

The Wellington North

STAFF REPORT

Petition Numbers: Comprehensive Plan Amendment
 2022-0002-CPA
 Ordinance No. 2023-01

Rezoning
 2022-0001-REZ
 Ordinance No. 2023-02

Master Plan Amendment
 2022-0004-MPA
 Resolution No. R2023-01

Owners: Coach House Wellington, LLC
 Stadium North LLC
 Stadium South LLC
 Polo Field One LLC
 Far Niente Stables I LLC
 Far Niente Stables II LLC

Applicant: Wellington Commercial Holdings
 3667 120th Avenue S
 Wellington, FL 33414

Agent: Don Hearing
 Coteleur and Hearing
 1934 Commerce Lane
 Suite 1
 Jupiter, FL 33458

Site Address: 13410, 13412, 13414, 13420,
 13450, 13480, 13488, and 13500
 South Shore Boulevard

PCNs: 73-41-44-16-01-001-0010, 0020
 73-41-44-16-00-000-7030
 73-41-44-16-22-001-0010, 0020,
 0030 and 0040
 73-41-44-16-21-001-0000

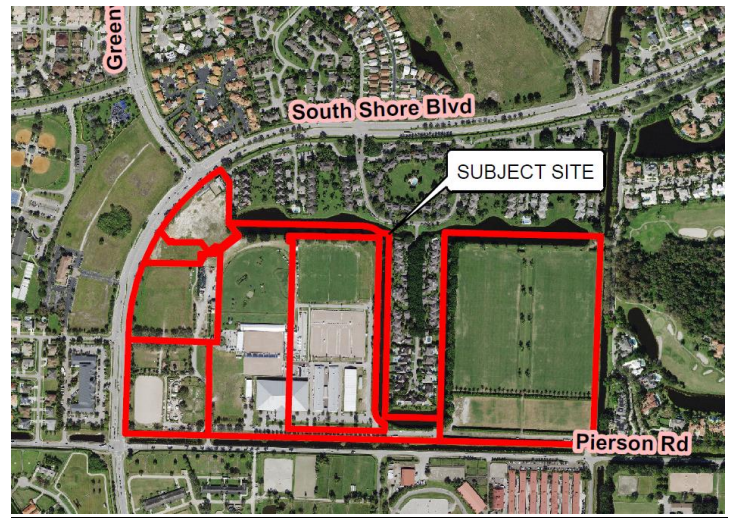
Future Land Use Designation (FLUM) (Exhibit A):
 Residential E (5.01 du – 8.0 du/ac) – 5.58 acres
 Equestrian Commercial Recreation – 96.29 acres

Zoning Designation (Exhibit G): Equestrian Overlay
 Zoning District/Planned Unit Development (EOZD/PUD)

Acreage: 101.87 acres

Project Manager:
 Kelly Ferraiolo, Senior Planner
KFerraiolo@wellingtonfl.gov
 (561) 753-5268

Location/Map: Coach House, Equestrian Village, and
 White Birch of the Wellington PUD (“Subject Properties”) are
 located at the northeast corner of the South Shore
 Boulevard and Pierson Road intersection.



Boards, Committees, Council:

Meeting	Notice Date	Meeting Date	Vote
EPC (CPA and REZ)	5/26/2023	6/7/2023	Denial 7-0
PZAB	7/4/2023	7/19/2023	Pending
Village Council	Pending		

Requests:

The applicant is requesting four (4) Comprehensive Plan amendments to modify the Equestrian Preserve Area boundary and the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) designations for the subject properties. The Comprehensive Plan amendments are required for the concurrent requests to modify the Equestrian Overlay Zoning District boundary and the master plan amendments to the Wellington Planned Unit Development (PUD). The overall project proposal is for a residential development with 22 single family and 278 multi-family units, with recreation amenities. The specific amendments to the FLUM, Zoning map, and the master plan are presented below.

Ordinance No. 2023-01 - Comprehensive Plan Amendments (Petition 2022-0002-CPA):

- To amend the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) to remove Equestrian Village and White Birch Farms properties, totaling 96.29 acres, from the Equestrian Preserve Area (Exhibit B - Proposed FLUM); and
- To amend the Bridle Path Map (Exhibit C), Pedestrian Pathway Network Map (Exhibit D), the Multi-Modal Pathways Map (Exhibit E), and the Bicycle Lanes Map (Exhibit F) within the Comprehensive Plan by deleting the Equestrian Village property identification as a “venue” and amending the Equestrian Preserve Area boundary; and
- To amend the FLUM Designation of the Coach House property, totaling 5.58 acres, from Residential F (8.01 du/ac – 12.0 du/ac) to Residential E (3.0 du/ac); and
- To amend the FLUM designation of the Equestrian Village and White Birch Farms properties, totaling 96.29 acres, from Equestrian Commercial Recreation (ECR) to Residential E (3.0 du/ac).

Ordinance No. 2023-02 - Rezoning (Petition 2022-0001-REZ) – *Action must be consistent with Comprehensive Plan:*

- To amend Wellington’s Official Zoning Map to amend the zoning designation of Equestrian Village and White Birch Farms, totaling 96.29 acres, from Equestrian Overlay Zoning District/Planned Unit Development (EOZD/PUD) to PUD and modify the boundary of the EOZD consistent with the Equestrian Preserve Area (Exhibit H – Proposed Official Zoning Map); and
- To remove Equestrian Village and White Birch Farms from Subarea D of the EOZD.

Resolution No. 2023-01 – Master Plan Amendment (Petition 2022-0004-MPA):

- To amend the Wellington PUD Master Plan (Exhibit J – Proposed Wellington PUD Master Plan):
 - To combine Pods 30C, 30C-2, and 30C-4 into Pod 30C (101.87 acres); and
 - To assign 300 dwelling units (22 single family and 278 multi-family) to Pod 30C; and
 - To approve The Wellington North Project Standards Manual (Exhibit K); and
 - To revised Conditions of Approval.

A separate Development Order Amendment will be required for buildings over 35 feet in height and be brought back to Council for consideration at a later date.

SITE HISTORY:

The Wellington PUD was approved by Palm Beach County in 1973, prior to Wellington’s incorporation. The subject properties are made up of three (3) separate properties – Equestrian Village (59.55 acres), White Birch Farms (36.74 acres), and Coach House (5.58 acres). The history for each property is provided below:

Equestrian Village and White Birch Farms:

The 96.29-acres comprising Equestrian Village and White Birch Farms were originally the center of polo in Wellington. The properties were developed by Mr. Ylvisaker in the 1970’s as a component of the Palm Beach Polo Golf and Country Club subdivision. The properties contained the original polo stadium with four (4) polo

Planning, Zoning and Adjustment Board

Planning and Zoning Division

July 19, 2023



fields. Fields 1 and 2 were west (aka Equestrian Village) of Polo Island and Fields 3 and 4 were east (aka White Birch Farms) of Polo Island. The polo fields were used for matches and several recreational community events. Equestrian Village was assigned four (4) dwelling units on the Wellington PUD Master Plan. After Wellington’s incorporation, polo activity was limited and in 2007 the original polo stadium was demolished. In 2012, Equestrian Village, which is also known as Global Dressage, was approved to operate as a Commercial Equestrian Arena (CEA). In 2012, the approval was rescinded by Council as the applicant failed to comply with certain conditions of approval contained in Resolution No. R2012-07 that required the property to be platted by April 1, 2012. A settlement agreement was reached in 2013 and the applicant went through the CEA approval process again, but with minor changes to the plan. One of the conditions of approval for the CEA was to construct off-site road improvements prior to full beneficial use and operation of the CEA. Until the off-site road improvements were constructed and all conditions of approval were satisfied, the applicant was required annually to apply for and receive an Equestrian Permit to operate as a CEA. The Equestrian Permits were approved but with limited/reduced capacity. The conditions were satisfied in 2022 when Council accepted payment in lieu of the improvements. The Equestrian Village is now a fully operational CEA with 192 permanent horse stalls, multiple arenas, stadium, and other pavilions. The site hosts dressage, jumper derbies, grand prix events, and more.

Pod 30C-4, also known as White Birch Farms, was separated from Pod 30C-2 in 2013 to reflect the subdivided and separate ownership of the property. Pod 30C-4 was originally assigned two (2) units, which have not been built. An access point was also added along Pierson Road and Pod 30C-4 was labeled “Equestrian Facility”. White Birch Farms currently consists of two inactive (2) polo fields.

The Master Plan approvals in 2013 included a condition that site plans for White Birch Farms and Equestrian Village were required to be approved by Wellington Council. Wellington Council approved the White Birch Farms Site Plan in 2013 and the Equestrian Village Site Plan in 2014.

Coach House (aka The Player’s Club):

The 5.58-acre property, also known as Pod 30C, was originally approved on the Wellington PUD Master Plan with an Open Space/Recreation designation and labeled as “Tennis and Polo Facility”. The former Player’s Club was originally part of the recreational facilities provided for the Palm Beach Polo Golf and Country Club subdivision and built in 1979. In later years the Player’s Club was operated as a restaurant and gathering venue until 2019, when Council approved comprehensive plan and master plan amendments for a multi-family project with 50 units, known as the Coach House. The project consisted of two (2) buildings, a two (2) story, eight (8) unit building and a four (4) story, 42 units building, both with underground parking. The approval also allowed the 4-story building to be constructed at a maximum height of 56 feet. The site plan was amended to remove the 2-story building and reduce the overall unit count to 34 units. To date, the property has not been replatted or issued building permits for the 4-story building. The temporary construction trailer/sales building and the demolition of the former Player’s Club building is the only activity that has occurred on the site.

ANALYSIS – COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS:

The applicant is requesting Comprehensive Plan Amendments:

- To amend the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) to remove Equestrian Village and White Birch, totaling 96.29 acres, from the Equestrian Preserve Area (EPA) and modify all the maps within the Comprehensive Plan that show the property as an equestrian venue and show the EPA boundary;
- To amend the FLUM Designation of the Coach House, totaling 5.58 acres, from Residential F to Residential E; and

- To amend the FLUM Designation of Equestrian Village and White Birch Farms, totaling 96.29 acres, from Equestrian Commercial Recreation to Residential E.

The properties are proposed to be redeveloped into a residential pod of the Wellington PUD with 22 single family units and 278 multi-family units. A Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Rezoning, and Master Plan Amendment are required to develop the property as proposed. The FLUM amendments for the three (3) properties rely on the approval of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment modifying the EPA boundary. Pursuant to Wellington's Charter, a super-majority vote of Council is required for contraction of the EPA boundary. Without approval of the EPA boundary change and the land use change, all other applications must be denied.

The following addresses how the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments are consistent with or comply with certain goals, objectives, and policies of Wellington's Comprehensive Plan:

EPA Boundary Modification Analysis:

Land Use & Community Design Element

Policy LU&CD 1.1.1 Compatible with Existing Conditions *New development shall be compatible with existing natural and built conditions. Future growth patterns shall take into consideration topography, soil, vegetation, water quality and quantity, and other natural resources of the land. Future growth patterns shall also respect and protect the character and quality of the surrounding built environment.*

The overall EPA/EOZD boundary comprises approximately 9,360 acres. The area requested to be removed from the EPA boundary is 96.29 acres, which equates to a little more than one percent (1%) of the overall EPA. While this is the first request for a contraction of the EPA/EOZD boundary, the proposed change is in a suitable location for a boundary adjustment as it located north of Pierson Road, east of South Shore Boulevard, and at the edge of the EPA boundary. The area is surrounded on three sides by property that is not in the EPA. The property is currently part of the Wellington PUD. There is a residential "peninsula", aka Polo Island, that partially separates Equestrian Village and White Birch Farms. The proposed new boundary is at a logical location of roadways/canals. If the proposed properties are removed, there will only be 22.32 acres of property (Black Watch Farms) north of Pierson Road and east of South Shore Boulevard that remains within the EPA and Subarea D of the EOZD.

Note: The consideration of the EPA boundary change is legislative and therefore does not set a precedent if it is approved. It is being proposed to accommodate a development type/pattern that is not permitted within the EPA/EOZD, but which could be approved within the Wellington PUD.

Policy LU&CD 2.6.1 Equestrian Preserve Area (EPA) *The Equestrian Preserve Area is established on the Land Use Map as a specific boundary delineating the equestrian community to protect and preserve the equestrian lifestyle.*

Per Article 3 of Wellington's LDR, the definition of a "Preserve" or "Preserve Area" means the portion of a native vegetation which is required to be set aside from development or other alteration activities, protected from the removal of any plant species, managed to maintain viability for wildlife habitat, and maintained free of non-native species. A preserve, by definition, protects natural habitats and other natural resources. The Wellington Charter states the intent of the Equestrian Preserve Area is to "protect the distinctive characteristics of Wellington's equestrian community and the lifestyle it offers". While the priority is to "preserve and protect" the EPA, the term preservation has a different connotation within the EPA than is the meaning normally associated with the word "preservation." Within the EPA, preservation is not focused on setting aside large open, green, or natural areas for public purposes. Instead, the Equestrian Preserve Area seeks to protect and promote an "equestrian community and lifestyle."

The 96.29 acres that is proposed to be removed from the EPA includes the Global Dressage showgrounds and White Birch Farms. As previously stated, these properties comprise the majority of equestrian property north of Pierson Road and east of South Shore Boulevard, surrounded on three sides by residential and commercial development that is not within the EPA. Given its location and context of the adjacent properties, the EPA boundary change is not expected to have a detrimental impact on the equestrian community and lifestyle.

The Global Dressage showgrounds is one of three (3) major equestrian competition venues in Wellington that support the equestrian community. As part of the application for The Wellington South, new equestrian showgrounds are proposed for Pod F of Wellington CountryPlace PUD, directly south of the existing Wellington International (fka Palm Beach International Equestrian Center) showgrounds. The new showgrounds at Pod F would increase the property dedicated to showgrounds by more than 50 acres and provide an opportunity to develop a new, state-of-the-art facility to preserve and support the equestrian sports industry for future seasons. It would also maintain three (3) major equestrian venues within Wellington.

Future Land Use Map Amendment Analysis:

Land Use & Community Design Element

Policy LU&CD 1.1.1 Compatible with Existing Conditions *New development shall be compatible with existing natural and built conditions. Future growth patterns shall take into consideration topography, soil, vegetation, water quality and quantity, and other natural resources of the land. Future growth patterns shall also respect and protect the character and quality of the surrounding built environment.*

The proposed Land Use Amendment to Residential E for the overall project, inclusive of three (3) sites and totaling 101.87 acres, is compatible with the surrounding area. To the north and east of the project is the Palm Beach Polo community that has a variety of housing options in the form of single-family and multi-family lots and units. The portions of Palm Beach Polo adjacent to the project site are Residential C (1.01 - 3.0 du/ac) and Residential D (2.01 – 5.0 du/ac). Residential E land use designation allows for a range of density between 3.0 to 8.0 du/ac. A density greater than 3.0 du/ac requires Council approval as a “bonus” within a planned unit development, however, the applicant has not requested nor demonstrated a need for more than 3.0 du/ac. The proposal is only 300 units or 3.0 du/ac, which is comparable to a Residential C land use and below the maximum density for Residential D land use. As a part of the site plan approval, landscape buffers will be required where density differences occur on the east portion of the property, adjacent to Residential C land uses. Residential E was requested as that is the lowest density land use that allows for a building height in excess of 35 feet with Council approval. **Policy LU&CD 1.2.3 Medium Density Residential Land Use** *Apply the Medium Density Residential land use designation (Residential Land Use D, E, or F) to land that is or will be developed for a wide range of housing types, including but not limited to attached, single-family and multi-family housing. The Medium Density Residential land use designations are designed for densities ranging from gross 5 to 12 units per acre and are eligible for additional density through a reinvestment bonus program up to a maximum of two times the maximum units per acre for the respective land use designation.*

The applicant is requesting a Residential E Land Use designation with a mix of housing types (22 single family and 278 multi-family). The Residential E Land Use has a range of density between 3.0 to 8.0 du/ac; however, any density greater than 3.0 du/ac is approved as a bonus within a PUD. The Applicant has not requested or demonstrated a need for a density greater than 3.0 du/ac, which is what is requested. This is more comparable to the Residential C Land Use designation.

Policy LU&CD 3.1.3 Market Analysis (Commercial, Mixed-Use, Multi-Family) *Requests for Land Use Map amendments or rezoning to a commercial, mixed-use, or multifamily designations shall be supported by a professionally prepared market analysis that demonstrates the need for the requested development at the proposed location, the types of marketable commercial activities or multi-family residential dwelling units there, and the projected market area of the proposed development.*



The applicant has submitted a Market Study prepared by Zabik & Associates and is provided in Exhibit T. The study was completed when the project development program included the construction of a residential community with a lagoon and 10-hole golf course. Zabik & Associates has also analyzed the new development program proposed and has determined that the economic impact of the previous development program still applies. The study determines that Wellington and central Palm Beach County market areas are strong and demand is currently in place for additional residential development. There is also extremely limited supply of new comparable product in and around Wellington.

The Market Study had determined that every dollar by the project will result in \$2 to \$3 dollars of community investment. The total economic impact to the economy for this development would be \$1.1 billion including direct, indirect, and individual benefits. The results of the analysis determined that during the construction phase of the project, it is estimated to create 1,000 direct jobs, 400 indirect jobs, and 425 induced jobs, for a total of 1,825 jobs. After construction, the project is estimated to create 200 direct jobs, 60 indirect jobs, and 80 induced jobs, for a total of 340 long term jobs. In addition, the project is estimated to generate \$9.23 million of ad valorem taxes with \$1.15 million designated to Wellington. The individual properties currently generate only \$293,094 in ad valorem taxes which only \$37,429 designated to Wellington as the majority of the properties have an agricultural classification which have a lower taxable value.

Wellington contracted with Raftelis, at the expense of the applicant, to perform an independent review of the market study that was submitted and has concurred with the analysis provided.

Conservation, Sustainability, and Resiliency Element

Policy CSR 1.1.2 Transportation Air Quality Impacts *Reduce transportation air quality impacts by increasing non-automobile travel by improving connectivity and safety sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and multi-use pathways.*

As part of a companion application, the applicant is proposing to move the Global Dressage showgrounds from its current location in Pod 30C-2 of the Wellington PUD to Pod F of the Wellington CountryPlace PUD. If all requests are approved, this will allow for the consolidation of equestrian venues in one location. In addition, it will provide additional housing options within close proximity of the Wellington International and proposed showgrounds. A multi-modal pathway will be constructed on the north side of the C-23 canal allowing for multiple modes of transportation to and from the showgrounds, which would reduce potential traffic to and from the project.

The majority of equestrian properties are located south of the showgrounds in Pod 30C-4. Removing the 96.29 acres from the EPA will reduce the number of horse crossings at the South Shore Boulevard and Pierson Road intersection as there will be no properties within the EPA northwest of that intersection other than Black Watch Farms which has their own crossing. There are properties in Subarea B, C, and F that are located within the EOZD and are located northwest of the South Shore Boulevard and Pierson that will not be affected. If the companion application is approved, the majority of the horses will not be crossing major thoroughfares and will be using other roadways and public/private trails to access the showgrounds.

Education Element

Objective ED 3.2 School Facility Coordination *Continue to coordinate the development approvals and planning for school facilities.*

The applicant is required to notify the School Board of Palm Beach County of the proposed development and request a School Capacity Availability Determination (SCAD) letter. The School District reviews the potential impact the proposed development has on the public school facilities, evaluates the available capacity and utilization percentage based on evaluation of the most current School District's Five-Year Enrollment Projections on the additional students potentially generated from the proposed residential development. New Horizons Elementary School, Polo Park Middle School, and Wellington High School will service the development. The



SCAD letter has determined that there would be a negative impact on the public schools at the high school level. The table below identifies the number of students projected to be generated per school, the available capacity at the school, and the overall utilization percentage:

	New Horizons Elementary School	Polo Park Middle School	Wellington High School
New Students Generated	34	17	22
Available Capacity	14	128	-40
Utilization Percentage	98%	91%	101%

To address the school capacity deficiency generated by this proposed development at the District high school level, the School District has recommended the development contribute \$396,110.00 to the District prior to the issuance of the first building permit. The Local Government may incorporate this condition in the development approvals, however it is not required. Staff has included this condition in the Master Plan Amendment, Resolution No. R2023-01, conditions of approval. The school capacity contribution is intended to supplement the required school impact fees.

Mobility Element

Policy MB 1.1.2 Development Impact on Roadway LOS *Development orders shall only be issued if the proposed development will not cause roadway levels of service to fall below the adopted LOS targets or ROW modifications are proposed to mitigate impacts and maintain the target LOS.*

A Traffic Impact Statement has been submitted and is provided as Exhibit N. Palm Beach County Traffic Division and Wellington’s Traffic Engineer have both reviewed and determined the proposed level of traffic generated for this project demonstrates compliance with this policy and meets Traffic Performance Standards (TPS). However, Wellington’s Traffic Engineer has determined that intersection improvements at Pierson Road and South Shore Boulevard, inclusive of the expansion of turning lanes, are required to be funded by the developer at the time of plat. This has also been included in the conditions of approval of the Master Plan Amendment.

Parks and Recreation Element

Policy PR 1.1.1 Recreational Land (Recommended Standards) *Provide a superior amount of recreational land to serve the population; at least 10 acres of recreational land per 1,000 residents is Wellington’s target. Recreational land may comprise land for active or passive recreational use.*

To maintain a superior amount of recreational land to serve the population, Wellington’s target is to provide at least 10 acres of recreational land per 1,000 residents. There is currently 2,011 acres of land with a Recreational Future Land Use Map designation that are either Open Space Recreation, Equestrian Commercial Recreation, Park, or Conservation. Wellington has a population of 61,768 and based on the population, is targeted to have 617.68 acres of recreational land. With the reduction of 96.29 acres, Wellington exceeds the targeted amount of recreational land by 1,297.03 acres. However, if the companion application for The Wellington South is approved, the applicant is requesting to change the land use of 114.65 acres from Residential B to Equestrian Commercial Recreation. If all applications are approved, there will be an overall increase of 18.36 acres of recreational land in Wellington.

Although The Wellington North does not have a Recreational land use designation, the project provides a variety of recreational amenities that exceeds what any other private neighborhood provides for its residents/members including a driving range, play fields (i.e. tennis and pickle ball), pools, and other outdoor nodes, some of which will be available for public memberships.

ANALYSIS – REZONING AND MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT:

The applicant is requesting to modify Wellington’s Official Zoning Map to amend the zoning designation of Equestrian Village and White Birch Farms, totaling 96.29 acres, from EOZD/PUD to PUD and a Master Plan Amendment to the Wellington PUD to combine Pods 30C, 30C-2, and 30C-4 into Pod 30C (101.87 acres); and assign 300 dwelling units, which is an additional 244 units to Pod 30C (22 single family and 278 multi-family). Currently, the three (3) pods have entitlements for a total of 56 units.

The proposed Rezoning and Master Plan Amendment comply with the following:

A. *The request is consistent with the purposes, goals, objective and policies of the Comprehensive Plan:*

The Rezoning and Master Plan Amendment are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan as explained above in the Comprehensive Plan staff analysis. In addition, the Rezoning request is compatible with the following:

Policy LU&CD 2.6.2 Equestrian Overlay Zoning District (EOZD) *The Equestrian Overlay Zoning District (EOZD) regulates the development pattern and standards for the Equestrian Preserve Area and defines the density and intensity, requires the preservation of green space, establishes an equestrian circulation system including safe crossings of roadways by equestrians, and allows for certain land uses not permitted in other areas of Wellington.*

If Ordinance No. 2023-01, removing the 96.29-acre properties from the EPA, is approved, then the zoning designation would need to be amended from EOZD/PUD to PUD as only properties within the EPA can be within the EOZD. Additionally, the proposed multi-family use is not a permitted use within the EOZD and is permitted within a PUD.

B. *The request is in compliance with all articles of the Land Development Regulations (LDR):*

The property currently has equestrian uses, however, if the request for removal from the EPA and EOZD is approved, then the equestrian uses will not be permitted on the property and the uses/structures will be non-conforming. A condition of approval has been added that provides a time limitation as to when the uses will stop and be removed from the property if the requests are approved. The applicant will be able, and will be required, to apply for an annual Equestrian Permit to hold events if the use isn’t removed by the date provided in the condition. This permit will require Council approval.

A Conceptual Site Plan and Circulation Plan have been submitted as provided in Exhibit L and M, respectfully. The applicant is proposing 278 multi-family units within 12 buildings, 22 single family lots, a 56,000 SF clubhouse with four (4) pools, a 119,000 SF field house, a covered stage, kid zone, dog park, sports fields, tennis courts, pickleball courts, and paddle courts. The project is also proposing to have golf amenities including a driving range, short game facility, putting green, and golf clubhouse. A golf cart path is proposed to cross over the C-6 canal to access the 18-hole Cypress golf course within Palm Beach Polo. The amenities will be accessible to both The Wellington North and South residents, and will have a select number of memberships for non-residents. If the proposed requests are approved, the applicant will be required to submit a Site Plan that will be reviewed by all departments for compliance with the LDR, including site development standards, parking, landscaping/buffering, driveways, access, etc. The applicant will also be required to replat the properties prior to issuance of any permits.

The applicant has submitted a Project Standards Manual (PSM) as part of the Master Plan Amendment. A PSM is a governing document, in addition to the master plan and site plan, for a planned development that provide all regulations for the proposed development as required by Section 6.5.2.C and 6.5.4.E of

the LDR. The PSM is adopted by resolution and provides design standards, landscape requirements, circulation, etc. for a development. The PSM submitted has been reviewed by staff and meets the requirements of Article 6.

The applicant has suggested that a future request will be submitted to construct the multi-family residential buildings with a building height greater than 35 feet. The applicant would need to apply for a Development Order Amendment(s) for The Wellington North project and will need to provide architectural drawings, landscape plans, and a more accurate site plan to ensure that the design and placement will meet all requirements of the LDR. Council will need to approve the increase to building height for each specific building, as each building may have different height requests. The approval will not be for the overall project. Additional building height is not included in the current request.

C. *That the proposed request is compatible and consistent with existing uses and zoning surrounding the subject land and is the appropriate zoning district for the land.*

As previously mentioned, there would only be 22.32 acres of land left within Subarea D of the EOZD that is located north of Pierson Road and east of South Shore Boulevard. The property is already within the Wellington PUD. Removing the property from the EOZD is consistent with the surrounding properties to the north, east, and west, as they are not within the EOZD. If approved, the subject properties would also have the same zoning district as the properties to the north, east, and west.

The proposal includes the request for an additional 244 units for a total of 300 units. There are currently a total of 56 units assigned to the various properties: Coach House (50 units), Equestrian Village (4 units), and White Birch Farms (2 units). While 244 additional units may seem relatively high and would be the largest number of “new” units applied to a property by Wellington that was not part of a previously approved development order, the number of units per acre (2.94 units per acre) is consistent with the gross units per acre of the adjacent Palm Beach Polo Golf and Country Club development and is consistent with the gross residential development units per acre within the Wellington PUD. The Wellington PUD was originally approved in 1973 for 14,651 units. Over the years, various amendments were approved which reduced the number of units to 14,382. If the additional unit are approved, the total number of units for the overall PUD would still be less than what was originally approved in 1973.

D. *That there are changed conditions that require rezoning.*

As part of The Wellington South application, the applicant is proposing new showgrounds in Pod F of Wellington CountryPlace PUD. The new showgrounds will increase the size of the existing Global Dressage from 59.47 to 114.65 acres, which is almost double in size. According to the proposed Wellington CountryPlace Master Plan, the proposed show grounds would have up to 1,500 stalls at buildout, nine (9) competition rings, derby fields, lunging rings, stadium seating for 7,000 spectators, hospitality venue for 4,000 spectators, up to 26,000 SF of retail space to support the venue, 18,000 SF of office space, and up to 45,000 SF of storage. If the applications in support of the venue location are approved, this will support a consolidation and expansion of equestrian venues and the property north of Pierson Road may then be developed as residential. The applicant contends the residential development is needed to provide a “pipeline” of new customers with a new housing option to support the showgrounds. In addition, the desire to relocate the showgrounds is a reasonable request as both showgrounds (Wellington International and Equestrian Village) are outgrowing their sites. The result would be a development that is non-equestrian, adds both residential and non-residential uses to the PUD, and creates a gateway to the EPA.

E. *The request minimizes environmental impacts, including but not limited to water, air, stormwater management, wildlife, vegetation, wetlands, and the natural functioning of the environment.*

The 101.87-acre project has been altered with past construction and is not raw land. The 5.58-acre Coach House property is currently vacant with a temporary sales center and parking lot, the 59.55 Equestrian Village property is currently developed as an equestrian venue, and the 36.74 White Birch Farms property is currently two (2) polo fields. No signs of listed wildlife species were observed on the property. No adverse impacts to the natural environment are expected to occur as a result of the proposed modifications. The owners shall obtain all necessary permits or permit modifications from all agencies with jurisdiction for future improvements.

F. *The request minimizes adverse effects, including visual impact and intensity of the proposed use on adjacent lands.*

The Wellington North conceptual site plan shows a variety of open space and recreational uses including a fieldhouse, clubhouse, outdoor courts, grand lawn, 6-acre lake, pocket parks, dog parks, meadow areas, and a 16-acre driving range. The single-family units are placed adjacent to the existing single-family and multi-family uses in Polo Island within Palm Beach Polo Golf and Country Club. The driving range separates the Bridle Path subdivision of Palm Beach Polo from the proposed 22 single family lots. The more intense multi-family buildings are proposed to be more than 300 feet away from the existing Hurlingham and Polo Island subdivisions with a canal/retention area between. Appropriate landscape buffering will be required along the rights-of-way and along the east portion of the property.

The use of residential and recreational uses provides for the same visual impact as any other single family and multi-family development within Wellington PUD, within Palm Beach Polo Golf and Country Club, and along other major thoroughfares. In addition, there will be less potential foul odors and noise as the subject site will no longer house stables, horses, or large events once the project is developed as proposed.

G. *The request is consistent with applicable neighborhood plans.*

Not applicable as there is no neighborhood plan for this area.

H. *The request will result in a logical, timely, and orderly development pattern.*

The applicant is requesting an additional 244 units for a total of 300 units on 101.87 acres. The property is adjacent to other similar type residential uses and is a logical redevelopment option for this property. The development is proposed to offer unique recreational provisions and residential unit types similar to the development pattern of the adjacent properties, specifically Palm Beach Polo Golf and Country Club.

The property is located on the northeast corner of Pierson Road and South Shore Boulevard. No additional access points along South Shore Boulevard are being requested. There are currently three (3) access points along South Shore Boulevard to the Coach House and Equestrian Village properties. Main access to The Wellington South multi-family and clubhouse will be at the existing South Shore Boulevard and Greenview Shores Boulevard intersection where an entrance and traffic light already exists for the Coach House. The existing curb cuts for the entrance to Equestrian Village and the service entrance for Coach House along South Shore Boulevard will be removed. There are currently two (2) access points along Pierson Road. The western access point will be for service and employee access only. The eastern access point will be the entrance for the driving range and single-family residences.

I. *The proposed request complies with Article 2, concurrency.*

The Utilities and Engineering Departments have reviewed the applications and determined that adequate facilities to meet concurrency exists for potable water, sanitary sewer, and drainage. The project is proposed within the Urban Service Area, with water and sewer connection available in the surrounding area. A condition has been added that requires the applicant to be responsible for the funding and construction of all improvements/upgrades to existing lift stations, water distribution systems, sanitary systems, and force main systems that are necessary as a result of the impacts of the proposed project development plan on the existing systems.

Per Section 8.5.2 of Wellington's LDR, the developer shall dedicate land, pay a fee in lieu of, or do a combination of both, at the option of Wellington, for public parks and civic facilities land. Civic facilities may include certain public governmental facilities such as community centers, cultural centers and government offices. Ten (10) acres of park land and one (1) acre of civic facilities land shall be provided for each one thousand (1,000) population, or fraction thereof, generated by the development. The amount of payment in lieu of dedication for the additional 244 dwelling units shall be based on Wellington's cost to acquire land for community or neighborhood parks at the time the subdivision plan or site plan is submitted or on a Wellington approved certified MSA appraisal of the average value of the land in the development at the time of the submittal. A condition to the Master Plan Amendment has been added regarding payment in lieu of dedication for Parks and Recreation and civic facilities land.

The Palm Beach County Traffic Division has reviewed the Traffic Impact Statement (Exhibit N) and has determined that the proposed development meets the Traffic Performance Standards of Palm Beach County (Exhibit O – PBC Traffic Performance Standards Letter). The Wellington Traffic Engineer has reviewed all applications and the recently submitted Traffic Impact Statement and provided a certification letters and conditions of approval that have been included in the Master Plan resolution (Exhibit P – Wellington Traffic Engineer Letters).

As previously noted, the School District of Palm Beach County has provided a School Capacity Determination Letter (SCAD) (Exhibit Q - SCAD Letter) and a condition has been added that the property owner shall contribute \$396,110 to the School District to address the school capacity deficiency at the high school level prior to the issuance of the first building permit.

J. *The proposed request complies with Wellington building standards.*

Prior to zoning approval on any building permits, the proposed elevations of the multifamily building will need to be approved by the ARB. This will ensure that the new construction will meet or exceed the desired design and aesthetic characteristics required in Wellington. Each building and single-family lot will then be required to get all necessary permits to ensure that the buildings meet the LDR and building code.

RECOMMENDATION:

This staff analysis concludes that the proposed request to adjust the Equestrian Preserve Area boundary complies with the requirements for a comprehensive plan amendment. As presented, the requested change to modify the EPA boundary is consistent with several planning principles, primarily based upon the context of the property location, including an appropriate location for a district change relative to its adjacency to a roadway, the increment of the boundary adjustment (1% of EPA) relative to the overall EPA, and the location of the property which surrounded on three (3) sides by non-equestrian properties. The Planning staff recommendation is based on the overall context of The Wellington North proposal and with respect to all of The Wellington proposals, one of which proposes a new showground on a larger property to replace Equestrian Village.

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The EPA boundary change decision is a legislative action and is therefore fairly debatable. This means the PZAB's decision need only be rationally related to a legitimate public purpose, such as health, safety, and welfare of the public, or in this case the equestrian community. The EPA was established to protect and preserve the equestrian lifestyle, the distinctive characteristics of the individual communities, along with supporting the equestrian competition industry. Therefore, the requested change to the EPA boundary and the removal of the subject properties north of Pierson Road is a question of its impact to the equestrian lifestyle and the community characteristics.

The recommendation for the EOZD boundary must be consistent with the EPA boundary recommendation as the EOZD implements the EPA.

If the EPA/EOZD changes are approved, the associated Future Land Use Map amendments also comply with the requirements for a comprehensive plan amendment. The FLUM amendments support residential development and at a density that is consistent with its surrounding context.

Based upon the analysis, the following is recommended for approval with conditions, as presented:

- Ordinance No. 2023-01 Comprehensive Plan Amendment (Petition 2022-0002-CPA) to amend the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) to remove Equestrian Village and White Birch Farms, totaling 96.29 acres, from the Equestrian Preserve Area; and to amend the Pedestrian Pathway Network Map, the Multi-Modal Pathways Map, Bridle Path Map, and the Bicycle Lanes Map within the Comprehensive Plan removing notations identifying the property as "venue" and amending the Equestrian Preserve Area boundary.
- Ordinance No. 2023-03 Comprehensive Plan Amendment (Petition 2022-0002-CPA) to amend the FLUM Designation of the Coach House, totaling 5.58 acres, from Residential F (5.01 du/ac – 12.0 du/ac to Residential E (3.01 du/ac); and to amend the FLUM Designation of Equestrian Village and White Birch Farms, totaling 96.29 acres, from Equestrian Commercial Recreation to Residential E.
- Ordinance No. 2023-02 Rezoning (Petition 2022-0001-REZ) to amend Wellington's Official Zoning Map to amend the zoning designation of Equestrian Village and White Birch Farms, totaling 96.29 acres, from EOZD/PUD to PUD.
- Resolution No. 2023-01 Master Plan Amendment (Petition 2022-0004-MPA) to amend the Wellington PUD Master Plan to combine Pods 30C, 30C-2, and 30C-4 into Pod 30C with 101.87 acres; to assign 300 dwelling units, an additional 244 units, to Pod 30C (22 single family and 278 multi-family); and to approve The Wellington North Project Standards Manual; with the following Conditions of Approval:

General Conditions:

All previous conditions related to the Master Plan approvals of The Coach House (Resolution No. R2019-025), Equestrian Village (Resolution No. R2013-48), and White Birch Farms (Resolution No. R2013-09) are hereby repealed and replaced with the conditions listed in Resolution No. R2023-01.

1. This approval is based upon the Master Plan date stamped May 23, 2023. (PLANNING AND ZONING)
2. The project shall comply with the Project Standards Manual as adopted in Exhibit K as part of Resolution 2023-01. (PLANNING AND ZONING)
3. The Site Plan shall be approved prior to the issuance of Land Development Permits. (PLANNING AND ZONING)

4. Recreational amenities shall be completed and open to the residents for use prior to the issuance of a building permit for the 100th dwelling unit. (PLANNING AND ZONING)
5. All roads, sidewalks, utilities, and infrastructure within the property boundary shall be private and the maintenance responsibility of the owner or managing association and shall not be the maintenance responsibility of Wellington. (PLANNING AND ZONING/ENGINEERING)
6. The Site Plan shall illustrate the existing bridle trails, proposed Multi-modal pathways, and shall illustrate how the connections to the overall system will be maintained or enhanced. No connections shall be discontinued. (PLANNING AND ZONING)
7. The Commercial Equestrian Arena (CEA) approval for Equestrian Village is rescinded 12 months from the plat recordation date, 18 months from the approval of Resolution No. R2023-01 (Master Plan), or 60 days from the issuance of a land development or engineering permit for The Wellington North development, whichever comes first. A request for extension shall only be required to be approved by Village Council. (PLANNING AND ZONING)

Land Development Conditions:

8. All proposed private roadways, lakes, conservation areas, etc. shall be placed in tracts. All tracts shall be identified on the plat and dedicated accordingly. (ENGINEERING)
9. A plat/replat shall be required to be submitted prior to the issuance of the Land Development Permits and shall be recorded prior to the issuance of the first building permit (including demolition of the equestrian venue). All residential portions of the project shall be subject to a Declaration of Restrictions and Covenant acceptable to the Wellington Attorney, which shall provide for the formation of a managing association, assessment of members for the cost of maintaining the common areas, including all preservation areas, amenities, waterbodies, etc. (ENGINEERING)
10. The applicant shall convey sufficient road drainage easement(s) through the project's internal drainage system, as required, to provide legal positive outfall for runoff. Said easements shall be no less than 20-feet in width. Portions of such system not included within roadways or waterways dedicated for drainage purposes will be specifically encumbered by said minimum 20-foot drainage easements from the point of origin to the point of legal positive outfall. (ENGINEERING)
11. Authorization from Palm Beach Polo Golf and Country Club POA to increase the size of the existing lakes within Palm Beach Polo or change of the positive outfall locations shall be required. (ENGINEERING)
12. The applicant is responsible for the funding and construction of all improvements/upgrades to existing lift stations, water distribution systems, sanitary systems, and force main systems that are necessary as a result of the impacts of the proposed project development plan on the existing systems. (UTILITIES)
13. The applicant must apply for and obtain a Utility Major permit prior to the development of the proposed improvements. (UTILITIES)

Landscape Conditions:

14. A Landscape Buffer shall be required along all property lines that are adjacent to a different Future Land Use Map designation and along all major thoroughfares as required in Wellington's Land Development Regulations. (PLANNING AND ZONING)

Traffic Conditions:

15. Conveyance of a 40-foot corner clip at the southwest property corner, for future intersection improvements at Pierson Road and South Shore Boulevard (depicted on Conceptual Site Plan), shall be required. (ENGINEERING)
16. A 500-foot by 15-foot wide right-of-way dedication along South Shore Boulevard at the northbound approach to Greenview Shores Boulevard (depicted on Conceptual Site Plan) shall be required. (ENGINEERING)
17. A 15-foot multimodal pathway easement and/or tract dedication will be required along the length of the property along Pierson Road. (ENGINEERING)
18. No building permits are to be issued after December 31, 2027, unless a time extension has been approved by Planning and Zoning and Wellington's Traffic Engineer. Any additional extensions requests, other than those eligible from a Legislative Emergency Order shall be approved by Council. (TRAFFIC)
19. The following intersection improvements at Pierson Road and South Shore Boulevard are required to be provided at the time of plat in addition to the improvements that have already been funded by the applicant: (TRAFFIC)
 - a. Westbound right-turn lane with 275 feet of storage; and
 - b. Extension of proposed eastbound left-turn lane storage from 370 feet to 500 feet; and
 - c. Extension of proposed eastbound right-turn lane storage from 100 feet to 225 feet.
20. The property owner is required to pay a proportionate share payment of 1.3% of the total cost to construct a traffic signal and/or roundabout at Lake Worth Road at 120th Avenue South prior to the first building permit. (TRAFFIC)
21. The property owner shall construct an eastbound left turn lane at Pierson Road at the project driveway prior to the first certificate of occupancy. (TRAFFIC)
22. The County traffic concurrency approval is subject to the Project Aggregation Rules as set forth in the Traffic Performance Standards Ordinance. (TRAFFIC)

Concurrency (Level Of Service) Conditions:

23. A Developer Agreement will be required by the Utility Department to reserve water and sewer capacity for the project. Payment of capacity fees per Wellington Resolution No. R2018-35 shall be required to reserve capacity. The Developer Agreement must be executed and approved by Wellington's Council prior to the execution of the Palm Beach County Health Water and Sewer Department permits by Wellington's Utility Director. The Developer Agreement conditions should be coordinated during the

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Site Plan Approval process. The Applicant is advised that no guarantee of available capacity is expressed or implied by the issuance of a Capacity Availability Letter, until such time that the developer has reserved capacity through payment of Water, Sewer and Fire Capacity Fees. (UTILITIES)

24. Water, Sewer, and Fire Line Capacity fees are based on the "Wellington Water and Wastewater Rates and Charges Fiscal Year 2022. These fees are due prior to the approval of the Developer Agreement by Wellington's Council. (UTILITIES)
25. The Applicant shall contribute \$396,110.00 to the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) prior to the issuance of the first residential building permit. (SDPBC)
26. The Parks and Recreation and the Civic Land dedication requirements shall be determined at the time of Site Plan approval. Any payment in lieu of dedication shall be required within 30 days of Site Plan approval and prior to recordation of Plat. (PLANNING AND ZONING)

Lists of Exhibits:

- Exhibit A – Current Future Land Use Map
- Exhibit B – Proposed Future Land Use Map
- Exhibit C – Proposed Bridle Path Map
- Exhibit D – Proposed Pedestrian Pathway Network Map
- Exhibit E – Proposed Multi-Modal Pathway Map
- Exhibit F – Proposed Bicycle Lanes Map
- Exhibit G – Current Official Zoning Map
- Exhibit H – Proposed Official Zoning Map
- Exhibit I – Current Wellington PUD Master Plan
- Exhibit J – Proposed Wellington PUD Master Plan
- Exhibit K – The Lagoon at Equestrian Village Project Standards Manual
- Exhibit L – Conceptual Site Plan
- Exhibit M – Conceptual Circulation Plan
- Exhibit N – Traffic Impact Statement (Report only, Appendix available upon request)
- Exhibit O – PBC Traffic Performance Standard Letter
- Exhibit P – Wellington Traffic Engineer Letters
- Exhibit Q – SCAD Letter
- Exhibit R – Drainage Statement
- Exhibit S – Water and Waste Water Demand Analysis
- Exhibit T – Market Study
- Exhibit U – PBC Archaeologist Letter
- Exhibit V – Justification Statement
- Exhibit W – Public Comments