

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
"Kelley, Gil" <Gil.Kelley@vancouver.ca>
"Dobrovolny, Jerry" <jerry.dobrovolny@vancouver.ca>
"Law, Andrea" <andrea.law@vancouver.ca>

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Subject: Notre Dame Secondary School - development permit application

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

In light of the neighbourhood interest and outreach to members of Council on this matter, I am writing to provide you with an update on the outcome of Notre Dame's application to develop a playing field on the school property at 2880 Venables St.

As summarized in the memo you received from Gil Kelley on May 27, 2019, the school applied for an amendment to a permit originally issued in 2008. The requested amendments included substitution of the grass playing surface with an artificial all-weather field, removal of poplar trees along one side of the site, replacement of a wheelchair ramp with an accessible viewing platform and relocation of garbage/recycling storage within the planned parking area.

The above changes were initially requested as a minor amendment to the existing DP however, based on feedback from neighbours, the City required the applicant to undertake a consultation process with the community. Additionally, Mr. Kelley referred the matter to the DP Board for decision and thereby provided interested members of the public with the opportunity to directly address the Board regarding the application.

The DP Board heard the application on Monday afternoon (June 10, 2019). As Gil Kelley and Jerry Dobrovolny were in attendance at the Council briefing session scheduled concurrent with the hearing, they were represented on the Board by Theresa O'Donnell and Cheryl Nelms, respectively. I sat as the third member of the Board.

The Board heard from 28 members of the public regarding the application, with a slight majority speaking in opposition. Points of concern for those opposed included the potential for the school to hold large events at the field, the prospect of floodlighting, the loss of poplar trees on the west side of the site to accommodate the field construction, traffic impacts and the installation of artificial turf.

In considering these issues, as well as the range of submissions in favour of the application, the Board took note of the detailed permit conditions as recommended by staff. Those conditions include an explicit exclusion of floodlights from the approved scope of work, an obligation to replace the lost poplar trees with a species that is more robust and suited to the context, and clear restrictions on the use of the field to school sports events, rentals to community sports organizations for practice sessions and periodic larger neighbourhood events where authorized under special events permits.

The application was approved unanimously on the basis of the recommended conditions.

Please let me or Gil know if you require any additional information regarding this matter.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie | Deputy City Manager
Office of the City Manager | City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca
604.873.7666



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.