

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Planning staff on behalf of the Planning Board has prepared the Findings of Fact for the preliminary plat of Annafeld Subdivision, 5th Filing. These findings are based on the preliminary plat application and supplemental documents; addressing 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 farm land. Water rights will not be transferred to subdivision property owners. Existing ditches near this proposed development will remain in place and will not be altered by the future property owners. The subdivision should not affect agricultural water users' facilities.

2. Effect on local services

- a. Utilities** – Public water services to the subject property will be provided by the City of Billings. The subdivision will continue a 12-inch water main down Norma Jean Lane and in a portion of St. Peter Lane. All remaining streets in Annafeld Subdivision, 5th Filing, will be an 8-inch line with water taps to individual lots for future home connections. The water mains within the subdivision will make looped connections whenever possible. All water line construction shall be installed in conformance with the design standards, specification, rules and regulations of the City of Billings. The City of Billings, Engineering Department, will review and approve all proposed water lines prior to installation. **(Condition #1)**

Fire hydrants will also be installed as required by the City of Billings Fire Department. The City Fire Department will review and approve all proposed hydrant locations prior to installation.

Sanitary sewer service will be provided by the City of Billings by connecting to an existing 8- inch diameter gravity feed sewer main located in Rosemary Road, Eva Marie Lane, Norma Jean Lane and Annafeld Parkway West. There is an existing 10-inch sewer main located in Centennial Farm Road from St. George Boulevard to Annafeld Parkway East, and extends north in Annafeld Parkway East to Farmstead Avenue. All lots will have a sanitary sewer stub to them from the proposed mains. All sewer line construction shall be installed in conformance with the design standards, specification, rules and regulations of the City of Billings Engineering Department. The City of Billings Engineering Department will review and approve all proposed sanitary sewer lines prior to installation. **(Condition #1)**

All telephone, gas, electrical power, and cable television lines that are placed within the public right-of-way shall be installed prior to surface improvements.

- b. Storm water** – Stormwater management for the proposed subdivision will be provided by a combination of surface drainage and curbs and gutters, drained to underground storm drains. The new storm drain piping will discharge into existing storm drain piping and to an existing mechanical stormwater filtration manhole, then into Hogan’s Slough. There is an existing Operation and Maintenance (O&M) manual that was developed with Annafeld Subdivision, 1st Filing that will include Annafeld Subdivision, 5th Filing. The subdivision HOA is owner of the stormwater management system and fees are collected to cover the cost of O&M. All drainage improvements shall comply with the provisions of the City of Billings Stormwater Management Manual and Section 23-706, BMCC, a stormwater management plan shall be submitted to the Engineering Division prior to filing of the final plat. **(Condition #1)**
- c. Solid waste** – The City of Billings will provide solid waste collection and disposal. The City’s landfill has adequate capacity for this waste.
- d. Streets** – Access to the lots in this proposed subdivision is from Farmstead Avenue, Centennial Farm Road, Rosemary Road, Eva Marie Lane, and Norma Jean Lane. Access to each individual lot will be from the internal streets that are proposed with this subdivision. All new streets will be in a 56-foot-wide right of way and will be constructed to 34-foot wide, back of curb to back of curb road. Annafeld Parkway West and Annafeld Parkway East, when Phase 1 and 2 of this subdivision are completed, will be one-way streets. Annafeld Parkway West will have traffic traveling south and Annafeld Parkway East will have traffic traveling north. They will be one-way roads from Elysian Road to Rose Mary Road. Each road will have 45-degree parking along the length of the streets. Construction will include installation of accessible ramps at the intersections with all roads within the proposed subdivision.

A traffic study has been completed for this proposed subdivision and the applicant will be making contributions to the intersections impacted by the additional traffic burden places on them. Those contributions are outlined in the SIA and will be made to the City prior to final plat approval.

Sidewalks will be installed at the time of individual lot development. All sidewalks will be boulevard type walks with 5-foot wide boulevard sidewalks.

- e. Emergency services** – The Billings Police and Fire Departments will respond to emergencies within the proposed subdivision. The fire station that serves this area is located at 605 South 24th Street West (Station #5).

The subdivision is located within the ambulance service area of American Medical Response (AMR).

Comments from the Police department state that continued expansion of subdivisions will require additional resources to maintain acceptable levels of service.

- f. Schools** – Elysian School provides service to students within this subdivision for K through 8. School District #2 provides service to students within this subdivision from high school (West High School). School District #2 responded stating West High School is over capacity at this time.
- g. Parks and Recreation** – The parkland dedication requirement for this subdivision is 1.05 acres. This parkland will be private park for the residents of the subdivision. There is a public park that was dedicated to the City with Annafeld 1st Filing. Lot owners are advised they will be subject to inclusion in a Parks Maintenance District (PMD) for the operation and maintenance of an existing public park within Annafeld Subdivision. This information is in the SIA under the heading Property Conditions and Information for Lot Purchasers.
- h. Mail Delivery** - The United States Postal Service will provide postal service to the subdivision. They have requested the installation of centralized mailbox unit (CBUs). The USPS has requested the CBU units be placed together with the other boxes already in place. The developer will work with the USPS to provide a satisfactory location for a CBU for this filing. This is outlined in the SIA under the heading IX Postal Delivery.

3. Effect on the natural environment

The subject property is relatively level land adjacent to urban development to the east. A geotechnical study was performed for the subdivision, a summary of the information from that study is included in the SIA under the heading X. Soils/Geotechnical Study. The subdivision should have a minimal effect on the natural environment.

4. Effect on wildlife and wildlife habitat

There are no known endangered or threatened species on the property. Future property owners should be aware that the proposed subdivision is located near prime wildlife habitat and adjacent to open farm land areas, therefore conflicts with wildlife may occur. Any damage caused by wildlife is the responsibility of the owner. This notice is in the SIA under the heading, II Property Conditions and Information for Lot Purchasers.

5. Effect on the public health, safety and welfare

Fire hydrants will be installed to meet fire department requirements. Sidewalks will offer a safe place for pedestrians to walk. The effects on public health and safety should be minimal.

6. Phasing of the Subdivision

The subdivider is proposing to build the subdivision in two phases. Phase one lots will be available for sale and buildings with the final approval of the proposed subdivision. Phase two is planned to be open on or before November 1, 2025.

Each phase is outlined in the SIA under the heading, XI Phasing of Improvements.

B. Was an Environmental Assessment required? [(MCA 76-3-603 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 2018 Urban Area Transportation Plan and the Billings Area Bikeway and Trail Master Plan? [BMCC 23-(8)]

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.

Home Base (healthy, safe and diverse housing options) Planning and construction of interconnected sidewalks and trails are important to the economy and livability of Billings.

Essential Investments (relating public and private expenditures to public values) Planning and construction of safe and affordable interconnected sidewalks and trails are important to the economy and livability of Billings.

Developed parks that provide recreation, special amenities (community gardens, dog parks, viewing areas), and active living opportunities are desirable for an attractive and healthy community.

Community Fabric (attractive, aesthetically pleasing, uniquely Billings) Outdoor public spaces provide casual and relaxing gathering areas for people.

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 lies within the jurisdiction of the BABTMP. The BABTMP does not show any trails within the proposed subdivision. There is a 10-foot paved trail along the south side of Elysian road that allows student to walk/bike to Elysian School.

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 a PD zoning district. All building development on the lots shall comply with the PD zoning when applying for a building permit.

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 furnish private utility easements as required by private utility providers.

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 to the proposed lots from Elysian Road and from Farmstead Avenue, Centennial Farm Road, Rosemary Road, Eva Marie Lane, Norma Jean Lane and Annafeld Parkway. All streets are dedicated to the public as shown on the plat.

CONCLUSIONS OF FINDINGS OF FACT

- The preliminary plat of Annafeld Subdivision, 5th Filing does not create any adverse impacts that warrant denial of the subdivision.
- The proposed subdivision conforms to several goals and policies of the 2016 Growth Policy and does not conflict with the Transportation or Bikeway and Trail Plans.
- The proposed subdivision complies with state and local subdivision regulations, local zoning, 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

The Planning Board is forwarding to the City Council, the preliminary plat of Annafeld Subdivision, 5th Filing, recommending conditional approval and adoption of the Findings of Fact as presented in the staff report.

Approved by the Billings City Council, April 24, 2023

William A. Cole, Mayor