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Apartments proposed for city's north side

BY ROD ROSE
The Lebanon Reporter

A 62-unit "campus-style" apartment complex is being proposed for a 9-acre site on Lebanon's north side.

The complex will be built by the NPR Group LLC, a Cleveland, Ohio-based developer.

Mary Hada, an assistant developer for the company, told the Lebanon City Council Monday the location was "perfect for our product."

Rezoning of the land must be approved by the council. No action was taken Monday because of legal advertising requirements, Mayor Huck Lewis said.

The land is west of Indiana 39 and north of County Road 250 N, in a rectangle that stretches nearly to the CSX rail line bisecting Lebanon.

The site is now zoned for agriculture. South of the property are several homes, a church and a bank.

NPR will build no more than 62 apartments; none can be taller than 20 feet.

City planner Alex Koenig said in a report the project "would serve as a suitable transition from more intense uses" near Ind. 39 and residential properties to the west.

Charlie Campbell, director of planning and zoning, said the Lebanon Plan Commission unanimously approved NPR's rezoning request at an Oct. 19 meeting.

A similar project is being built in Noblesville, Hada said.

The LPC also approved expansion of Meadow Wing, a duplex subdivision east of the CSX rail line.

ALSO MONDAY:

■ Campbell said Menards has been given a two-year extension of approval for a hardware, lumber and houseware store between Interstate 65 and Sam Ralston Road, south of Prairie Creek.

Plans for the store, to be Menard's largest central Indiana location, were approved in March 2008. Approval of a project's development plan expire after two years.

■ Campbell hinted that his department might increase enforcement of the city's junk vehicle ordinance.

"It doesn't matter if it's on a driveway or (in) a backyard," Campbell said; vehicles that are either unlicensed or don't run are not allowed within the city limits.

It is becoming "more and more difficult" to keep on top of the number of junk vehicles, Campbell said.