ITEM #: 33 DATE: 07-9-19

#### **COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

SUBJECT: MAJOR SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN ALTERNATIVE LANDSCAPE PLAN FOR 2105 AND 2205 EAST LINCOLN WAY

#### **BACKGROUND:**

LDY, LLC, the owner of 2105 and 2205 East Lincoln Way, has requested approval of an Alternative Landscape Plan for the property. The property is located in the General Industrial (GI) zone and contains one industrial building on each property. A Minor Site Development Plan was approved in September 2017 for a small addition to the building at 2205 East Lincoln Way and a new building at 2105 East Lincoln Way.

At the time of the original approval, the developer proposed a landscaping plan that complied with current landscape standards of Article IV of the Zoning Ordinance (Attachment A). The landscaping standards address a combination of front yard, parking lot, and screening requirements that include mix of shrubs, ornamental grasses, and trees. None of approved landscaping has been installed as the developer awaits final building occupancy.

The developer now seeks approval of an alternative plan in relation to the required front yard landscaping along East Lincoln Way. The property owner believes the shrub and grass plantings proposed on the original plan will be difficult to maintain on the steep terrain in front of both buildings and that the visual appeal of the shrubs and grasses is reduced or blocked due to the difficulty of seeing the shrubs and grasses from Lincoln Way due to the terrain and distance from the road (Site Photos-Attachment B).

The property owner proposes an alternative design that relies upon trees to substitute for shrubs and grasses in the front yard. An alternative design approval is required because the base landscaping standards require a mix of landscape materials and do not directly allow for the proposed tree substitution for shrubs and grasses.

The alternative proposal includes replacing 199 grasses and shrubs with one over-story tree and six ornamental trees in addition to the other required front yard trees. The proposal places all of the substitute landscaping near the Lincoln Way frontage (Attachments C and D). The proposed plan shifts the remaining 90 shrubs and grasses at 2205 East Lincoln Way to the south and east foundations and maintains 10 shrubs at 2105 East Lincoln Way near the southwest corner of the detention pond.

The standards for an Alternative Landscape Plan in Section 29.403(3)(J) state that an alternative landscape plan must provide for a unique or high quality landscape environment that exceeds the quality of the base standards and provide for an alternative plan to be considered based upon site constraints such as topography. The developer

believes substituting trees in place of shrubs and grasses throughout the front yard provides better visual aesthetics in conjunction with the topography of the yard and storm water treatment as well as guarantees easier maintenance and long term survival.

## **PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

At the June 19<sup>th</sup> Planning & Zoning Commission meeting the Planning & Zoning Commission voted 7-0 to recommend that the City Council approve the Major Site Plan Alternative Landscape Plan at 2105 and 2205 East Lincoln Way.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Approve the Major Site Development Plan Alternative Landscape plan for 2105 & 2205 East Lincoln Way.
- 2. Deny the Major Site Development Plan Alternative Landscape plan and require conformance to base landscape standards.
- 3. Defer action on this item and request more information from staff.

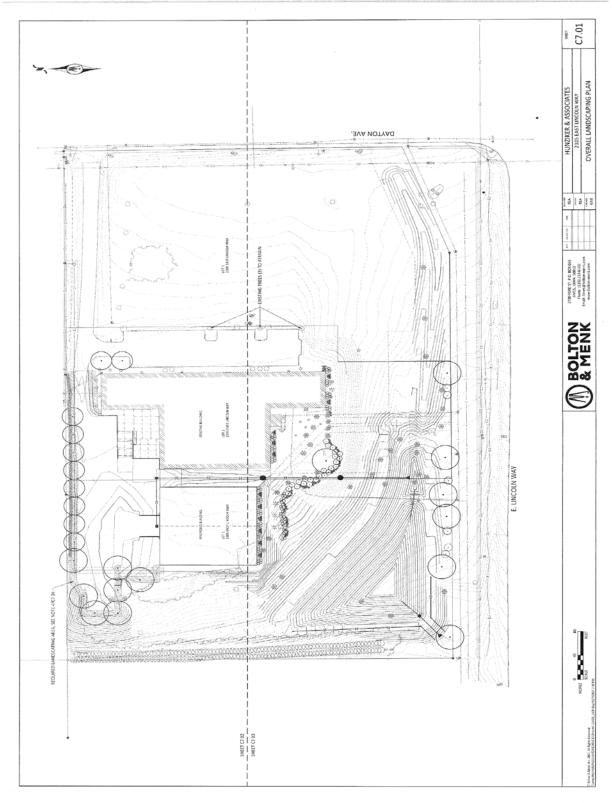
### **CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The substitution of trees in place of grasses and shrubs in the front yard is seen as adequate for this site by creating some visual interest with larger vegetation that is visible in an otherwise large expansive area. Although the shrubs and grasses could be planted in the front yard in a variety of locations, the distance from the road to the front of the buildings at this location make shrubs less effective in the screening and softening of the buildings and creating visual interest.

The placement and design of the trees complements the topography and provides visual appeal of the site between the street and buildings. Staff finds that the proposed alternative landscape plan can be seen as meeting the standards of the alternative landscape design standards in Section 29.403(3)(J).

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council approve Alternative #1 approving the alternative landscape plan at 2105 & 2205 East Lincoln Way.

# **Attachment A- Currently Approved Landscape Plan**

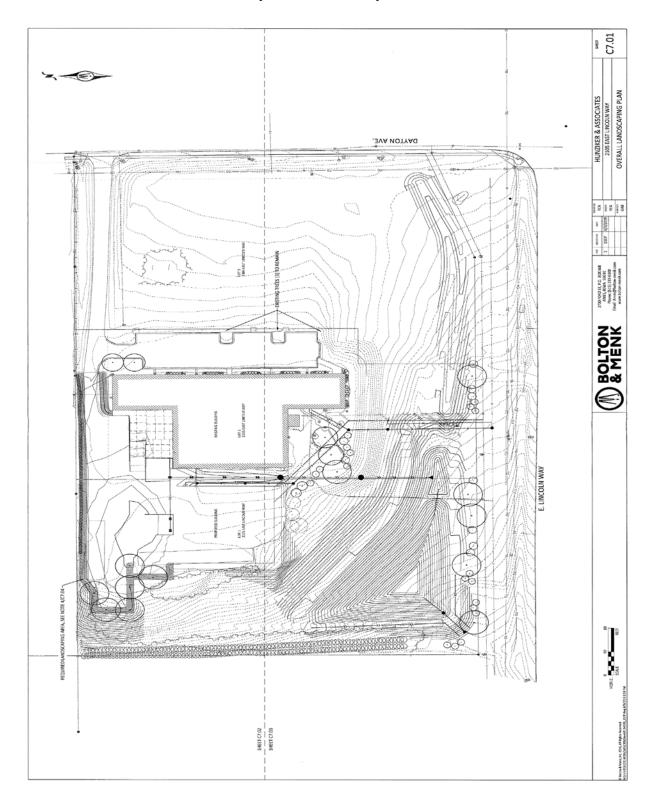


**Attachment B - Site Photos** 

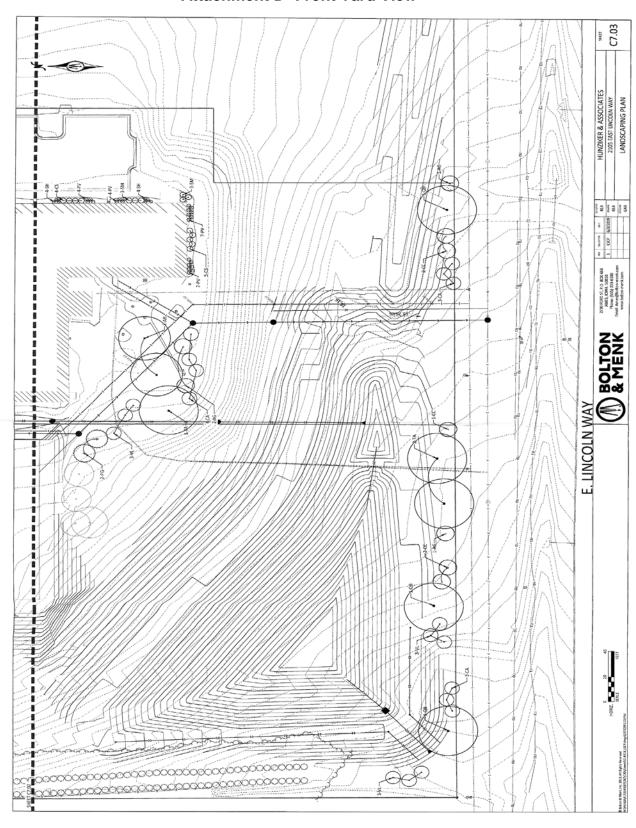




**Attachment C- Proposed Landscape Plan Overview** 



# **Attachment D- Front Yard View**



# **Attachment D- Proposed Landscape Schedule**

