

Saint Alphonsus proposes small hospital next to Whole Foods

Saint Alphonsus Health System proposes building a two-story, 18,215-square-foot hospital on the Myrtle Street vacant lot next to Whole Foods in downtown Boise, according to a June 27 submission to Boise Planning & Development Services.

The application for a conditional-use permit describes a small hospital with eight exam rooms, eight inpatient beds and an imaging department with X-ray and CT scan, according to the proposal prepared by Kimley-Horn & Associates, a Salt Lake City design consulting firm.

Saint Alphonsus is in the process of building another neighborhood hospital on the parking lot next to its former Nampa hospital on 12th Avenue to continue serving the south side of Nampa after the opening of the new Saint Alphonsus Medical Center — Nampa — I84 & Garrity.

Saint Alphonsus is building the downtown Boise neighborhood hospital within five short blocks of the flagship St. Luke's Boise Medical Center and within four blocks of a Primary Health Medical Group urgent care center.

This 7.04-acre lot it chose has resisted development since Whole Foods was first announced in 2007. A developer proposed a 17-story hotel and condo tower that was scaled back to seven stories in 2008 and eliminated by 2010 at the depth of the recession.

The same developer, Schlosser Development of Austin, Texas, in 2011 filed a drawing with Boise Planning & Development Services for a 12-story office building with eight floors office, three floors parking and retail on ground floor for the land between Whole Foods and Myrtle Street. That plan never proceeded.

Then in August 2015, Ram Development of Charlotte, N.C., proposed building a five-story, 106-room hotel for that lot but withdrew the proposal a couple months later.

Even with all those proposals, the Myrtle Street lot is zoned R-ODD residential office. Saint Alphonsus and its joint-venture partner Emerus are seeking a conditional use permit to allow for a hospital.

PhiloWilke Partnership of Houston is the architect.

Saint Alphonsus did not have more details about the downtown Boise neighborhood hospital itself.

“While it’s still quite early in the planning process at this point, there are a few details I can provide you,” Saint Alphonsus spokesman Josh Schlaich said. “For context, a neighborhood hospital is a new approach to providing convenient, expedient access to emergency services and short-stay, low-acuity inpatient beds for a local neighborhood.”

Schlaich continued that the neighborhood hospital will have 24/7 emergency access and will assist in the growing number of patients in the emergency room at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center on Curtis Road.

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Saint Alphonsus has no downtown Boise health care center now. Saint Alphonsus has six hospitals in Idaho and Oregon, five outpatient health plazas and 12 urgent care centers across the Treasure Valley.

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