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Assisted living center gets OK

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The Wilmont Drive area adjacent to Jackson Park will be home to a new assisted living facility as the Hendersonville Planning Board greenlighted the project Monday. The board approved a land development plan map amendment for an 11-acre section of property at 240 Wilmont Drive that changes the zoning designation from medium density residential and conservation/agricultural/residential to medium density residential. The change is to allow for the construction of Phase I of Alternative Continuum of Care, an 82-unit independent living facility, said Stu LaRose, with eppstein uhen: architects, a Wisconsin architecture firm. A medium density designation allows apartment or group-type dwellings, said City Planning Director Sue Anderson, who presented the project to the board at its October meeting. Phase II of the project is a 50-unit skilled nursing facility, LaRose said. The project site, located at Wilmont Drive and Tracey Grove Road, is currently a cow pasture with large amounts of acreage that will be preserved in its natural state, he added. "There are 137 acres overall including some wetlands, with 27 developable acres," he said. "We will come back to the board in the future to ask for a special use permit in order to build the facilities and we're required to have 65 percent of the property as open space to get that permit, but we will far exceed that amount. About 79 to 80 percent of this project will be green space." Land not being used for agriculture may be given a residential designation provided that city water and sewer is available, Anderson said. Infrastructure for Phase I of Alternative Continuum of Care is expected to begin in early spring 2008, LaRose said. In other business: • Board members elected Planning Board Vice-Chairman Steve Orr as chairman of the board, replacing Erica Allison, who resigned from the board last month. Orr has served on the city planning board since 2002 as the Henderson County Commission's appointee member. He is a Real Estate Administrator with Kenmure, Inc. in Flat Rock. • Board members elected new board member Ron Stephens as vice-chairman of the board. Stephens, a local Realtor, served on the city planning board from 2001-2002 before being elected to the Hendersonville City Council. He served on the city council for four years from 2002 to 2005. City planning board members serve three-year terms.

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