

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
"Krishna, Kaye" <Kaye.Krishna@vancouver.ca>
"Kelley, Gil" <Gil.Kelley@vancouver.ca>
Date: 11/19/2018 6:04:24 PM
Subject: Notre Dame Secondary School - development permit

Dear Mayor and Council,

Many of you have received correspondence from residents living near the Notre Dame Regional Secondary School, located at 2880 Venables St, with regard to their concerns about the school's proposed amendments to an existing development permit. This email serves to provide you more context on the situation and to provide an update on the school's amendment request.

Notre Dame Regional Secondary School applied for a Minor Amendment on February 9, 2018 to revise their approved Development Permit issued in 2008. The original approval included the construction of a grass turf playing field, bleachers and a parking area. The Minor Amendment requested to modify the original approval in the following ways:

1. Change the grass turf to artificial turf;
2. Reposition the location of the garbage and recycling storage area within the existing/approved parking area;
3. Removal of the planned wheelchair ramp, replacing it with an accessible viewing platform.

Unfortunately, around the same time, Notre Dame updated their website site in such a way as to suggest that a 2,000 seat stadium was being proposed, along with lighting, and the expectations of large crowds for sporting and other events. These elements are NOT included in the current permit amendment request and would require a separate permit application to consider such changes, which would also require a new public notification process. This information has now been removed from the Notre Dame School website.

Because of the confusion caused by the school's website, we have received concerns from the neighbourhood regarding the changes being proposed to the school, most of which reflect the misinformation from the site, not the actual scope of the currently proposed amendments. Some of these concerns included: parking, noise levels, an increase in traffic, loss of trees, lighting and general concern that a stadium was being proposed for the site.

The School has provided an Operational Letter to clarify the use of the playing field. This specifies that there are no lights proposed for the playing field, the field will be used by the school during the day for physical education classes and intramural school sports. The school sports teams will use the field throughout the year, and during the summer months the school will use it as it runs a number of day camps. Any use of the field will need to comply with the terms of the City of Vancouver's Noise Bylaw 6555.

Staff are currently in the process of reviewing the permit amendment request. As part of the review staff have received feedback from the community and are considering their concerns around tree retention, traffic management, and other potential issues as part of the review. Some of the neighbours have questioned the time gap between the approval of the original development permit, and the submission of the proposed amendment, suggesting that a new public consultation is necessary. This type of amendment would not typically trigger a new public consultation process.

Please let me or Kaye Krishna know if you have questions about this issue.

Many thanks,
Paul

Paul Mochrie | Deputy City Manager
City of Vancouver | 453 W 12th Avenue
Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4



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