

December 12, 2018

Dear xxxxxx,

Thank you for contacting the City of Vancouver with your concerns regarding the recently requested amendments from the Notre Dame Regional Secondary School, located at 2880 Venables Street, to their existing development permit.

We have received correspondence from many residents living near Notre Dame concurrent with staff reviewing the permit request. We apologize for the delayed response to your correspondence, but we wanted to take into consideration all of the feedback from the community and ensure we were able to gather as much information as possible prior to sending you a reply. It is my intent that this email will provide you with more context on the situation and serve as an update on next steps.

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

Change the grass turf to artificial turf;
Reposition the location of the garbage and recycling storage area within the existing/approved parking area; and
Remove the planned wheelchair ramp, and replace 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. We can confirm that 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. The School has provided a letter to the City confirming the scope of the amendment and the expected operational approach to the field, and has since removed the other content from their website.

This type of DP amendment would not typically trigger a new public consultation process, even with the passage of this time. However, through staff's ongoing review of the application, and further to recent discussions with applicant, staff have advised Notre Dame of the need to reset the community consultation in order to gain official feedback from the neighbourhood through the DP process prior to the City making a final decision on the application. This includes a requirement for Notre Dame to host an open house in order to incorporate what they heard into a potentially revised proposal. The City will attend the open house but Notre Dame will facilitate and run the engagement.

We expect the open house will occur early in 2019. Further details and notification postcards with the open house information will be distributed in the near future. We hope you can attend the meeting to learn more about the proposed changes to Notre Dame's scope of work and to raise your questions and concerns to both the School and the City.

I hope this information has been helpful. If you require anything further with respect to this application, please let me know.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Gil Kelley', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gil Kelley, FAICP
General Manager | Planning, Urban Design & Sustainability

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