



Committee of the Whole Report For the Meeting of August 3, 2017

To: Committee of the Whole

Date: July 21, 2017

From: Jonathan Tinney, Director, Sustainable Planning and Community Development

Subject: Development Permit with Variances Application No. 000488 for 1068 Chamberlain Street

RECOMMENDATION

That Council after giving notice and allowing an opportunity for public comment at a meeting of Council and after the Public Hearing for Rezoning Application No. 00541, if it is approved, consider the following motion:

"That Council authorize the issuance of Development Permit with Variances Application No. 000488 for 1068 Chamberlain Street, in accordance with:

1. Plans date stamped July 14, 2017.
2. Development meeting all *Zoning Regulation Bylaw* requirements, except for the following variances:
 - i. allow parking in the front yard
 - ii. increase the maximum combined floor area on the first and second floor 280m² to 359.8m²
 - iii. reduce the minimum rear yard setback 12.78m to 10.26m
3. The Development Permit lapsing two years from the date of this resolution.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

In accordance with Section 489 of the *Local Government Act*, Council may issue a Development Permit in accordance with the applicable guidelines specified in the *Official Community Plan*, 2012 (OCP). A Development Permit may vary or supplement the *Zoning Regulation Bylaw* but may not vary the use or density of the land from that specified in the Bylaw.

Pursuant to Section 491 of the *Local Government Act*, where the purpose of the designation is the establishment of objectives for the form and character of intensive residential development, a Development Permit may include requirements respecting the character of the development including landscaping, and the siting, form, exterior design and finish of buildings and other structures.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present Council with information, analysis and recommendations for a Development Permit with Variances Application for the property located at 1068 Chamberlain Street. The proposal is to permit an addition of one unit onto an existing detached house with secondary suite. With the new addition, the lot would have a duplex with secondary suite. The variances are related to parking location, increasing combined floor area on the first and second floor, and reducing the rear yard setback.

The following points were considered in assessing this application:

- the proposal is generally consistent with the *Neighbourliness Guidelines for Duplexes* as it is in scale with the adjacent buildings, with street fronting entrances, however, a modern roofline has been proposed for the addition for differentiation and energy efficiency
- consistency with many of the goals in the *Gonzales Neighbourhood Community Plan, 2002* with regards to retaining existing housing and secondary suites, and additions that fit with the scale of the neighbourhood
- the variances related to parking location, increasing combined floor area on the first and second floor, and reducing the rear yard setback are supportable. The existing parking location in the front yard conforms in the current zone; however, it is not allowed in the standard R-2 Two Family Dwelling District Zone. The increased rear yard setback would allow for a private deck. The increase in combined floor area is supportable in that it takes into account the secondary suite, and the overall area of the lot is larger than the minimum size required for two-family dwelling zoning
- duplexes with secondary suites are not permitted within current Zoning Bylaw nor envisioned in the OCP; however, the proposal is supportable when taking into consideration design, housing, sustainability and other objectives in the OCP.

BACKGROUND

Description of Proposal

This proposal is to alter an existing single family dwelling with a secondary suite to create a duplex with a secondary suite.

Specific details include:

- Passive House
- Renovation of existing house and an addition
- Contrasting, contemporary addition with flat roofline
- Cedar siding and stucco
- Street-fronting entries
- Permeable paving on driveway
- Semi-private outdoor space for each unit, with fence separating rear yards
- Improved street relationship through plantings that are more welcoming to street.

Sustainability Features

As indicated in the applicant's letter dated July 20, 2017 the following sustainability features are associated with this application. These features include:

- Building retention and re-use of a residential building
- Designed with Passive House principles
- Building envelope highly insulated and airtight
- High efficiency heat recovery ventilators
- LED lighting
- Solar panels.

The applicant intends on achieving Passive House Certification. A Section 219 Covenant was declined and instead, the applicant proposed to provide the City with a letter from a Passive House reviewer at Design Stage Review indicating that the building will achieve certification provided it is constructed as designed.

Active Transportation Impacts

The application proposes Class 1 (secure, indoor) bike parking for residents and tenants.

Public Realm Improvements

No public realm improvements are proposed in association with this Development Permit with Variances Application.

Accessibility Impact Statement

The British Columbia Building Code regulates accessibility as it pertains to buildings.

ANALYSIS

Development Permit Area and Design Guidelines

The proposal is generally consistent with the design guidelines in the *Neighbourliness Guidelines for Duplexes*; however, it is not consistent with the uses allowed, as it includes a secondary suite.

The design of the existing house and new addition is in scale with the existing houses along Chamberlain Street. It creates a gentle transition from the single family home to the South, to the walk-up townhouse building to the North. The height of the existing house is being slightly raised to accommodate a more liveable basement suite. Visual interest along the front has been added through varying façade articulations, with the front of the building broken up into small parts creating the illusion of a smaller building. The flat roofline on the addition is not consistent with the design guidelines in that it is in sharp contrast to the existing house; however, the modern design does help break up the building face and differentiates the addition from the original structure. The front yard will be landscaped to a more open design to improve the relationship to the street. Front entrances to all three units will be oriented toward the street, each with porches and overhangs. Windows have been minimized on both sides to reduce overlook concerns. Private outdoor space at the rear of the building will be associated with each of the duplex units, and a private sunken patio at the rear for the secondary suite.

Notwithstanding a secondary suite not being permitted in a two family dwelling, the proposal is generally consistent with the *Secondary Suite Design Guidelines*. The existing garage door is being refinished as the entrance, creating an entrance at the front of the building. The house is being raised 0.8m to create a higher ceiling height in the basement. Windows at ground level will have a fence adjacent, helping to bring light while also providing privacy for the neighbours. The secondary suite will have a private outdoor space in the rear yard, as well as, access to a bike room. The sunken entrance and patio will have a protective awning to clearly delineate the suite.

Gonzales Neighbourhood Community Plan

The *Gonzales Neighbourhood Community Plan* considers additions in scale with existing buildings. This lot would be an appropriate transition between the walk-up townhouses to the North, and single family dwelling to the South. Additionally, the Plan encourages renovating existing housing stock to keep character, while allowing design diversity in new development. This proposal renovates a 100-year old house, and a modern addition in scale with the neighbourhood. Front yard parking is allowed in Gonzales for single family dwellings; however, not for two-family dwelling district or attached dwelling. That being said, the proposal uses the existing front yard parking configuration, while improving the street relationship by bringing the driveway to at-grade, and adding landscape screening to reduce the visual impact.

Regulatory Considerations

The proposed variances are related to maximum combined floor area, minimum rear yard setback, and parking location.

The maximum combined floor area permitted in the R-2 Zone is 280m². The proposed combined floor area would be 359.8m². This increase is due to the addition of a secondary suite of 51.61m² which makes up 14% of the entire building, or 24% of the side of the duplex it is within. The total site area is 709.39m², and is well over the minimum site area for a duplex of 555m². The floor space ratio is 0.51:1 and therefore, the lot can conceivably support a larger floor area.

The minimum rear yard setback is requested to be reduced from 12.78m to 10.26m. The reduced setback is measured from a raised deck. The main structure does not intrude in the setback, and therefore, this variance is supportable.

Parking in the front yard is considered in the *Gonzales Neighbourhood Community Plan* for single family dwellings. Additionally, the existing R1-G Zone allows for parking in the front yard, however, the R-2 Zone does not allow parking in the front yard. The proposal would raise the current front yard sloping driveway to be at-grade with the front yard, and another parking spot would be added, for a total of 2 parking spaces. The at-grade driveway would improve the street relationship and functionality of the front yard for residents and pedestrians. The driveway would be grass-crete to soften the appearance and reduce surface runoff. Additionally, the driveway would be screened from neighbours by a perimeter fence. Rear yard parking was considered, but in consideration for neighbour concerns, permeability of landscaping, and the preservation of the boulevard tree, parking in the front yard is a suitable solution.

CONCLUSIONS

While the proposal is inconsistent with the land use policies for two-family dwellings, since a secondary suite is also proposed, it is fairly consistent with the guidelines for Development Permit Area 15D: Intensive Residential – Duplex. The proposal follows the guidelines related to

exterior design considerations, specifically, the addition fits within the established scale of the street, entrances to the units create a positive street relationship, and window and deck placements take privacy into consideration. In addition, the variances are supportable; parking location is maintained and improved in its current location, rear yard setback is increased to accommodate a deck, and the maximum floor area on first and second floor to retain the secondary suite. Taking into consideration the many aspects in regards to affordable housing and energy objectives in the OCP, as well as the sensitivity to the neighbourhood context, staff recommend that Council support this Development Permit with Variances Application.

ALTERNATE MOTION

That Council decline Development Permit with Variances Application No. 000488 for the property located at 1068 Chamberlain Street.

Respectfully submitted,



Chelsea Medd, Planner
Sustainable Planning and Community
Development Department



Jonathan Tinney, Director
Sustainable Planning and Community
Development Department

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:



Date:

July 25, 2017

List of Attachments

- Attachment A - Subject Map
- Attachment B - Aerial Map
- Attachment C - Plans dated/date stamped July 14, 2017
- Attachment D - Letter from applicant to Mayor and Council dated July 20, 2017
- Attachment E - Community Association Land Use Committee Comments dated October 20, 2016
- Attachment F - Correspondence (letters received from residents)