the existing medium density character of adjacent areas, but in a different form. They are planned for small-lot single family detached and single family attached neighborhoods where green spaces are integral design features. Apartments could also be permitted under special circumstances. They should be planned communities that exhibit the same innovative features as described for the low density version of mixed residential development. The gross density of development in these areas should be in the range of 4 to 12 dwelling units per acre and commercial uses would be expected to have an intensity equivalent to a Floor Area Ratio of at least 0.4, although the City does not measure commercial intensity in that way.

The following land uses are located on and adjacent to the property:

- Site:** Single-family dwelling, zoned R-3
- North:** Vacant parcels, zoned R-3
- East:** Campus View Condominiums and Apartments, zoned R-3 and R-5C
- South:** Single-family dwellings, zoned R-3
- West:** Across Reservoir Street, Dogwood Commons Apartments, zoned R-3

#### EVALUATION

The applicant is requesting a special use permit per Section 10-3-48.4 (6) of the Zoning Ordinance to allow multiple-family dwellings within the R-3, Medium Density Residential

District. The property is located in the southeastern portion of the City along Reservoir Street, approximately 550 feet north of the City/County boundary. Currently, there is a single-family dwelling on the subject property.

The proposed development is shown to contain three structures; two 12-unit apartment buildings and a 1,440+/- square foot clubhouse facility. The apartment buildings are described as three stories, with four bedrooms in each dwelling; for a total of 96 bedrooms. Parking is provided throughout the remainder of the property. The applicant has demonstrated that a TIA is not needed with this project.

Although addressed as Reservoir Street, the subject property has only a 15-foot wide pipe stem out to the street. The majority of the site is situated 100 feet back from Reservoir Street; with vacant parcels between the site and street. At this time there are no plans to connect the proposed development to Reservoir Street, and as shown on the drawing all traffic would be routed into the existing Campus View complex which connects with Chestnut Ridge Drive. The applicant has expressed a desire to have a temporary construction entrance off Reservoir Street during the construction phase for this project and Reservoir Street widening; as well as a possible future gated, emergency access into the site from Reservoir Street. This can be worked out during the comprehensive site plan review phase.

The applicant has noted on the submitted plan that the property line between the existing Campus View Apartments and the proposed new apartments would be vacated during the comprehensive site plan review process. When the interior property line is vacated to create one lot the orientation of the front, side, and rear setbacks changes as well. Staff has discussed with the applicant that the setbacks should all conform to the existing phases of Campus View. Additionally, a shared parking agreement would not be necessary once the property line is vacated.

Per Section 10-3-48.6 (b), vegetative screening would be required along the southern property boundary where the parking lot is adjacent to single-family dwellings. The submitted drawing indicates the location of the screening which must be an evergreen hedge (six-foot ultimate height) or shrubs/trees planted a minimum of five feet on center so as to form a dense screen. As well, all required parking lot landscaping must be met; this will be reviewed during the comprehensive site plan review.

As part of the requirements for obtaining a special use permit to build multi-family units in the R-3 district, an applicant must substantiate that they have met several conditions to justify the development. Briefly, the conditions state that:

1. Existing multiple-family development, or land planned for multiple-family development according to the Land Use Guide, is located adjacent to, across the street from or in close proximity to the proposed development.
2. The applicant has demonstrated that adequate vehicular, transit, pedestrian and bicycle facilities currently serve the site, are planned to serve the site according to a city or state plan, will be provided by the applicant at time of development, or are not needed because of the circumstances of the proposal.
3. The applicant has demonstrated that the proposed multiple-family development's design is compatible with adjacent existing and planned single-family, duplex and townhouse development;

4. The applicant has shown that the site is environmentally suitable for multiple-family development.

The applicant submitted a document to attempt to address these issues as numbered above; in general the applicant states that:

1. The proposed development is adjacent to Phases I and II of Campus View. The property line between Phase II and proposed Phase III will be abandoned during site plan development creating one unified parcel.
2. There are two entrances on Chestnut Ridge Drive serving the existing Campus View Complex that will serve this proposed Phase III. Sidewalks and bicycle facilities will be included with the site plan development. A connection to Reservoir Street is also being considered in discussions with the City. However, actual construction of such a connection cannot be completed until the Reservoir Street widening project is completed.
3. Architectural design and landscaping will be similar to Campus View Phase I and II. In addition, screening shall be provided along the boundaries with two adjacent single-family detached home parcels.
4. The site has an average, existing grade, south-to-north slope of 8.4%. This slope is similar to or less than existing phases and there are no critical slopes.

Staff believes the proposed development meets the conditions set forth in Section 10-3-48.6 (e). Currently, there are apartment complexes along this portion of Reservoir Street as well as adjoining the site. Transit bus stops are located on Reservoir Street and Chestnut Ridge Drive adjacent to the development and pedestrian/bicycle facilities are planned for the widening of Reservoir Street. The gross density of the development is twelve units per acre, which does fall within the range of 4 to 12 dwelling units per acre suggested in the Medium Density Mixed Residential land use.

Staff does not have concerns with this proposed development and recommends in favor of the special use permit request.