

NORTH PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Community Association Land Use Committee (CALUC) Meeting **June 7, 2017**

Present:

Board members: Pam Hartling, Christopher Fleming, Penny Bond,

Members: Michael Rowe, Lori Nielson, Anne Moon, Stacey Ness, Anthony Colyn, Julie Poskitt, Gillian Hurwood (Girl Guide House), Jim Harlick (represented by proxy Steve Blumberg)

Guests: Curtis Knichel, Tommy Ngo, Jim Aalders (HDR CEI Architecture); Carly Abrahams, Biki Kang (Kang & Gill Construction); Rajinder Sahota (Method Built Homes); Kevin DeCoste, Lucy Poskitt, Michele Blumberg, Steve Blumberg, Helene Beaudvin, Holly Rockery, Nona Dyck

Call to Order: Christopher Fleming, NPNA CALUC Co-chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Process:

This meeting will present two land use proposals, with one hour allotted to each. The developer will present the proposal, then the floor will be open for questions and discussion. The NPNA secretary will record the minutes of the meeting. After the conclusion of the meeting, NPNA's Land Use Committee will write a separate letter to the City for each proposal reporting on decisions and recommendations from the meeting; the minutes will accompany this letter. The NPNA letters and minutes will be sent to all NPNA members and to those who were guests at the meeting.

Based on the conclusions from the meeting, the developer would send modified plans to the City.

Individuals who have particular opinions about the development proposal may send their own letters to the City.

A. Proposal:

926 - 932 Pandora Ave. — Kang & Gill Construction; HDR CEI Architecture Associates

1. Presentation

- The Pandora Ave. side of the proposal is for the maximum height permitted by the Official Community Plan (OCP):
 - 30 m. on Pandora Ave. (10 storeys); 20 m. on Mason St. (six storeys)
- Current zoning is CA-1 (up to 15.5 m. or 5 storeys); OCP supports up to 10 storeys. This development, as planned, would create a site specific zone.
- There are 147 units: studio; several versions of 1-bedroom; 2-bedroom; and 3-bedroom to level 8.
- Level 9 has a common rooftop garden.

- Levels 9 and 10 have the larger suites.
- Floor to space ratio (FSR) is 4.78
- There will be maintenance of good light and view for everybody.
- Plan includes better street right of way on Mason St.
- Five townhouses on Mason St. respond to same landscape as existing houses on the north side of the street. Townhouses are two storeys with patio and second floor balcony.
- Building mass is broken up into three components of differing configuration.
- There is a strict set of rules. The developer is working with City Planning.
- Building is L-shaped with a courtyard on Mason St., heights stepping back from six to 10 storeys from Mason towards Pandora.
 - Main entrance on Mason St. has landscaping, courtyard.
 - Secondary access to entry lobby by exterior walkway from Pandora Ave.
 - Common amenity room for all tenants adjacent to entry lobby.
- Bylaw dictates that traffic access and egress must be on the less busy street, which is Mason St.
- Underground parking is on two levels with 81 residential stalls; seven commercial.
- First floor is commercial space.
- Coloured glass on outer aspect of west side stairwell echoes stained glass in the many churches in the area.
- There will be a direct access point to the Pandora bike lane.

2. Q&A

Q: Is the building all strata?

A: Yes.

Q: Does it include low cost accommodation?

A: Not at this point.

Q: Shadowing of Mason St. is a concern. How much shadow will fall on the north side of the street?

A: A shadow study was done and will be made available.

Q: The building is “monstrously tall”. It will negatively affect quality of life of the houses on Mason St. Shadow, noise, night-time deliveries are great concerns.

A: Commercial loading zone, including garbage collection, is in place on Pandora. The plan is to maintain a quiet, pleasant atmosphere.

Q: Traffic flow is a major concern in the vicinity of St. John’s Church. There is a fear of being clogged with cars. Additionally, access off Mason St. removes the “eyes on

the street” on the Pandora side, which is a sociological concern. People who live in the building should have a connection to Pandora Ave.

A: Commercial activity all day, and the height of the units will provide eyes on the street. People who live or do business in the building are more likely to travel southward towards Pandora and downtown, rather than away from Pandora.

Q: Drug activity nearby is a concern.

A: The building is solidly commercial on ground level, which should prevent activity from sprawling across Pandora. Our Place is good about engaging and working with the developers.

Q: What impact will the building have on the neighbourhood during construction, in terms of noise, dust, etc? This already is a problem with current construction in the next block.

A: The developers are doing their best to control this aspect of construction. They will try to keep the bulk of the work towards Pandora, not Mason. Due to many factors, it is hard to know when construction will start. The proposal requires full re-zoning, requiring public hearing, so it may take some time for approval of the project.

Q: Does it have to be built to the maximum height?

A: Zoning is in place but looking at the OCP, development is supported for up to 10 storeys. Looking at the long-term vision, there likely will be further development with maximum allowable height all along this block of Pandora. The developer is trying to be sensitive to Mason St. by stepping the height. They will do shadow studies of both the current and proposed heights.

Comment: Victoria Conservatory of Music (VCM) is appreciative of developers looking to improve the neighbourhood. VCM is supportive of these plans.

Q: What materials will be used?

A: Glass, brick on lower floors, south-facing metal screens, wood soffit (overhang). There is an effort to complement the VCM stone.

Q: What will be the impact on the street itself on the Mason St. side?

A: No changes at the stop signs. The street will be widened. There is no talk of changing the parking limits.

B. Proposal

953 Balmoral Rd. — Method Built Homes

This proposal originally was presented to NPNA on July 28, 2016.

1. Original Proposal: