

Schedule 15 to the Minutes of the Public Hearing meeting of Richmond City Council held on Monday, October 16, 2017.

MayorandCouncillors

From: Jim Vandertas <outlook_8D3CE9045B73BA67@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 12 September 2017 15:25
To: MayorandCouncillors
Subject: 4300 Bayview St
Attachments: Letter to Mayor and Council Sept 2017[93].doc

To Public Hearing
Date: OCT 16, 2017
Item # 9
Re: Bylaw 9062
Bylaw 9063

Good afternoon,

Please find attached file for Mayor and Council.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Jim van der Tas

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



Mayor and Council

Sept 9th , 2017

Richmond City Hall
6911 No 3 Road
Richmond BC

Mayor and Council,

I trust all of you had an enjoyable summer – Steveston was a busy place indeed. It was a great summer season for the village for most. I apologize for the delay in this letter but time flies by as the summer goes on.

I am writing you to explain the conversations I have had regarding the Onni Development in recent months in hopes of clarifying misinformation.

In May, I sat down with Brandon Lee from the Onni group. We met with the purpose of discussing Onni's new proposal for the vacant development at 4300 Bayview. Brandon and I spoke for over an hour. He described to me what Onni had in mind for the general-purpose meeting proposal in June. In brief, he stated they would be proposing the following, starting from the farthest east building:

Buildings 5 and 6 - rezoned to hotel/motel

Building 4 - working very hard on getting in Steveston Hardware – talks ongoing. Something they really wanted to see and felt confident in doing so

Building 3 – would more than likely be a small coffee shop or MMU if Marina was built

Building 2 – top floor was occupied and for the bottom floor they were looking at a large gym – Club 16 style

Building 1 – to be zoned as retail

We discussed the above proposal at length and with a lot of detail. It was clear to me that this was what was going to be proposed. That said, I stated very clearly and several times that I am not the SMA. I am one of 45 members. I said I will bring it to the members but will not have the time to answer all questions or and get a sense of the support for this proposal in time for the meeting. I did say it sounded reasonable, as there is a desire to get the space filled by some members, but I cannot give you support until I speak with all our members.

This past June at a general-purpose meeting regarding the Onni Development on Steveston Landing, it was passed on to me that Chris Evans from the Onni Group indicated that they had the full support of the Steveston Merchants

Association regarding their latest proposal for rezoning. Mr. Evans apparently said in the meeting that they met with us, and we were happy with their proposal as stated in our meeting.

That statement was false, and worse, I believe they knew it was false while saying it. This resulted in me having to have a large number of very uncomfortable discussions with my fellow merchants, who believed that I had spoken for them without consulting them. I had to spend many hours explaining what really happened. My reputation was tarnished by Onni representatives who misrepresented having the support of the SMA before I even had a chance to communicate the information to the rest of the SMA and get their thoughts. Information, I must point out, that was not true in the first place.

I have subsequently received information from city staff regarding the application for rezoning. We are and will pass on the information to our members. There is a strong desire within our membership to see the space filled with complimentary tenants. We, as the SMA, are happy to discuss in a professional and truthful manner, and give our thoughts as needed as an entire association.

I have contacted Onni directly to express my concerns. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jim van der Tas
Blue Canoe Waterfront Restaurant
President, Steveston Merchants Association
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