

# REPORT and DECISION of the SNOHOMISH COUNTY HEARING EXAMINER

DATE OF DECISION: October 26, 2006

PLAT/PROJECT NAME: *GARDEN RIDGE*

APPLICANT/  
LANDOWNER: Land Reit

FILE NO.: 05 126859 LU

TYPE OF REQUEST: REZONE from Residential-7200 (R-7200) to Low Density Multiple Residential (LDMR) and administrative site plan approval for the development of 12 single-family detached townhouse units on a 1.32 acre site

DECISION (SUMMARY): Approved subject to a condition

## BASIC INFORMATION

GENERAL LOCATION: The property is located 14228 Jefferson Way, Lynnwood, WA

ACREAGE: 1.32 acres

ZONING: CURRENT: R-7200  
PROPOSED: LDMR

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION:

General Policy Plan Designation: Urban Medium Density (6-12 du/ac)

UTILITIES:

Water: Alderwood Water & Wastewater District  
Sewage: Alderwood Water & Wastewater District

SCHOOL DISTRICT: Mukilteo

FIRE DISTRICT: No. 1

SELECTED AGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Department of:  
Planning and Development Services: Approve  
Public Works: No recommendation at this time

## **INTRODUCTION**

The applicant filed the Master Application on May 1, 2006. (Exhibit 1)

The Hearing Examiner (Examiner) made a site familiarization visit on October 5, 2006 in the afternoon.

The Department of Planning and Development Services (PDS) gave proper public notice of the open record hearing as required by the county code. (Exhibits 8, 9 and 10)

A SEPA determination was made on September 14, 2006. (Exhibit 7) No appeal was filed.

The Examiner held an open record hearing on October 11, 2006, the 56<sup>th</sup> day of the 120-day decision making period. Witnesses were sworn, testimony was presented, and exhibits were entered at the hearing.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

The public hearing commenced on October 11, 2006 at 10:03 a.m.

1. The Examiner indicated that he has read the PDS staff report, reviewed the file and viewed the area and therefore has a general idea of the particular request involved.
2. Mr. Pete Teasdale indicated that he had nothing further to add to the PDS staff report.
3. Mr. Paul Lichter, PDS, appeared.
4. No one appeared in opposition to the request.

The hearing concluded at 10:10 a.m.

**NOTE:** The above information reflects the information submitted to the Examiner summarizing the statements that were made at the hearing. However, for a full and complete record, verbatim audio tapes of these hearings are available in the Office of the Hearing Examiner.

## **FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND DECISION**

### **FINDINGS:**

1. The master list of Exhibits and Witnesses which is a part of this file and which exhibits were considered by the Examiner, is hereby made a part of this file, as if set forth in full herein.
2. The PDS staff report has correctly analyzed the nature of the application, the issues of concern, the application's consistency with adopted codes and policies and land use regulations, and the State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) evaluation with its recommendation and conditions. This report is hereby adopted by the Examiner as if set forth in full herein.

3. The request is for a rezone from R-7200 to LDMR.
4. The adjacent zoning is primarily R-7200 with a few LDMR parcels in the area and the adjacent land uses are primarily residential.
5. Chapter 30.42A covers rezoning requests and applies to site specific rezone proposals that conform to the Comprehensive Plan. The decision criteria under SCC 30.42A.100 provides as follows:

The hearing examiner may approve a rezone only when all the following criteria are met:

- (1) The proposal is consistent with the comprehensive plan;
- (2) The proposal bears a substantial relationship to the public health, safety, and welfare; and
- (3) Where applicable, minimum zoning criteria found in chapters 30.31A through 30.31F SCC are met.

It is the finding of the Examiner that the request meets these requirements generally and should be approved.

6. There are no mitigation requirements required for parks, schools or roads and the DPW has no comments or objections but will provide their input to the short plat approval.
  7. The Snohomish County Health District cannot approve the request at this time. (Exhibit 13)
  8. Public water and sewer service will be available for this development as well as electrical power.
  9. The subject property is designated Urban Medium Density Residential (ULDR: 6-12 DU/Ac) on the GPP Future Land Use map, and is located within an Urban Growth Area (UGA). According to the GPP, the Urban Medium Density Residential designation "covers various sub-area plan designations which allow a combination of detached homes on small lots, townhouses, and apartments in low density, multifamily residential developments. Land in this category may be developed up to a maximum density of twelve dwelling units per acre. Implementing zones include the LDMR, PRD-LDMR, Townhouse, R-7200, PRD-7200 and WFB zones."
- The rezone proposed is consistent with Snohomish County's GMA Comprehensive Plan (GMACP designation of Urban Medium Density Residential (ULDR: 6-12 DU/Ac).
10. The request is consistent with Section 30.70.100 SCC (Section 32.50.100 SCC), which requires, pursuant to RCW 36.70B.040, that all project permit applications be consistent with the GMACP, and GMA-based county codes.
  11. Since this request involves rezoning only, any details or conditions which would normally come from DPW will be done at the time of administrative plat approval and are not required here.
  12. The request for a rezone was based upon the information and impacts submitted in the Determination of Nonsignificance.
  13. Exhibit 5 is an aerial photograph which very clearly shows the property itself and the surrounding area and its compatibility in this area.

14. Any Finding of Fact in this Report and Decision, which should be deemed a Conclusion, is hereby adopted as such.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

1. The Examiner having fully reviewed the PDS staff report, hereby adopts said staff report as properly setting forth the issues, the land use requests, consistency with the existing regulations, policies, principles, conditions and their effect upon the request. It is therefore hereby adopted by the Examiner as a conclusion as if set forth in full herein, in order to avoid needless repetition. There are no changes to the recommendations of the staff report.
2. The request is for a rezone and, therefore, must be consistent with the GMACP; GMA based county codes. In this regard, the request is consistent with those plans and codes. The type and character of land use permitted on the project site is consistent with the General Policy Plan (GPP) ULDR designation of the property and meets the required regulatory codes as to density, design and development standards.
3. The request would allow for administrative site plan approval for approximately 12 residential units.
4. The Snohomish Health District has not issued their approval at this time.
5. The request is for a rezone and therefore must comply with Chapter 30.42A. This is a site specific rezone that conforms to the Comprehensive Plan and since no evidence was submitted contrary to the requirements of Chapter 30.42A, the evidence is presumed to meet these requirements.
6. The request should be approved as submitted.
7. Any Conclusion in this Report and Decision, which should be deemed a Finding of Fact, is hereby adopted as such.

**DECISION:**

The request for a REZONE from R-7200 to LDMR hereby APPROVED subject to securing the approval of the Snohomish Health District prior to development.

Decision issued this 26th day of October, 2006.

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Robert J. Backstein, Hearing Examiner

## **EXPLANATION OF RECONSIDERATION AND APPEAL PROCEDURES**

The Decision of the Hearing Examiner is final and conclusive with right of appeal to the County Council. However, reconsideration by the Examiner may also be sought by one or more Parties of Record. The following paragraphs summarize the reconsideration and appeal processes. For more information about reconsideration and appeal procedures, please see Chapter 30.72 SCC and the respective Examiner and Council Rules of Procedure.

### **Reconsideration**

Any Party of Record may request reconsideration by the Examiner. A Petition for Reconsideration must be filed in writing with the Office of the Hearing Examiner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, County Administration-East Building, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett, Washington, (Mailing Address: M/S #405, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett WA 98201) on or before **November 6, 2006**. There is no fee for filing a Petition for Reconsideration. **“The petitioner for reconsideration shall mail or otherwise provide a copy of the petition for reconsideration to all parties of record on the date of filing.” [SCC 30.72.065]**

A Petition for Reconsideration does not have to be in a special form but must: contain the name, mailing address and daytime telephone number of the petitioner, together with the signature of the petitioner or of the petitioner’s attorney, if any; identify the specific findings, conclusions, actions and/or conditions for which reconsideration is requested; state the relief requested; and, where applicable, identify the specific nature of any newly discovered evidence and/or changes proposed by the applicant.

The grounds for seeking reconsideration are limited to the following:

- (a) The Hearing Examiner exceeded the Hearing Examiner’s jurisdiction;
- (b) The Hearing Examiner failed to follow the applicable procedure in reaching the Hearing Examiner’s decision;
- (c) The Hearing Examiner committed an error of law;
- (d) The Hearing Examiner’s findings, conclusions and/or conditions are not supported by the record;
- (e) New evidence which could not reasonably have been produced and which is material to the decision is discovered; or
- (f) The applicant proposed changes to the application in response to deficiencies identified in the decision.

Petitions for Reconsideration will be processed and considered by the Hearing Examiner pursuant to the provisions of SCC 30.72.065. Please include the County file number in any correspondence regarding this case.

### **Appeal**

An appeal to the County Council may be filed by any aggrieved Party of Record. Where the reconsideration process of SCC 30.72.065 has been invoked, no appeal may be filed until the reconsideration petition has been disposed of by the hearing examiner. An aggrieved party need not file a Petition for Reconsideration but may file an appeal directly to the County Council. If a Petition for Reconsideration is filed, issues subsequently raised by that party on appeal to the County Council shall be limited to those issues raised in the Petition for

Reconsideration. Appeals shall be addressed to the Snohomish County Council but shall be filed in writing with the Department of Planning and Development Services, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, County Administration-East Building, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett, Washington (Mailing address: M/S #604, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett, WA 98201) on or before **November 9, 2006** and shall be accompanied by a filing fee in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00); PROVIDED, that the filing fee shall not be charged to a department of the County or to other than the first appellant; and PROVIDED FURTHER, that the filing fee shall be refunded in any case where an appeal is dismissed without hearing because of untimely filing, lack of standing, lack of jurisdiction or other procedural defect. [SCC 30.72.070]

An appeal must contain the following items in order to be complete: a detailed statement of the grounds for appeal; a detailed statement of the facts upon which the appeal is based, including citations to specific Hearing Examiner Findings, Conclusions, exhibits or oral testimony; written arguments in support of the appeal; the name, mailing address and daytime telephone number of each appellant, together with the signature of at least one of the appellants or of the attorney for the appellant(s), if any; the name, mailing address, daytime telephone number and signature of the appellant's agent or representative, if any; and the required filing fee.

The grounds for filing an appeal shall be limited to the following:

- (a) The decision exceeded the Hearing Examiner's jurisdiction;
- (b) The Hearing Examiner failed to follow the applicable procedure in reaching his decision;
- (c) The Hearing Examiner committed an error of law; or
- (d) The Hearing Examiner's findings, conclusions and/or conditions are not supported by substantial evidence in the record. [SCC 30.72.080]

Appeals will be processed and considered by the County Council pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 30.72 SCC. Please include the County file number in any correspondence regarding this case.

Staff Distribution:

Department of Planning and Development Services: Paul Lichter

<p>The following statement is provided pursuant to RCW 36.70B.130: "Affected property owners may request a change in valuation for property tax purposes notwithstanding any program of revaluation." A copy of this Decision is being provided to the Snohomish County Assessor as required by RCW 36.70B.130.</p>
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