

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Planning staff has prepared the Findings of Fact for the preliminary plat of Harmony Meadows Subdivision, 3rd Filing. These findings are based on the preliminary plat application and supplemental documents and address the review criteria required by the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act (76-3-608, MCA) and the Billings Subdivision Regulations (Section 23-303(H), BMCC).

A. What are the effects on agriculture, local services, the natural environment, wildlife, wildlife habitat, and public health, safety and welfare? [MCA 76-3-608 (3) (a) and BMCC 23-302.H.2.]

1. Effect on agriculture and agricultural water user facilities

The subject property is currently vacant. Perimeter ditches and drains shall remain in place and not be altered by the subdivider or subsequent owners. The subdivision should not affect agricultural water users' facilities.

2. Effect on local services

- a. **Utilities** – Water service will be provided by the City of Billings. The Subdivision will be served by connecting to the existing 12-inch water main located within Dodger Lane, a public road. The installed water line will meet all requirements of the City of Billings Engineering Department upon development of future lots.

Sanitary sewer service will be provided by connecting to the existing City of Billings' sewer mains. existing 12-inch sanitary sewer main located within Dodger Lane, a public road. At the time of development, the lot owner shall install a sanitary sewer service connection to the line in Dodger Lane. All new services shall be installed in accordance with design standards, specifications, rules and regulations of the City of Billings Public Works Department and MDEQ. This is outlined in the SIA under the heading VI Utilities, B, Sanitary Sewer.

Private Utilities will be provided from existing facilities to the subdivision. No additional easements on the lot frontage have been requested.

Stormwater – Stormwater drainage for the public streets is proposed to be provided by curb and gutters that discharge into storm water pipes. These and all other drainage improvements shall satisfy the criteria set forth by the *City of Billings Stormwater Management Manual* and will be subject to review and approval by the City Engineering Department.

- b. **Solid waste** – The City of Billings will provide solid waste collection and disposal. The City's landfill has adequate capacity for this waste.
- c. **Streets** – The subdivision is adjacent to Elysian Road, Dodger Lane, and Interstate Avenue. All three of these roads are developed rights of way and no

additional street improvements are anticipated at this time. All internal access roads and site improvements within the subdivision shall be installed in accordance with the City of Billings' street standards. Subdivider will execute a private contract to construct public streets, and curb and gutter within the Subdivision. Street improvements are included in the Waiver of Right to Protest Future Special Improvement Districts.

The sidewalks will be installed by the respective lot owner on a lot-by-lot basis, as lots develop. Sidewalks along the street frontage shall be minimum 5-foot-wide and separated with a boulevard width not less than five feet. The developer will also install all ADA required ramps at the intersections within the proposed subdivision. This information is all in the SIA under the heading Transportation.

- d. **Emergency services** – The Billings Police and Fire Departments will respond to emergencies within the proposed subdivision. The nearest fire station is located at 24th St W and Stillwater Drive. (Station #5).
- e. **Schools** – School District #2 provides educational services to elementary through high school students. Schools serving these students are Elysian School and West High School. At the time of the writing of this staff report West High School was shown as being over capacity.
- f. **Parks and Recreation** – This subdivision does not have any parkland requirements.
- g. **Mail Delivery** - The United States Postal Service will provide postal service to the subdivision and has indicated that centralized mailbox units will be required as were installed for the previous filings of this subdivision. The developer will need to coordinate mailbox locations with the postal service. (**Condition #1**)

3. Effect on the natural environment

The subject property is currently vacant land with the proposed use of large housing developments being place on the parcels. The property is not located within any floodplain. During development, storm water pollution prevention best management practices are required to be used and monitored to prevent erosion on exposed ground. Overall, the effect on the natural environment should be minimal.

4. Effect on wildlife and wildlife habitat

There are no known endangered or threatened species on the property. There is a paragraph in the SIA that warns future lot owners of the presence of deer in the area, which may cause damage to their landscaping. This subdivision should have a minimal effect on wildlife and wildlife habitat.

5. Effect on the public health, safety and welfare

There will be no impacts to public health, safety and welfare because of this subdivision.

B. Was an Environmental Assessment required? [(MCA 76-3-616 and BMCC 23-302.H.1.)]

The proposed subdivision is exempt from the requirement for an Environmental Assessment pursuant to Section 76-3-616, MCA.

C. Does the subdivision conform to the City of Billings 2016 Growth Policy, the 2014 Transportation Plan, and the Billings Area Bikeway and Trail Master Plan? [BMCC 23-302.H.4.]

1. City of Billings 2016 Growth Policy

The proposed subdivision is consistent with the following goals of the Growth Policy:

Strong Neighborhoods (livable, safe, sociable and resilient neighborhoods): Neighborhoods that are safe and attractive and provide essential services are much desired (p.8). Zoning regulations that allow a mixture of housing types provide housing options for all age groups and income levels. (p.8)

Home Base (healthy, safe and diverse housing options) A mix of housing types that meet the needs of a diverse population is important. (p.9) Planning and construction of interconnected sidewalks and trails are important to the economy and livability of Billings.

2. 2018 Billings Urban Area Long Range Transportation Plan

The proposed subdivision adheres to the goals and objectives of the 2018 Transportation Plan and preserves the street network and street hierarchy specified in the plan.

3. Billings Area Bikeway and Trail Master Plan (BABTMP)

The proposed subdivision is within the jurisdiction of the Billings Area Bikeways and Trail Master Plan. The Trail Plan indicates a multi-use path along the south side of Elysian Road, which has already been constructed. No additional improvements of this nature are anticipated.

D. Does the subdivision conform to the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act and to local subdivision regulations? [MCA 76-3-608 (3) (b) and BMCC 23-302.H.3.a.]

The proposed subdivision satisfies the requirements of the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act and to the design standards specified in the local subdivision regulations. The subdivider and the local government have complied with the subdivision review and approval procedures set forth in the local and state subdivision regulations.

E. Does the proposed subdivision conform to all requirements of the zoning in effect? [BMCC 23-302.H.3.e.]

The subject property is located within N2 (Mid-Century Neighborhood) and NO (Neighborhood Office) zoning. The lot frontages conform to the requirements of this zone. Other building setbacks and structure specific requirements will be reviewed for compliance at the time of building permit review.

F. Does the proposed plat provide easements for the location and installation of any utilities? [MCA 76-3-608 (3) (c) and BMCC 23-302.H.3.b.]

The subdivider will provide utility easements as requested by private utility companies on the face of the plat.

G. Does the proposed plat provide legal and physical access to each parcel within the subdivision and notation of that access on the plat? [MCA 76-3-608 (3) (d) and BMCC 23-302.H.3.c.]

Legal and physical access is provided via Elysian Road, Dodger Lane, and Interstate Avenue.

CONCLUSIONS OF FINDINGS OF FACT

- The preliminary plat of Harmony Meadows, 3rd Filing does not create any adverse impacts that warrant denial of the subdivision.
- The proposed subdivision conforms to several of the goals and policies of the 2016 Growth Policy and does not conflict with the Transportation or Bikeway/Trail Plans.
- The proposed subdivision complies with state and local subdivision regulations, local zoning, and sanitary requirements and provides legal and physical access to each lot.
- Any potential negative or adverse impacts will be mitigated with the proposed conditions of approval.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends to City Council that the preliminary plat of Harmony Meadows, 3rd Filing be conditionally approved and adopt the Findings of Fact as presented in the staff report.

Approved by the Billings City Council, May 23, 2022

William A. Cole, Mayor