# CITY OF WEST DES MOINES BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT COMMUNICATION

Meeting Date: July 21, 2021

<u>Item</u>: Element Hotel Daycare, 575 S. Prairie View Drive - Permitted

Conditional Use Permit - Silverwest I WDM LLC - PC-005233-2021

Requested Action: Approval of a Permitted Conditional Use Permit

<u>Case Advisor</u>: Bryce C. Johnson

<u>Applicant's Request</u>: The applicant, Amanda Sampino, Manager of the Element Hotel, and the property owner, Silverwest I WDM LLC, requests that the Board of Adjustment approve a Permitted Conditional Use permit to operate a daycare within an existing hotel.

<u>History</u>: In 2015, an Overlay Site Plan (OSP) was approved for the construction of the existing four-story Element Hotel. The first floor of this building includes several meeting rooms, commercial kitchen, and a retail space. Given the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the applicant feels the retail space would be better utilized as a daycare. The applicant has noted in their application that the daycare will provide childcare services for up to 12 children, half of which will be for hotel employees and the balance open to the public.

<u>City Council Subcommittee</u>: This item was presented to the Development and Planning City Council Subcommittee on June 7, 2021 as an informational item only.

<u>Staff Review and Comment</u>: This request was distributed to other City departments and other agencies for their review and comment. There are no outstanding issues. Staff would summarize the following key points of interest:

Outdoor Space Requirement: City code requires daycare operations to provide 1,000-square feet
of outdoor play space for facilities under 20 children. The applicant will utilize the existing
courtyard, installing new fences as necessary to keep the area safe and secure, to satisfy this
code requirement.

<u>Comprehensive Plan Consistency</u>: The project has been reviewed for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan. Based upon that review, a finding has been made that the proposed project is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan in that the project is consistent with the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan and the land use map of the Comprehensive Plan.

Town Center Overlay District Consistency: The proposed Permitted Conditional Use has been reviewed for consistency with the proposed Town Center Overlay District Guidelines. Based upon that review, a finding has been made that the proposed Permitted Conditional Use is consistent with the Town Center Overlay District Guidelines in that the Permitted Conditional Use is consistent with the overall objective and intents of the Town Center Overlay District Guidelines.

<u>Findings</u>: This proposed project was distributed to various city departments for review and comment. Based upon that review, the following findings have been made on the proposed project:

The proposed development and use is consistent with the West Des Moines Comprehensive Plan
in that the project has been reviewed for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan. Based upon
that review, a finding has been made that the proposed project is consistent with the
Comprehensive Plan in that the project is consistent with the goals and policies of the
Comprehensive Plan.

- 2. The proposed development and use does assure compatibility of property uses within the zone and general area in that this project was reviewed by various City Departments for compliance with the Zoning Ordinance.
- 3. All applicable standards and conditions have been imposed which protects the public health, safety and welfare in that this project was reviewed by various City Departments and public agencies for compliance with the various state and local regulations. Based upon that review a finding is made that the project has been adequately conditioned to protect the health, welfare and safety of the community.
- 4. There is adequate on-site and off-site public infrastructure to support the proposed development in that this project was reviewed by various public agencies and City Departments and public utilities to ensure that either the petitioner will construct or the project has been conditioned to construct adequate public infrastructure to serve the development.
- 5. The proposed development and use has met the requirements contained in the City Code in that this project was reviewed by various City Departments and the project has complied with or has been conditioned to comply with all City Code requirements.
- 6. The proposed development and use is in keeping with the scale and nature of the surrounding neighborhood in that the proposed project is consistent with the zoning designation and Comprehensive Plan which designates this site as suitable for development such as that proposed by this project.

<u>Noticing Information</u>: On July 6, 2021, notice of the July 21, 2021 Board of Adjustment Public Hearing on this project was published in the Des Moines Register. Notice of this public hearing was also mailed to all surrounding property owners within 370 feet of the subject property on July 10, 2021.

<u>Staff Recommendation And Conditions Of Approval</u>: Based upon the preceding review and a finding of consistency with the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan, and the Town Center Overlay District Guidelines, and the findings necessary for approval, staff recommends the Board of Adjustment adopt a resolution approving the Permitted Conditional Use Permit request to operate a daycare facility, subject to the applicant meeting all City Code requirements and the following:

Property Owner: Charles S. Peck

Silverwest I WDM LLC

101 University Blvd, Ste. #200

Denver, CO 80206

**Applicant(s):** Amanda Sampino

Element Hotel West Des Moines

575 S. Prairie View Drive West Des Moines, IA 50265

**ATTACHMENTS:** 

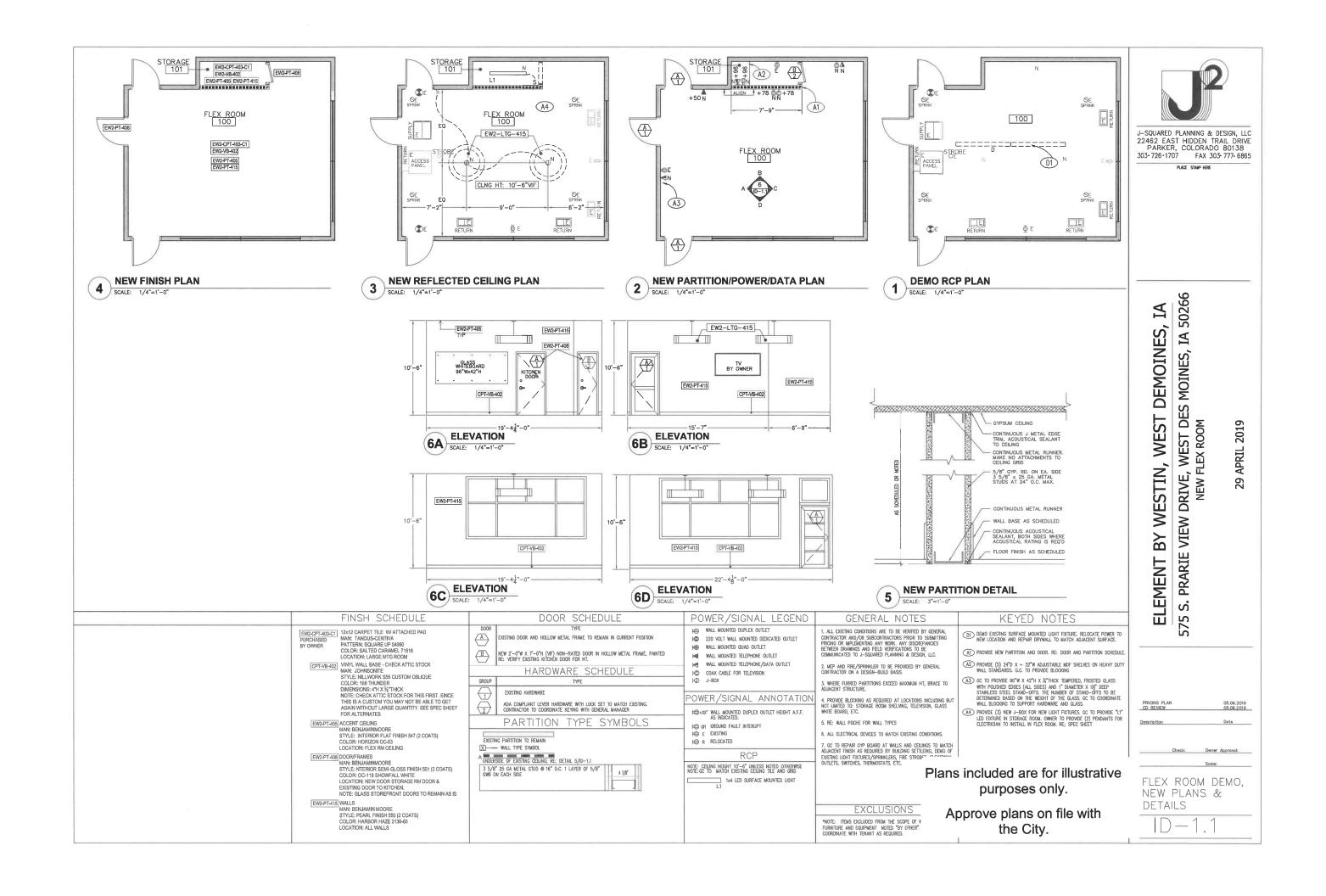
Attachment A - Location Map
Attachment B - Illustrations

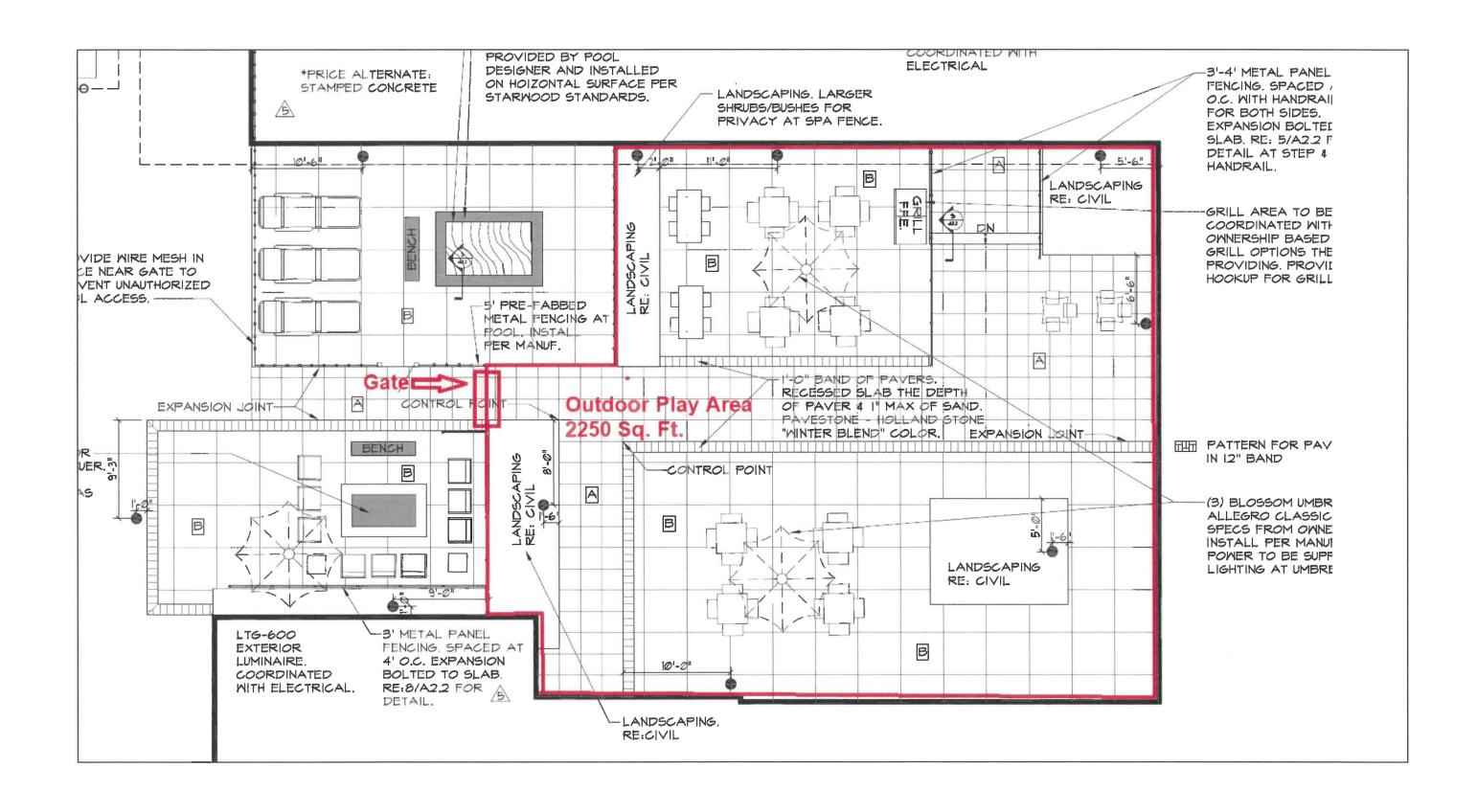
Attachment C - Applicant's Cover Letter Summarizing the Request

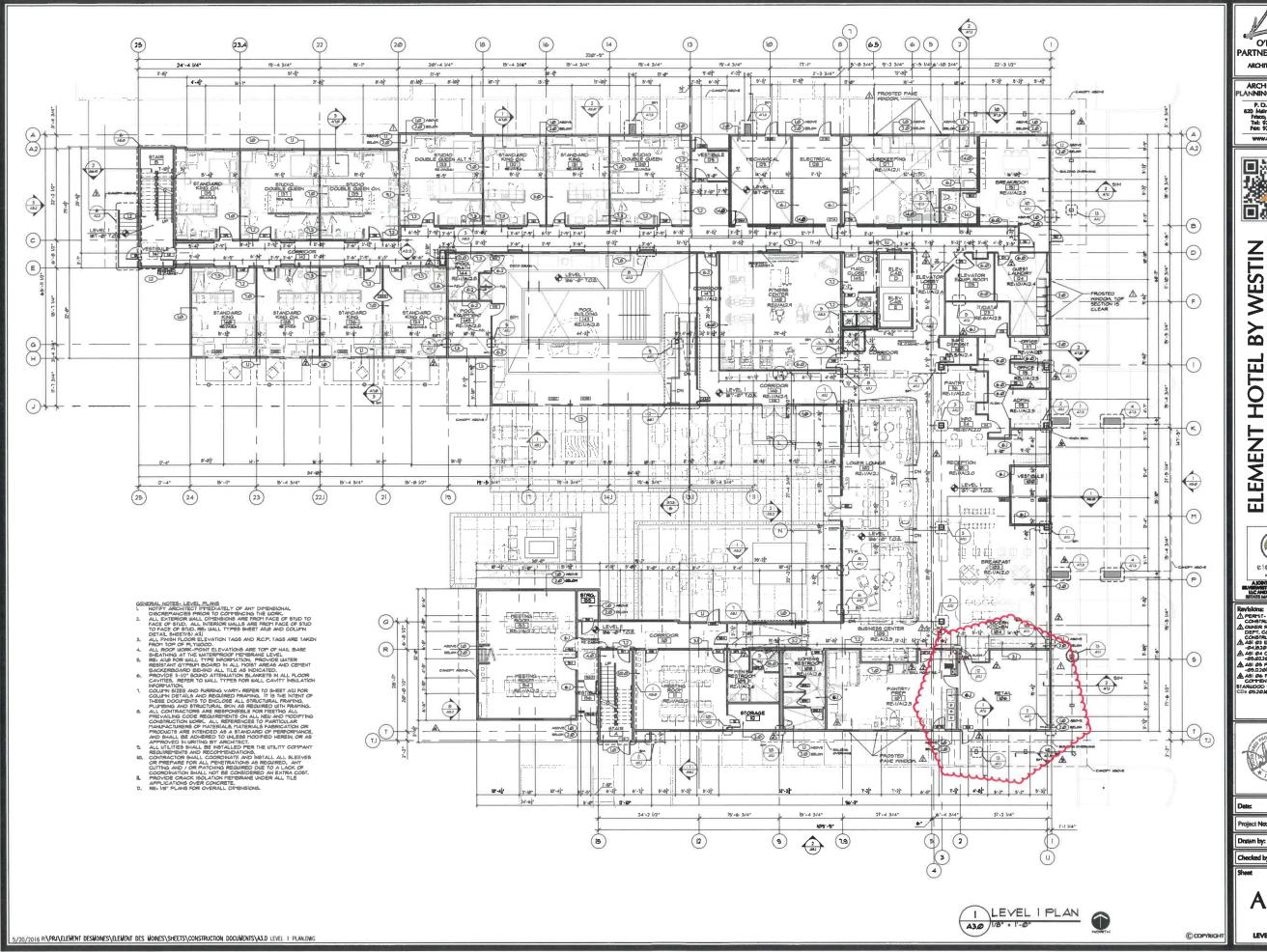
Attachment D - Board of Adjustment Resolution Exhibit A - Conditions of Approval

### **Location Map**









17 O'BRYAN PARTNERSHIP, INC.

ARCHITECTS - A.I.A.

ARCHITECTURE. P. D. Box 2773 620 Main Street, Suite 8 Frisco, CO 80443 Tel: 970,658,1133 Fate: 970,658,2316





VILLAGE OF PONDEROSA WEST DES MOINES, IOWA BY HOTEL



Revisions:

A PERTIT FOR
CONSTRUCTION 03:0316

A CHAPTER REVISION 03:0316

CONSTRUCTION 03:0316

A CONSTRUCTION 04:05

A CONSTRUCTION 05:05

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LEVEL 1 PLAN

### **Applicant's Cover Letter**



Element West Des Moines
575 South Prartie View Drive
West Des Maines, Iowa 50266
Tel 515-661-4345
http://www.elementwestdesmaines.com

We are submitting this request for a conditional use permit to allow us to lease a retail space to operate as a daycare center within our hotel. We have a vacant space which was developed in 2019 as for use as a meeting room, but we are looking to repurpose the space for a better use in the current post-COVID climate.

As I am sure that you are aware the hospitality industry suffered greatly in 2020 due to the dramatic drop in travel across the country. We are happy to say that we were able to bring all of our staff back to full time almost immediately in 2020 after the low point in April and May, and have had very good retention numbers for our team members. We have done everything that we can to take care of our staff during these challenging times and this day care center is the next step for us.

Our intent with this retail space within our building is to lease the space to a company or certified individual to run a daycare facility with the intent of providing daycare at an affordable and deeply discounted rate for our employees at the hotel, as well as to outside individuals. We have many of our team members who are struggling to find affordable child care with the challenges around modifications to school schedules as well as the state wide shortage of facilities, and we would like to help meet this need.

We are located in the Village of Ponderosa, between the residential housing development and several businesses. We feel that a daycare would fit well in this area as both individuals in the residential development and employees of businesses nearby would find value in this service. Given this information we believe that the proposed use for this space would be compatible with the uses within our zone and current area.

The space proposed for this daycare center is a little over 400 sq. ft., which limits the number of children in the space to under a dozen. We anticipate 6 of these potentially available daycare slots being taken up by our team members on any given day. This means that relatively few additional outside vehicles will be traveling Prairie View Drive in order to reach this business. Because of this we believe that there is already adequate on and off site public infrastructure to support the proposed use and that it is in keeping with the scale and nature of the surrounding neighborhood.

We have had the Fire Marshall out to inspect the proposed space for us for this use and the initial findings have been good, showing that all applicable standards and conditions have been met which protect the public health, safety, and welfare. We have also had a Community Development Specialist with the Des Moines Department of Human Services come out to provide input on the proposed project so that we can ensure that the space will work for the intended use and these findings have also been very positive.

After having reviewed the code we believe that this proposal has met all of the requirements listed therein, and that this proposed use is consistent with the West Des Moines comprehensive plan and applicable subarea plans. We do hope that your findings will be consistent with this and that you feel our community and employees will all benefit from this proposal.

Amanda Sampino

General Manager

Element West Des Moines
Element West Des Moines is in pursuit of Green Globe certification.

Made from 100% postconsumer waste

Prepared by: B. Johnson West Des Moines Development Services, PO Box 65320 West Des Moines IA 50265, 515-222-3620 When Recorded, Return to: City Clerk, City of West Des Moines PO Box 65320 West Des Moines IA 50265-0320

#### **RESOLUTION BOA-2021-09**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF THE CITY OF WEST DES MOINES, APPROVING A PERMITTED CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (PC-005233-2021) TO ALLOW DAYCARE OPERATIONS LOCATED AT 575 S. PRAIRIE VIEW DRIVE

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Title 9, Chapter 1 et seq, of the West Des Moines Municipal Code, the applicant, Amanda Sampino, with permission from the owner, Silverwest I WDM LLC, has requested approval of a Permitted Conditional Use permit to operate a daycare located at 575 S. Prairie View Drive, and legally described as follows:

LOT 37 THE VILLAGE OF PONDEROSA, AN OFFICIAL PLAT NOW IN AND FORMING A PART OF THE CITY OF WEST DES MOINES, POLK COUNTY, IOWA.

**WHEREAS**, studies and investigations were made, and staff reports and recommendations were submitted which is made a part of this record and herein incorporated by reference;

**WHEREAS,** on July 21, 2021, the Board of Adjustment held a duly-noticed public hearing to consider the application for Permitted Conditional Use Permit (PC-005233-2021);

**NOW, THEREFORE,** THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF THE CITY OF WEST DES MOINES DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>SECTION 1</u>. The findings, for approval, in the staff report, dated July 21, 2021, or as amended orally at the Board of Adjustment hearing of July 21, 2021, are adopted.

SECTION 2. PERMITTED CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (PC-005233-2021) is approved, subject to compliance with all the conditions in the staff report, dated July 21, 2021, including conditions added at the Hearing, and attached hereto as Exhibit "A", if any. Violation of any such conditions shall be grounds for revocation of the entitlement, as well as any other remedy which is available to the City.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on July 21, 2021

Michele Stevens, Chairperson	
Board of Adjustment	

ATTEST:	
Recording Secretary	
I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing the City of West Des Moines, Iowa, at a regular	resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Adjustment for meeting held on July 21, 2021, by the following vote:
AYES: NAYS: ABSTAIN: ABSENT:	
ATTEST:	
1	
Recording Secretary	

## Exhibit A CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

1. None.