

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Planning staff has prepared the Findings of Fact for the preliminary plat of Lake Hills Subdivision, 40th 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 was originally platted in 1958 as a county subdivision and these lots have been within the Lake Hills Golf course for many years. There are no agricultural water user facilities within this proposed subdivision. It will not have a negative effect on the agricultural industry.

This subdivision does not contain any ditches or water shares, and therefore will not have an effect on agricultural water user facilities.

2. Effect on local services

- a. Utilities** – Public water services to the subject property will be provided by the County Water District of Billings Heights. An 8-inch water line is located in Greenbriar Road, and will be extended to this subdivision and an 8-inch water main will be installed along the lengths of Cypress Point and Opal Lane.; this work is being funded by SID 1421. Each lot will be provided with individual water service connections. All water line construction shall be installed in conformance with the design standards, specification, rules and regulations of the County Water District of Billings Heights.

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

Sanitary sewer service will be provided by the City of Billings by connecting to the existing 8-inch sewer main located in subdivision. An existing 8-inch main is located at the intersection of Greenbriar Road and Opal Lane and currently terminates near the east edge of the proposed subdivision at a manhole with stub outs to Greenbriar Road and Opal Lane. SID 1421 will install a new 8-inch sanitary sewer mains from the existing 8-inch main and run west along Greenbriar Road and southwest along Opal Lane to service lots. A new 8-inch main will be installed along Cypress Point connecting to the sanitary main within Opal Lane. Each lot will be provided with individual sewer service connections. All sewer line construction shall be installed in conformance with the design standards,

specification, rules and regulations of the City of Billings Engineering Department.

Private utility providers shall use the provided easement outside the public right of way, these easements are shown on the face of the plat.

- b. Storm water** – Stormwater management for the proposed subdivision will be provided by directing water through a network of curb and gutters, inlets and piping. A stormwater master plan is in place for this subdivision. All proposed stormwater management will be reviewed and approved by City of Billings Engineering Department to ensure it meets the master planned stormwater plan for Lake Hills Subdivision. All drainage improvements shall satisfy the criteria set forth by the *City of Billings Stormwater Management Manual*. The new storm drainage improvements shall be constructed as part of SID 1421.
- 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 Greenbriar Road and Cypress Point. Greenbriar Road has a right-of-way width of 60-feet, and Cypress point has a right of way width of 50 feet. Street fronting lots within the subdivision will be constructed to 34-foot wide, back of curb to back of curb. Sidewalk transitions from 3-foot boulevard walk in Lake Hills Subdivision, 21st Filing to 5-foot boulevard walk in Lake Hills Subdivision, 40th Filing will occur on the 40th Filing lot frontages. This applies to Cypress Point, which has a 50-foot right-of-way. The layout of such transitions shall be approved by the City of Billings Engineering Department at the time of building permit approval. Sidewalks on Greenbriar Road with a 60-foot right-of way will be installed with a 5-foot boulevard walk. Sidewalks will be installed at the time of individual lot development. The developer will install accessible ramps at the intersections, which will be completed with the subdivision street improvements.
- 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 1601 St. Andrews Drive (Station #6).

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** – School District #2 provides service to students within this subdivision from elementary to high school (Sandstone Elementary School, Castle Rock

Middle School, and Skyview High School). School District #2 did not respond to request for comments at the time of the writing of this report.

- g. Parks and Recreation** – The parkland dedication requirement for this subdivision have been met with previous filings of Lake Hills Subdivision.
- 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 developer will work with the USPS to provide a satisfactory location for a CBU for this filing. **(Condition #1)**

3. Effect on the natural environment

The subject property is relatively level land adjacent to urban development on its north and west sides. A geotechnical study was performed for the subdivision a summary of the information from that study is included in the SIA under the heading IX 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 agricultural 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.

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:

Essential Investments: Infill development and development near existing City infrastructure may be the most cost effective.

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.

2. Billings Heights Neighborhood Plan

The Billings Heights Neighborhood Plan, adopted in 2006, identifies this area for low-density residential development. The subdivision meets the following goals of the Heights Neighborhood Plan:

Urban Sprawl: This subdivision will be building houses in an already established neighborhood, reducing sprawl to new land.

Health, Safety and Welfare: Public infrastructure will be connected eliminating some existing dead ends on water and sewer lines.

Residential Development: This subdivision provides low-density residential single-family development in a neighborhood with existing low-density single-family development.

3. 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.

4. 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 will be no trails built with this subdivision.

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 the N3 zoning district. All building development on the lot shall comply with current 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 has provided private utility easements as required by private utility providers 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 to the proposed lots from the construction of Greenbriar Road and Cypress Point, all local streets to be dedicated to the public as shown on the plat.

CONCLUSIONS OF FINDINGS OF FACT

- The preliminary plat of Lake Hills Subdivision, 40th 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 recommends conditional approval of the preliminary plat of Lake Hills Subdivision, 40th Filing, to the City Council, and adopt the Findings of Fact as presented in the staff report.

Approved by the Billings City Council, May 22, 2023

William A. Cole, Mayor