

Mayor and Council
Nov. 23, 2017

Re 515 Foul Bay Road Proposal

This development proposal unduly challenges provincial and municipal laws governing endangered species, such as Garry Oaks.

Please see Attachment for explanations. It is important to consider further the science around removing trees, especially with climate change coming. The Arborist Report itself contains serious concerns.

I cannot be sure to make the meeting tonight, as I have a CALUC meeting for a house on my street. You may contact me for more information.

Please: 1) Turn this plan down, or, at least, ask for more scientific information before deciding and 2) Plan a new policy of keeping trees in new developments.

Mary E. Doody Jones

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ATTACHMENT RE THE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL FOR 515 FOUL BAY ROAD

LEGAL/ETHICAL: THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT AND DESIGNATIONS

The province's Environmental Protection Act governs the safety for Garry Oaks. These, once plentiful, are now found in a limited number of clusters, such as Foul Bay Road..

The agenda's arborist report: mentions:

- 50 assessed trees, and, of these taken out 19, (nearly two-fifths),
- 12 designated trees and 11 Garry Oaks to be removed, with 24 bylaw replacement trees.

Points to be noticed:

- The number of lost designated trees and oaks creates a lack of ability to keep any tree safe.
- So many removals are against the law and bylaw's spirit, as ethically wrong at least.
- Trees act as carbon sinks, so the removals release the carbon out. again.
- Three new houses with pavements cause three times removals and building process disturbance.
- If this proposal passes, it will be a large precedent for similar losses happening elsewhere.
- "Endangered" means "in danger of gone forever," so saving oaks is the priority.

SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

"The arborist (under Heritage in the agenda) states that "one of the principle design objectives is to preserve the mature trees and character,,". " Yet the report cautiously gives warnings, which added together bring a worrying undertone:

- The home construction and blasting as well as installation of utility services...may impact the retained trees," so mitigation work is needed. . "
- The anticipation is "that the remaining mature trees may be negatively affected over time. "
- :Rocky formations make " achieving planting sites for the replacements challenging."
- On adjacent private properties 14 trees (4 bylaw protected,) were also noted as "potentially being impacted by the construction process of the 3 single-family homes."

So many "mays" do not refer to the scientific research on removals weakening the area. Geophysicist Dr. Trevor Lewis ,on the Nobel-awarded International Panel on Climate Change, concluded in a report:

- Removal of trees causes the temperature of the soil around to rise.
- Summer is the worst time when more water evaporates.

In view of these facts, we should be careful since:

- Climate change could accelerate heat, so what is done now could accelerate damage.
- Stabilizing actions for buildings and paving restrict water access.
- There will very likely be an area around the site, with dying trees.

Wouldn't the replants could also be affected? Isn't the city responsible to the neighbours to keep their trees ? Do the neighbours have the right to look to the city for compensation?

Tree designations, endangered Garry Oaks and other magnificent trees, here and in the area around, should not sacrificed for 3 expensive houses and 5 short-term (even if at lower rates) rentals.

Mary E. Doody Jones



June 18, 2019

Mayor and Council
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC

Re: 515 Foul Bay Road - Rezoning Application No. 00675 and Development Permit Application No. 00084 (Gonzales)

We support the development permit application for 515 Foul Bay Road. As you know, Abkhazi Garden is situated adjacent to this property. The fencing that separates this property from Abkhazi Garden is in disrepair and needs to be fully replaced. We would respectfully ask that the owner be made aware of this, and that a contribution is made to make these necessary repairs.

The fencing is critically important to the Garden, as the deer in the neighbourhood can cause significant damage. We appreciate that the area adjacent to the fence on the subject property will be protected with a conservation covenant, and that this beautiful landscape will be preserved.

Sincerely,

Cathy Armstrong
Executive Director
TLC, The Land Conservancy of BC
302 Denison Road, Victoria V8S 5L8

Board of Directors: Briony Penn • Frances Pugh • Andrew Stewart • Marika Smith
Mel Lehan • Fred Newhouse • Lori Roter • Fran Sloan Sainas • Tom Watson

PO Box 50054, RPO Fairfield Plaza, Victoria, BC V8S 5L8
Phone: 250-479-8053 Fax: 250-744-2251 conservancy.bc.ca