PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES STAFF REPORT

For Planning Commission Meeting of October 15, 2013

SUBJECT: Running Fit Site Plan for City Council Approval

(121-123 East Liberty Street and 220 South Fourth Avenue)

File No. SP13-035

PROPOSED CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MOTION

The Ann Arbor City Planning Commission hereby recommends that the Mayor and City Council approve the Running Fit Site Plan, subject to verification of any footing drain connections to the sanitary sewer system prior to City Council action on the site plan, and subject to the construction of two Class A bicycle parking spaces in the Fourth & William parking structure or payment of a contribution to install these spaces being provided to the Downtown Development Authority prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the site plan be **approved**, because the contemplated development complies with applicable local, state and federal laws, ordinances, standards and regulations; and does not cause a public or private nuisance and does not have a detrimental effect on the public health, safety or welfare.

LOCATION

The site consists of three parcels that form a rectangle at the northwest corner of East Liberty Street and South Fourth Avenue. The site is in the Downtown Planning Area, The Downtown Development Authority District and the Allen Creek sub-watershed.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The petitioner is proposing to add three floors on top of an existing single-story building on this 2,663 square foot site. The building would increase from 2,515 square feet to 8,530 square feet. The two tenant spaces on the ground floor would remain in retail use, and the additional floors would contain six new residential housing units (five one-bedroom and one two-bedroom units), some of which are stacked vertically on two or three floors. The streetwall is at the third floor, and the fourth floor is smaller in area and offset from the two street-facing facades. The offset area contains patios for residents and a vegetated green roof. The estimated construction cost is \$900,000.

The site is in the downtown special parking district, so no vehicular parking is required or proposed. Two class A and two class C bicycle parking spaces are required: six class C spaces will be provided via bike hoops in the public right-of-way, and two Class A bicycle parking spaces will be provided off-site in the Fourth & William parking structure or a contribution to install these spaces will be provided to the Downtown Development Authority prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy (per Chapter 59, section 5:169(3)). The Fourth & William structure is a half block from the site. In addition, each

unit will have a bike storage space, though these are not counted toward the class A requirement since a bike must be carried up stairs to access each unit.

Four existing street trees will remain. Storm water management is not required, since the site is smaller than 5,000 square feet. A new fire service lead will be installed from East Liberty Street.

The petitioners held a citizen participation meeting on July 10, 2013, and twelve people attended. Questions regarding housing units, parking, materials, construction timing, and administrative procedures were answered (see attached). The Historic District Commission issued a Certificate of Appropriateness for this project on August 15, 2013.

SITE HISTORY

121 and 123 East Liberty were originally a two-story and a three-story building constructed in 1897 or earlier. The 220 South Fourth Avenue storefront was carved out of the rear of 123 East Liberty. The 1901 Polk City Directory lists Gilbert W. Snow as the occupant of 121 E Liberty, and by 1912 the store was a machine shop. In 1901 William E. Pardon ran a grocery store at 123 E Liberty, and by 1915 it was the location of a clothing store run by Fred W. Gross. A fire in the 1950s heavily damaged both structures. The upper floors were removed, and the remaining one-story building was refaced with enameled steel panel siding. There are no site plans on file for the site.

ZONING COMPARISON CHART

	EXISTING	PROPOSED	REQUIRED BY CURRENT ZONING
Zoning	D1(Downtown Core District); Main Street Character Overlay; Primary Street Frontage	D1(Downtown Core District); Main Street Character Overlay; Primary Street Frontage	D1(Downtown Core District); Main Street Character Overlay; Primary Street Frontage
Gross Lot Area	2,663 Sq Ft	2,663 Sq Ft	None
Floor Area in % of Lot Area	80% (2,515 Sq Ft)	321% (8,530 Sq Ft)	400% MAX (10,652 Sq Ft) Premiums not allowed in Historic Districts
Building Height	14 ft	50 ft/4 stories	24 ft/2 stories MIN 180 ft MAX
Streetwall Height	1 story	3 stories	2 stories MIN 4 stories MAX
Building Frontage (E. Liberty and S. Fourth Ave)	O ft	O ft	0 ft MIN 1 ft MAX at Streetwall
Parking – Automobiles	0 spaces	0 spaces	None (special parking district)
Parking – Bicycles	4 class C	2 class A (off-site) 6 class C	2 Class A MIN 1 Class C MIN

SURROUNDING LAND USES AND ZONING

	LAND USE	ZONING
NORTH	Restaurant/Retail	D1(Downtown Core District)
EAST	Restaurant/Retail	D1(Downtown Core District)
SOUTH	Restaurant/Retail and Federal Building	D1 and PL (Public Land)
WEST	Restaurant/Retail	D1(Downtown Core District)

PLANNING BACKGROUND

The site is part of the downtown core area in the 2009 Downtown Plan. Some of the applicable land use goals and objectives for this site from the Downtown Plan include:

Goal: Encourage dense land use and development patterns which draw people downtown and foster an active street life, contribute to its function as an urban residential neighborhood and support a sustainable transportation system.

Goal: Promote downtown as the center of commerce in the community. Strengthen and expand a balanced mix of downtown's active uses, such as shops and services, restaurants, and entertainment attractions, by providing convenient transit and parking, a quality pedestrian environment, strategically located vehicular and bicycle parking, and a diverse land use context needed to support a successful retail environment.

Goal: Encourage a diversity of new downtown housing opportunities and the expansion of the downtown resident population to strengthen downtown's role as an urban neighborhood. Continue to seek a range of age groups and income levels in the downtown.

Goal: Encourage new development to reinforce historic buildings' contribution to downtown's identity and pedestrian orientation.

STAFF COMMENTS

<u>Systems Planning, Engineering</u> – The following is required before site plan approval: 1) verification of footing drains connected to the sanitary sewer system for the existing building, 2) if present, they must be disconnected, and 3) sanitary sewer mitigation calculations show both one and two required disconnects and must be corrected.

<u>Downtown Development Authority</u> – Maintaining pedestrian access along East Liberty and South Fourth Avenue is critical during construction. Also, construction of a bike house within the Fourth & William parking structure is currently in the planning stages. It will be similar to the bike house found in the Maynard Street structure, with key card access to a secure room for subscribers. Amenities will include racks, a fix-it station, and video surveillance for added security. The contribution amount for this site plan's two offsite class A bike spaces will be based on construction costs for two bike house spaces.

Running Fit Site Plan Page 4

Prepared by Jill Thacher Reviewed by Wendy Rampson 10/15/13

Attachments: Location Map

Zoning and Parcel Map

Aerial Photo

Sheet C1: Boundary & Topographic Survey 09/23/13

Sheet C2: Engineering Plan 09/23/13 Sheet A-2.1: Exterior Elevations 08/23/13 Sheet A-3.1: Exterior Elevations 08/23/13

Citizen Participation Report

c: Owner: Liberty Co., LLC

123 E Liberty Street Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Petitioner: J. Bradley Moore & Associates

4844 Jackson Rd, Suite 150

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

City Attorney

Downtown Development Authority

Systems Planning



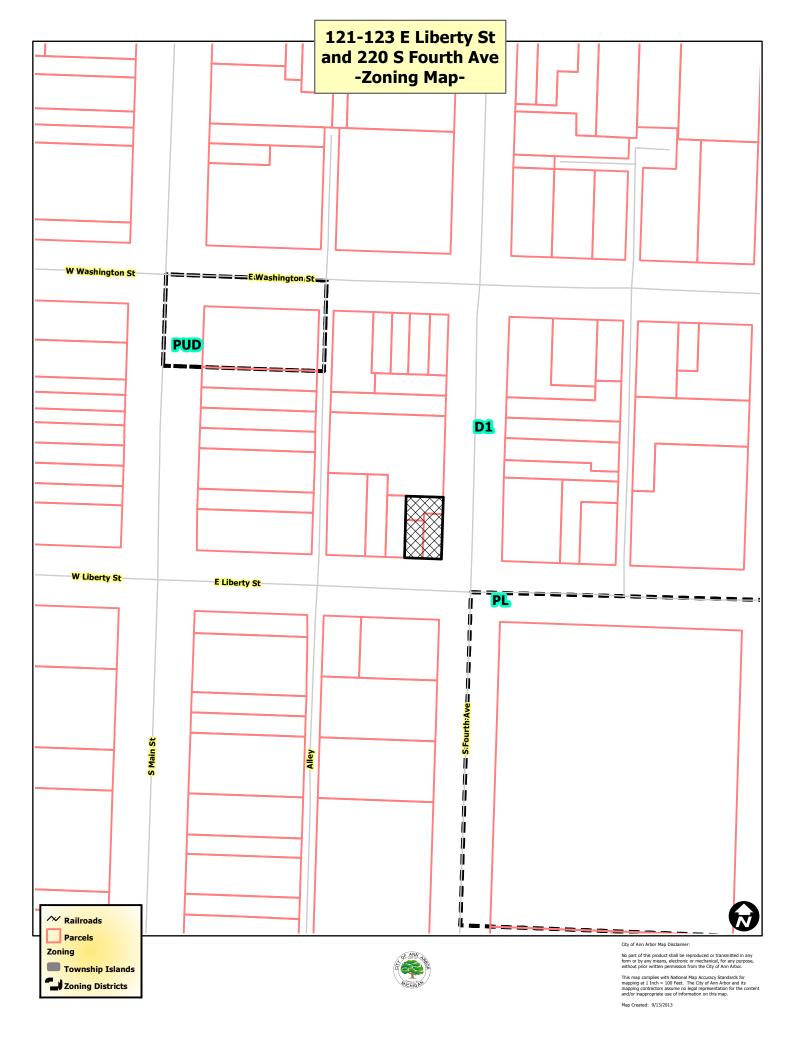


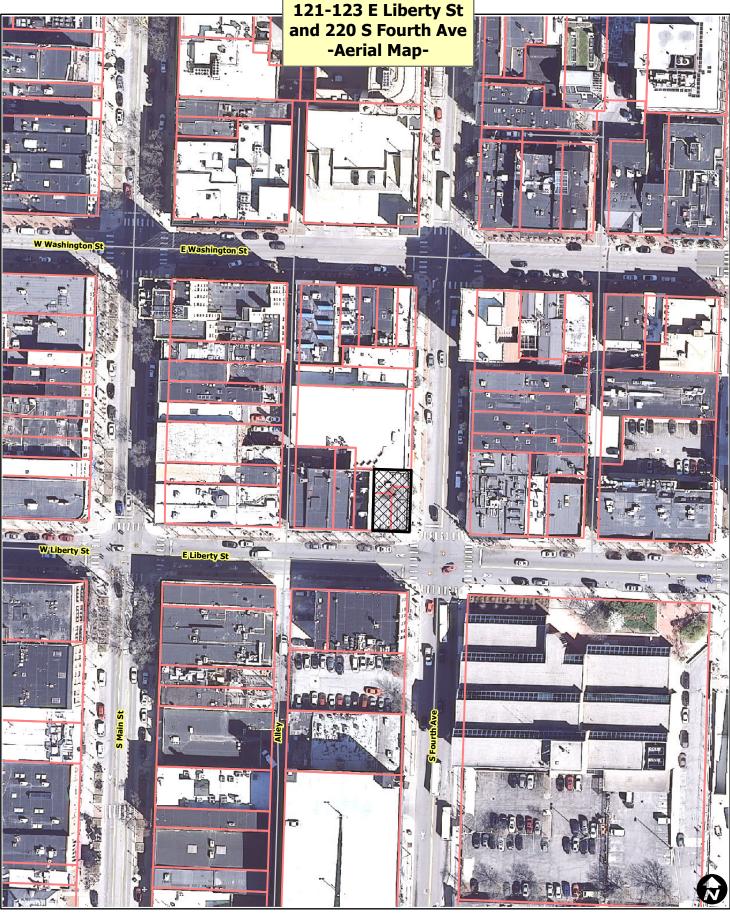


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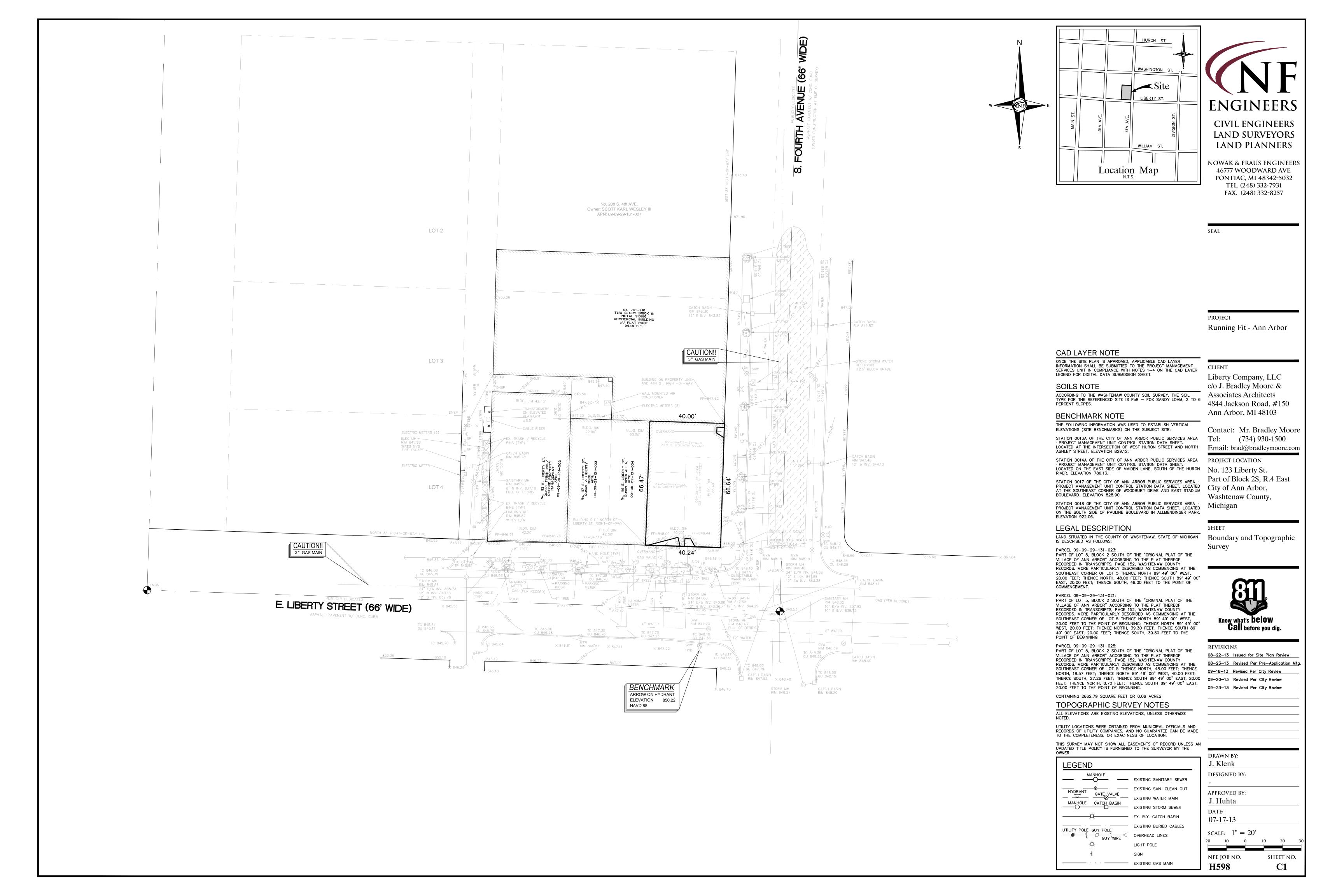


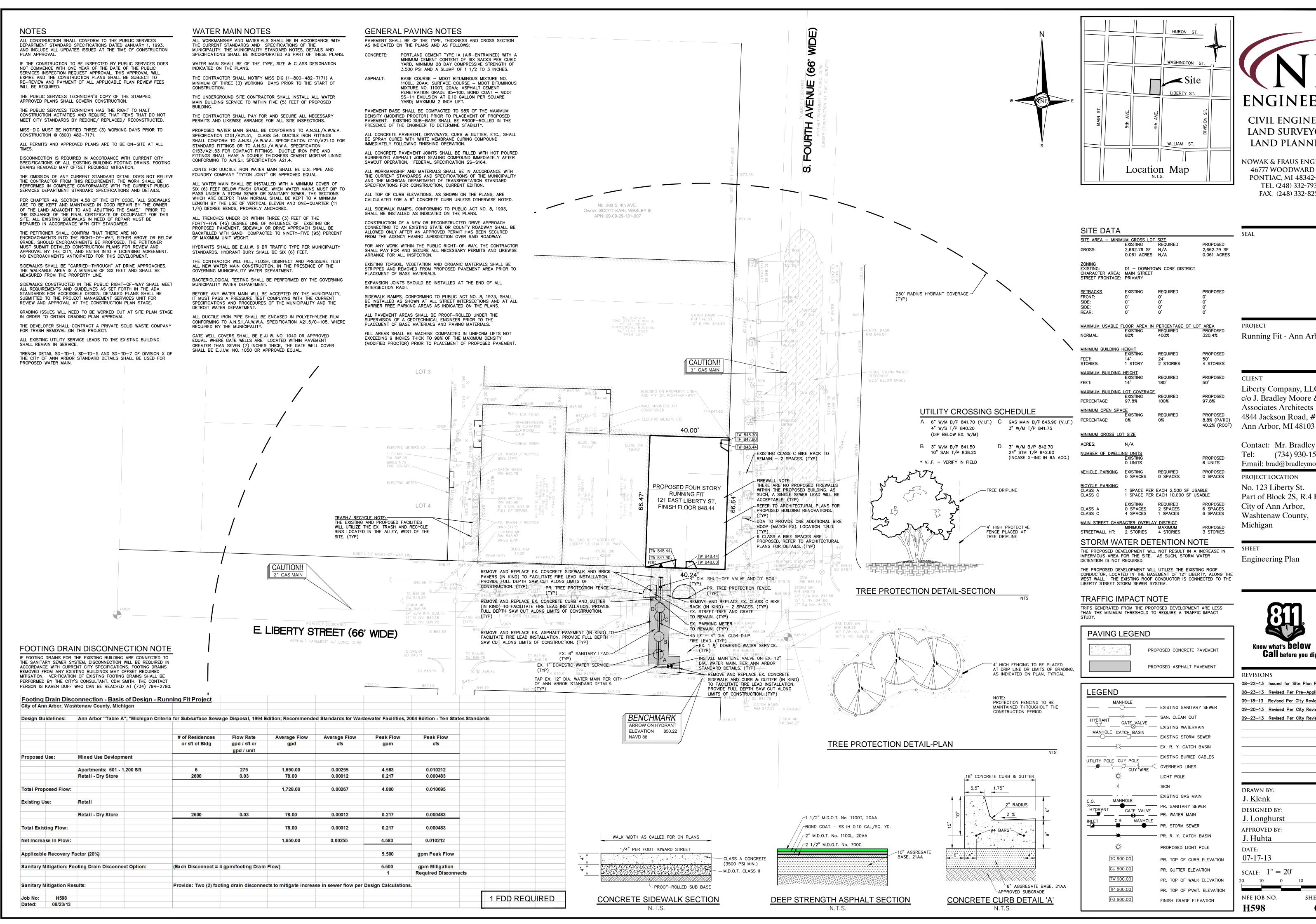


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ENGINEERS **CIVIL ENGINEERS** LAND SURVEYORS LAND PLANNERS

NOWAK & FRAUS ENGINEERS 46777 WOODWARD AVE. PONTIAC, MI 48342-5032 TEL. (248) 332-7931 FAX. (248) 332-8257

Running Fit - Ann Arbor

Liberty Company, LLC c/o J. Bradley Moore & Associates Architects 4844 Jackson Road, #150

Contact: Mr. Bradley Moore (734) 930-1500

Email: brad@bradleymoore.com PROJECT LOCATION No. 123 Liberty St.

Part of Block 2S, R.4 East City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County,

Engineering Plan

Know what's **below** Call before you dig.

08-22-13 Issued for Site Plan Review 08-23-13 Revised Per Pre-Application Mtg 09-18-13 Revised Per City Review 09-20-13 Revised Per City Review 09-23-13 Revised Per City Review

DESIGNED BY: J. Longhurst

APPROVED BY:

SCALE: 1'' = 20'

20 10 0 NFE JOB NO.

SHEET NO.





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Running Fit Addition 121–123 E. Liberty & 220 S. 4th A Ann Arbor, MI

Elevations

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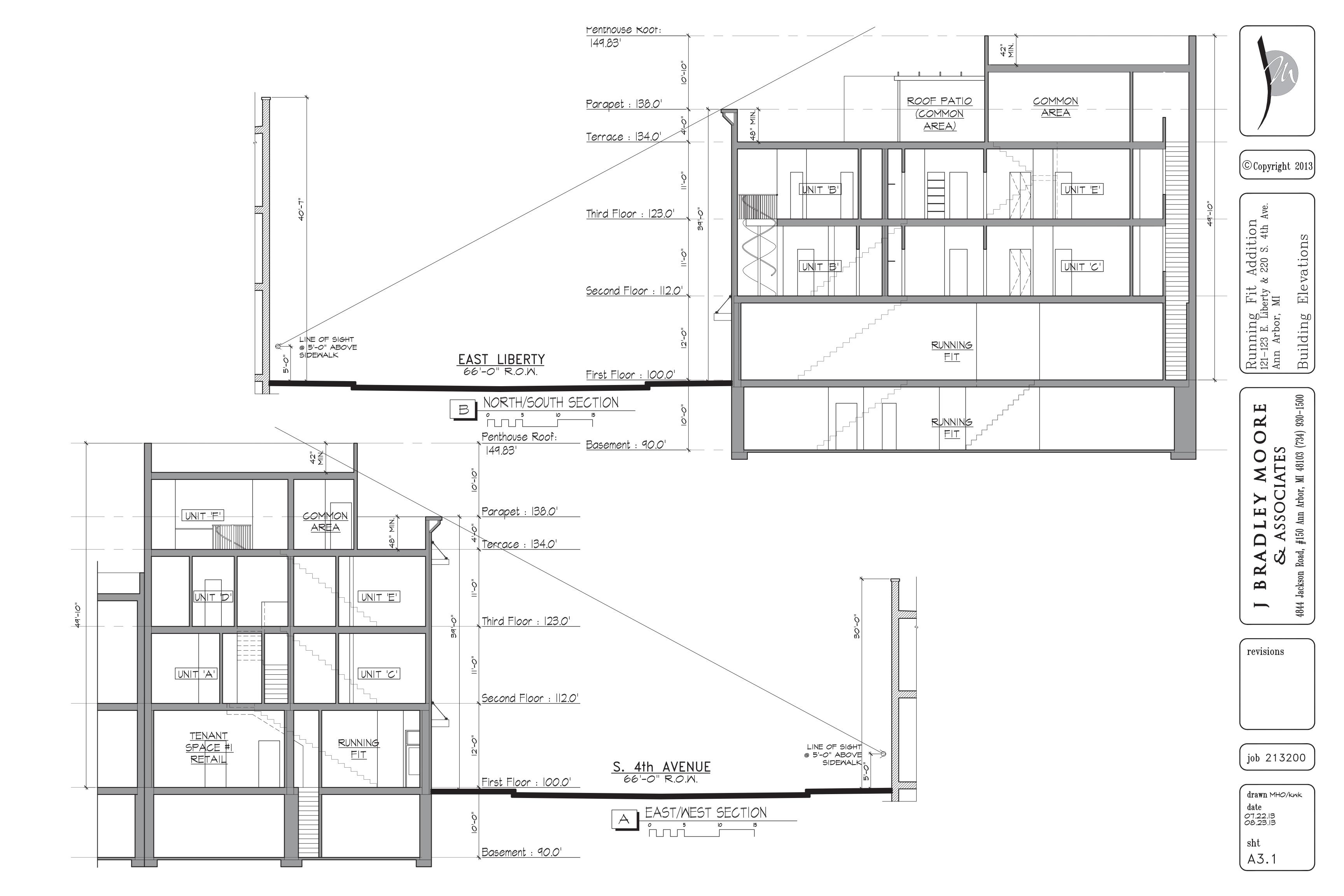
J BRADLEY MOORE
& ASSOCIATES

revisions

job 213200

drawn MHO/kwk date 07.22.13 08.23.13

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Citizens' Participation Meeting Report

Project: Running Fit Addition, 121-123 E. Liberty St. & 220 S. 4th Ave.

Meeting Date: July 10, 2013

Location: Ann Arbor Library main branch – community meeting room

Time: 6pm-7:15pm

The City Planning & Development Services provided a list of addresses to mail notices of the meeting. Approximately 1330 postcards were mailed out to the addresses provided describing the scope of the project and indicating the time, date, and location of the Citizens' Participation Meeting. At approximately 6pm project presentation boards were set up and a sign-in sheet started for meeting participants. At approximately 6:10pm, with about a dozen attendees in attendance, the project architect, J. Bradley Moore, made a presentation of the proposed residential addition to the property commonly called the Running Fit building – a conglomerate of single story buildings located at the North-west corner of the intersection of E. Liberty Street and S. 4th Avenues. After the presentation Mr. Moore opened the meeting up to participants for their questions and comments.

The following is a summary of comments and questions voiced by participants and answers provided (answers/responses in italics) by Mr. Moore and/or other project team members:

How many residential units will there be in total: There will be 6 units on two full and one partial floors.

Who will the units be marketed to? Anyone who wants to live downtown.

How big will the units be? *There will be 5 one bedroom units and one two bedroom unit ranging in size from about 650 Sf. to about 1150 Sf.*

Will there be any parking provided? No on-site parking is proposed. Residents can park in the nearby city parking structures if they choose to have a car. Zip cars are also nearby and the city's main public transportation hub is less than a block away. The site has a walkabilty score of 94 so tenants may not have much need for a car.

What will the building be constructed of? The structural system of the building is wood-frame construction, as will be the new addition, clad in a brick veneer at the street wall.

Will the project require approval from the Historic District Commission (HDC). Yes, we will have a hearing before the HDC as the project is located in the Main Street Historic District.

What type of a green roof is proposed for the addition to the building? We are planning on using the same system used on the Big George's Home Appliance building – it is called an "extensive" green roof system and consists of planting trays with vegetation already growing at the time of installation.

Will the project go before the Design Review Board? No. It goes instead to the DHC.

How long will the construction take? We estimate between 9 and 13 months.

Will the recently repaved 4th Ave. need to be torn up to provide utilities to the building? *No. The building is currently served from the underground utilities in E. Liberty Street and will continue to be.*

Where will the entrance be for the new residential units? *Three units will be accessed from E. Liberty Street and the other three will be accessed from the current entry way on 4th Ave.*

Will the new entry doors be recessed off the sidewalk? One will be and one will not be.

Will the new residential units be condos or apartments? They may be a combination of both but that won't be finally determined until closer to when the units are finished.

When will construction start? Some time next summer.

Will the vaults under the sidewalk be utilized for any purpose? We do not plan on using the vaults under the sidewalk. We will investigate the status of the vaults during construction but there is currently no connection between the existing basements and the vaults.

What will the units cost as condos? They will likely be in the \$200,000 to 300,000 range.

Will there be signage? Yes - in approximately the same size and location as signage exists now.

When will the Project come before the City Council? Early next year, most likely.

What are the next steps? Presentation of the proposal before the HDC then if approved by the HDC hearings at planning commission and lastly City Council.

Will there be an elevator? No, not for this few units.

How long would construction take? Twelve to Fourteen months since part of the building structure is already in place.

Will there be on-site storm water detention? No, none is required.

Will there be any more impervious surface on the property than exists now? *No. The Green roof portion* should even reduce the runoff

Where will construction staging be accomplished? Probably the contractor will rent the parking spaces adjacent to the building along 4^{th} Ave. for construction staging.

Do you know what the original use of the buildings on the site was? No, not yet.

What color would the brick be? Probably mid-tone red/brown as is typical for the district.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00pm as there were no additional questions.