



Attachment #13
Committee and Consultation Summary

Attachment 13: Committee and Consultation Summary

City Led Consultation

City-Led Consultation (CLC) was conducted in the form of an on-line survey from March 15 to April 5, 2023 through the City's BeHeard New West website. 70 responses were received with 48 (68.6%) indicating support for the project (support of some-what support) and another 4.3% indicating they were neutral.

68.6% of respondents were residents living in the area near the proposed development, 22.9% lived in another neighbourhood and there was one response from an owner/operator of nearby business.

A number of written responses were received from the survey and staff have noted the following themes within those responses, in no particular order:

- Concerns regarding noise and impacts during construction;
- Support for addition of Public Open/Green Space;
- Support for City-owned indoor community space;
- Desire for reconciliation based programming for interior amenity space;
- Concerns regarding requested parking reductions;
- Support bike parking increases/access
- Ensuring bike room provides electrical connections for e-bike charging and opportunities for scooter and other mobility device storage. *Staff note: Applicant has confirmed both would be provided.*
- Concerns regarding building height and density;
- Concerns regarding school capacity;
- Support densification in the downtown proximate to transit;
- Support rental housing;
- Desire for increased rental affordability within the project and for additional family friendly housing requirements;
- Concerns regarding the length of application review process;
- Concerns regarding removal of temporary off-leash dog area *Staff note: Staff are currently working to consider relocation of the dog off-leash area within the Downtown neighbourhood on both a temporary and a permanent basis.*
- *with the developer to relocate the dog off-leash area within the Downtown neighbourhood. The timeline for relocation is not yet determined.*

Applicant Led Consultation

Applicant-led consultation has spanned both the previous and current iteration of the proposal.

Two-applicant-led open houses were held in combination with consultation on the design of the adjacent community park space. These events were held on January 31 and May 16, 2018 at the Holy Trinity Cathedral (514 Carnarvon St).

Feedback regarding this version of the proposal received was generally positive with some concerns expressed regarding views from adjacent buildings and the removal of existing trees on-site.

Following the transfer of the application to the new applicant, while the general site plan remained the same as previously proposed, there were some revisions included to accommodate secured market housing. Considering these changes and the time which had passed since the previous engagement, the applicant re-engaged with key stakeholders in the community. This re-engagement included:

- Downtown Residents' Association (In Person July 6, 2022)
- Downtown New Westminster Business Improvement Area (Online Meeting November 7, 2022)
- Business canvassing (November 28, 2022)
- New Westminster Chamber of Commerce (Online Meeting December 14, 2022)
- HUB New Westminster HUB Cycling Committee
- Email updates to Chinese Canadian organizations involved in community park design

The applicant's summary document (Attachment 10) indicates that there was general support for the proposal from engaged stakeholders. Some key comments from the engagement include:

- Downtown New West Business Improvement Area noted there may be development fatigue with businesses and residents.
- In direct engagement with businesses some businesses close to the site felt they would be impacted by construction.

New Westminster Design Panel Review

The application was presented to the New Westminster Design Panel (NWDP) on June 28, 2022. After reviewing the proposal and providing comments, the Committee expressed its general support for the project to proceed.

The minutes of the July, 2022 meeting are accessible on the City's website at:

<https://pub-newwestcity.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=936a4947-13c8-4313-a351-67816be2f8ac&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English>

Applicant Response and Revisions

Throughout the application review process, there have been a number of revisions to the proposals, including some of the following key revisions:

- Focus on cycling infrastructure including bike entrance, facilities and additional secured parking/storage;
- The applicant has committed to working with the City on a construction management plan with Building Permit submission to mitigate the impacts of construction on near-by residents and businesses;
- Redesign to be compliant with BC Energy Step Code Level 2 with pilot electrified low carbon energy system;
- Relocated and redesigned main building entrance;
- Parkade revisions to accommodate greater soil depths for tree planting and setbacks for sidewalk/boulevard on Blackie Street;
- Parkade and site design revisions to reduce conflicts of vehicles, garbage and loading with the pedestrian sidewalk along Victoria Street; and
- Confirmation of charging facilities for electric bikes and that scooters and other mobility devices could be accommodated;

A summary report of the City-Led Consultation responses is included in Attachment 11.