## City of

 Richmond
## Report to Development Permit Panel

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To: Development Permit Panel <br> Date: March 9, 2017 <br> From: | Wayne Craig | File: DP 16-740665 |
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|  | Director, Development | <br> \section*{Re: Application by Polygon Trafalgar Square (South) Ltd. for a Development Permit} at 9491/9511/9531/9551/9591 Alexandra Road

}

## Staff Recommendation

That a Development Permit be issued which would permit the construction of 263 residential units in two four-storey residential apartment buildings over a single-level parkade at 9491, 9511, 9531, 9551,9591 Alexandra Road on a site zoned "Low Rise Apartment (ZLR30) Alexandra Neighbourhood (West Cambie)" .


Director, Development
DCB:blg
Att. 2

## Staff Report

## Origin

Polygon Trafalgar Square (South) Ltd. has applied to the City of Richmond for permission to develop 263 residential units in two four-storey residential apartment buildings over a single-level parkade at $9491,9511,9531,9551,9591$ Alexandra Road on a site zoned "Low Rise Apartment (ZLR30) - Alexandra Neighbourhood (West Cambie)". The site is currently vacant and the subject lots will be consolidated for this project.

The site is being rezoned from "Single Detached (RS1/F)" zone and the "Two-Unit Dwellings (RD1)" zone to a new "Low Rise Apartment (ZLR30) - Alexandra Neighbourhood (West Cambie)" under Bylaw 7812 (RZ 16-734204 - Public Hearing of January 16, 2017).

Two separate Servicing Agreements (SA) are required for this development - one for design and construction of the adjacent greenway over 9611 Alexandra Road and a second agreement for frontage improvements and utility upgrades. The frontage and utility upgrades will include the design and installation of sidewalks, curb and gutter, treed/grassed boulevards and road paving along Tomicki Avenue, May Drive and Alexandra Road. Replacement of sections of watermain and installation of storm sewer utility will also be undertaken through the agreement.

## Development Information

The development is proposed to be built in two phases; with the first phase (northern half of the site) to include 128 residential units, and the second phase (southern half of the site) to include 135 residential units. Six affordable housing units with a combined area of $420.29 \mathrm{~m}^{2}\left(4,524 \mathrm{ft}^{2}\right)$ are proposed to be built in the first phase of the project with the balance of the Affordable Housing contribution being paid as cash in lieu as outlined in the Rezoning report dated November 25, 2016. The development will have a net floor area of $23,232.55 \mathrm{~m}^{2}$ ( $250,073.07 \mathrm{ft}^{2}$ ) with a density of 1.70 floor area ratio (FAR).

The two apartment buildings will be built around a central common area which will include a water feature, children's play spaces, garden plots, trellised seating area and open grassed areas. The proposed development will provide $509.83 .8 \mathrm{~m}^{2}\left(5,487.77 \mathrm{ft}^{2}\right)$ of indoor amenity space and $2,657 \mathrm{~m}^{2}\left(28,603.1 \mathrm{ft}^{2}\right)$ of outdoor space including a children's play space. All the indoor space, and approximately $60 \%$ of the outdoor space will be provided in the first phase of the development. The total indoor and outdoor amenity space is consistent with the guidelines in the Official Community Plan (OCP).

Please refer to the attached Development Application Data Sheet (Attachment 1) for a comparison of the proposed development data with the relevant bylaw requirements.

## Background

The site is bounded by Tomicki Avenue to the north, May Drive to the west, Alexandra Road to the south, and a City-owned parcel that will form part of a future greenway to the east. Development surrounding the subject site is as follows:

## To the North:

- The City-owned future West Cambie park site located on the north side of Tomicki Avenue.

To the South (south side of Alexandra Road):

- A City-owned lot at 9540 Alexandra Road zoned "Single Detached (RS1/F)"; which will form part of the future Alexandra greenway running between Alexandra Road and Alderbridge Way.
- A 23-unit three-storey townhouse development under construction on a 0.4 ha ( 0.99 ac .) lot zoned "Town Housing (ZT67) - Alexandra Neighbourhood (West Cambie)" at 9560 Alexandra Road (DP 15-700370).
- A 96-unit three-storey townhouse development under construction on a 1.61 ha ( 3.98 ac .) lot zoned "Town Housing (ZT67) - Alexandra Neighbourhood (West Cambie)" at 9680 Alexandra Road (DP 14-671600).

To the East:

- A City-owned 27 m wide lot which will be part of the future Alexandra greenway that will run between Alexandra Road and Tomicki Avenue.
- East of the greenway at 9566 Tomicki Avenue, is an existing three-storey townhouse development, consisting of 141 units within 26 buildings (known as "Wishing Tree" (DP 08-432203)), zoned "Town Housing (ZT67) - Alexandra Neighbourhood (West Cambie)".

To the West (west side of May Drive):

- Four-storey and six-storey wood frame apartment buildings under construction on the west side at 9311-9399 Alexandra Road under DP 13-631492 and zoned "Low rise Apartment (ZLR25) - Alexandra Neighbourhood (West Cambie)".


## Rezoning and Public Hearing Results

During the rezoning process, staff identified the following design issues to be resolved at the Development Permit stage. Staff follow up are shown in italics. In general, staff are satisfied with the applicant's response to these items.

- Verification of projections into side yard spaces. (No building projections into side yard spaces are indicated in the plans).
- Play space location, design and furnishings. (Shown in the landscape plans - includes a centrally located climbing wall, concrete step "logs", vertical logs, seating benches, etcPlan 31 and 34.).
- Design adjustments to reduce impacts of exit stairs to the adjacent streetscapes. (Advisory Design Panel [ADP] reviewed the locations and design of the stairs. Terraced areas of vegetation and masonry modifications are designed to lessen the impact of the stairs- Plan 31).
- Site lighting and locations. (Lighting plan provided in the drawing package - Plan 30).
- Detailed landscaping plans and landscape security requirements. (Landscape plans included in the drawing package - Plans 25-37. Securities are noted in the DP Considerations).
- Building color scheme and verification of materials. (Included in the drawing package and reviewed by $A D P$ ).
- Interface and connections with the adjacent park greenway to the east of the site. (Reviewed with Park's staff and incorporated into the landscape plans and coordinated with the Servicing Agreement).
- Interior space design for the affordable housing units. (Reviewed by both ADP and the City's affordable housing staff). The proposal complies with the City's Affordable Housing Policy.
- Verification that non-monetary TDM measures are incorporated into the design. (TDM measures indicated on the plans).
- Ensuring that $20 \%$ of resident parking spaces will be equipped with 120 v electric plug-ins and that an additional $25 \%$ of the resident parking spaces will be pre-ducted for future wiring to accommodate the future installation of electric vehicle charging equipment. (These measures are indicated on the plans).
- The permeability measures for the site. (Permeability was generally reviewed. Upper podium landscaping and drainage are included in the plans. The pedestrian walkway along the eastern side of the lot was reduced in width to allow greater permeability while maintaining a useable surface).
- Grade interfaces with adjacent development sites. (Grade interface with the greenway is provided in the landscape plans. All other interfaces are with the adjacent street frontages).

The Public Hearing for the rezoning of this site was held on January 16, 2017. At the Public Hearing, there were no submissions from the floor or written submissions received.

## Staff Comments

The proposed scheme attached to this report has satisfactorily addressed the significant urban design issues and other staff comments identified as part of the review of the subject Development Permit application. In addition, it complies with the intent of the applicable sections of the Official Community Plan (OCP) and is generally in compliance with the "Low Rise Apartment (ZLR30) - Alexandra Neighbourhood (West Cambie)" zone.

## Zoning Compliance/Variances

No variances to Richmond Zoning Bylaw 8500 are being requested by the applicant for this development application.

## Advisory Design Panel Comments

The Advisory Design Panel was supportive of the application subject to consideration of their comments. A copy of the relevant excerpt from the Advisory Design Panel Minutes from January 18,2017 is attached for reference (Attachment 2). The design response from the applicant has been included immediately following the specific Design Panel comments and is identified in 'bold italics'.

## Analysis

## Conditions of Adjacency

- The proposed medium density four-storey apartment over a single level parkade is consistent with the existing four-storey, multi-family residential building to the northwest and to the six-story multi-family apartment nearing completion to the west.
- An on-site green space with a meandering pathway along the eastern side of the property sets the building back from the adjacent City-owned greenway; helping to reduce overshadowing and resulting in a wider separation between the apartments and the existing townhouses to the east.
- The buildings are sited to create a strong urban edge along the perimeter with the adjacent streets by using increased massing to hold the corners and breaks in the north-south frontages at the mid-block location.
- Mid-level planting and the use of brick facing brought down to grade help to soften the grade transitions between the street level and the podium level.
- The development includes a mid-block connection to the adjacent future City owned greenway to the east; which is being designed under a separate Servicing Agreement. A stairway leads from the podium and the internal private outdoor amenity space down to grade and a connecting walkway to the adjacent City greenway.


## Urban Design and Site Planning

- Sole vehicle access to the parkade is provided mid-block off May Drive.
- Two loading spaces and the garbage/recycling area are located adjacent to the May Drive vehicle access.
- Lobby entrances are located mid-building at both Alexandra Road and Tomicki Avenue (north and south ends of the site) providing at grade access to the building's interior.
- Dwellings located on the podium level adjacent to a fronting street will have direct access to the street frontage via individual stairways.
- Dwellings located on the podium level adjacent to the adjacent greenway will have direct access to green space at approximately the same grade as the greenway. These units also have access to semi-private green spaces at the base of these stairways.


## Architectural Form and Character

- The proposed apartment buildings are intended to be patterned after east-coast brownstones; with added articulation to step back the building faces in some areas and increase the roof height in others.
- The building articulation is intended to read as a series of smaller facades achieved by stepping the building face back in some areas.
- Double height entry lobbies will be centrally located along the block facing onto Tomicki Avenue and Alexandra Road; with internal connections leading from the lobbies to the central courtyard.
- The two buildings are separated by a substantial break (approximately 12 m [ 40 ft .]) between the north building and the south building. This break provides a visual connection to the inner landscaped courtyard.
- Building materials will incorporate significant areas of brick masonry over the first three floors and the podium walls while the top floor is faced with board and batten siding.

Decorative metal flower boxes and concrete lintels and sills accentuate punched window openings and detailed fenestrations. Dentils and corner brackets will provide detail for the roof overhangs providing character and identity to the building. Aluminum railings and vinyl doors and windows are used throughout.

- The development provides a range of unit types from studio plus den to three bedroom; thereby providing homes for a broad range of family sizes. Unit areas are proposed to range from $58.53 \mathrm{~m}^{2}$ to $104.98 \mathrm{~m}^{2}\left(640 \mathrm{ft}^{2}\right.$ to $\left.1,130 \mathrm{ft}^{2}\right)$.


## Landscape Design and Open Space Design

- Both indoor and outdoor amenity spaces are provided in this application. In order to create a larger shared outdoor amenity space, the indoor amenity is proposed to be incorporated within the first phase building.
- The indoor amenity space encompass approximately $509.83 \mathrm{~m}^{2}\left(5,487.77 \mathrm{ft}^{2}\right)$ and include a fitness studio, games area, lounge and a kitchen.
- The outdoor amenity space will be approximately $2,657 \mathrm{~m}^{2}\left(28,603.1 \mathrm{ft}^{2}\right)$ in area of which approximately $1,623 \mathrm{~m}^{2}\left(17,469.4 \mathrm{ft}^{2}\right)$ will be provided in the first phase of the development. The outdoor amenities include a landscaped courtyard with walking paths, edible landscape, a children's play area and a gaming area.
- Podium level homes will be provided direct access from their suites to either the fronting street, the internal courtyard, or to the linking greenway.
- Trees and formal planting will be placed to divide the courtyard space into different components (open lawns, a central gathering space with a linear water feature, lawn bowling, a natural play area with a climbing wall, a herb garden area and a patio with a barbeque.
- Native and adaptive plant species are used throughout and both low level landscaping and trees are used to define formally organized walkways.
- Plant selections have been made to provide interest in all seasons.
- An internal pathway has been provided along the eastern property boundary - gated at both the Tomicki Avenue and Alexandra Road ends denoting this as private space.
- The Development Permit Considerations includes a requirement for submission of a landscape security plus contingency in the amount of $\$ 570,763$ is required prior to issuance of the Development Permit.


## Tree Replacements Required

The applicant had originally planned on installing 171 trees on-site. This number was reduced to 133 on-site trees including 26 replacement trees after making modifications recommended by the Advisory Design Panel to open up some areas and reduce shading in some areas within the podium. An additional 12 trees will be planted within the street right-of-way.

The required replacement trees are required to meet minimum sizes, based on the size of the trees being removed as per Tree Protection Bylaw No. 8057.

The proposed landscape plans fully address the replacement quantities and sizes indicated in the Tree Protection Bylaw.

## Affordable Housing

Consistent with the rezoning application, six affordable housing units are proposed; all of which will be constructed in Phase 1 of the development. Rent and income controls will be applied to these units via an agreement on Title as outlined under the rezoning application (RZ 16-734204). These units will provide one bachelor, two one-bedroom, and three two-bedroom units; with a combined area totalling approximately $420.29 \mathrm{~m}^{2}\left(4,524 \mathrm{ft}^{2}\right)$. The unit numbers are provided on Plan \#1. The unit sizes and locations have been reviewed by the City's Affordable Housing staff.

## Aging in Place

- All of the proposed units incorporate aging in place features to accommodate mobility constraints associated with aging. These features include:
- Lever-type handles for plumbing fixtures and door handles.
- 34 in. clear opening to all suite entry doors.
- Solid blocking in washroom walls to facilitate future grab bar installation beside toilets, bathtubs and showers.
These features are noted on the plans.


## Accessible Housing

- The proposed development includes 32 barrier free (universal) housing units that are designed to be fully accessible at the time of construction for a resident in a wheelchair. These units are required to incorporate all of the accessibility provisions listed in the Basic Universal Housing Features section of the City's Zoning Bylaw, and are permitted a density exclusion of $1.86 \mathrm{~m}^{2}\left(20 \mathrm{ft}^{2}\right)$ per unit. In order to accommodate a resident in a wheelchair, these units also include grab bars in washrooms, accessible appliances and cupboards, wider corridors and circulation areas, basic universal features. A detailed list of the universal housing features is provided on the architectural plans.
- The universal units in Phase 1 are 105, 110, 112, 129, 205, 210, 212, 230, 305, 310, 312, $333,405,410,412$, and 433.
- The universal units in Phase 2 are 105, 126, 128, 133, 205, 226, 228, 233, 305, 326, 328, $333,405,426,428$, and 433.
- The universal units will be spread throughout the development rather than being concentrated in one area.


## District Energy

- The development has been designed to accommodate connection the City's Alexandra District Energy Utility (ADEU). The ADEU service will provide both heating and cooling for all dwellings within this development. The requirement for registration of legal agreements related to the ADEU connections were addressed through the Rezoning Considerations (RZ 16-734204).


## Transportation

Through the rezoning application (RZ 16-734204) parking ratio reductions to 1.44 spaces per unit ( 1.26 spaces for residents and 0.18 spaces for visitors/unit) were supported with the implementation of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) measures. The TDM measures outlined were as follows:

- Provide 120 V electric plug-in's for $20 \%$ of all parking stalls.
- Provide 120 V electric plug-in's for electric bikes, one (1) for every 40 bicycle storage racks (if there are fewer than 40 bicycle racks in a storage compound, one (1) 120 V electric plug-in is required for the same compound).
- Provide a bench along each of the three (3) street frontages (or equivalent cash contribution of $\$ 6,000$ total).
- Make a voluntary cash contribution of $\$ 30,000$ towards a bus shelter and an accessible landing pad in the general surrounding area as determined by Transportation staff.
- Make a voluntary cash contribution of $\$ 5,000$ towards the provision of new public benches in the general area.

To date, all the TDM related monetary contributions have been paid by the applicant. Notations for all the electric plug-in commitments are provided on the architectural plans.

Consistent with the Zoning Bylaw, the project will provide 380 overall parking spaces including 48 visitor parking spaces and eight handicapped parking spaces. The handicapped parking spaces are generally situated within the parkade near elevator and lobby areas.

329 Class 1 and 53 Class 2 bicycle spaces are proposed fully addressing the Zoning Bylaw requirements for this project. Class 1 bicycle spaces in eight areas with bike storage rooms and six locations with bike lockers; all of which are in the parkade.

Two loading areas are provided adjacent to the main vehicle access to the parkade. Both loading areas are sufficient to accommodate an SU-9 sized vehicle.

## Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

- Mailrooms are located within well-lit and secured lobby areas.
- Cameras will be installed within the lobbies and elevators.
- Elevators and stairs will be set up with key fobs to limit access within the buildings.
- A lighting plan is included in the landscape portion of the plan submission. Bollard lighting is provided throughout the podium courtyard.
- The parkade area provides quick and convenient access to lobbies and stairs.
- The parkade area will be well-lit and walls and columns will be painted white up to approximately 4 ft . The area will be installed with emergency lighting facilities.
- Motion detectors will be installed in the parkade tied to the zoned lighting system.
- A recessed security gate is located at the main vehicle entrance.


## Acoustic and Thermal Report Submissions

The Rezoning Considerations (RZ 16-734204) included a requirement for submission of acceptable acoustical and thermal reports prior to the Development Permit being forwarded to the Development Permit Panel.

An acoustic evaluation report, prepared by Brown Strachan Associates (dated January 20, 2017), has been submitted in response to the requirement. Based on their analysis, the consultant's report provides a schedule of upgrades for specific units within the two buildings. The upgrades primarily involve the installation of upgraded laminated glazing, exterior wall upgrades (addition
of two layers of interior drywall to exterior framing) and resilient furring channels - each of which are targeted to specific units. The report indicates that these upgrades will allow the development to meet Richmond's Official Community Plan indoor noise level design criteria. Building Approvals staff will review the Building Permit application plans to ensure that these upgrades are incorporated into the building's construction.

Based on the upgrade requirements recommended by Brown Strachan Associates, a thermal analysis was undertaken by Williams Engineering to ensure that the upgraded development will maintain acceptable heating and cooling within all units. A sealed letter has been received (dated March 2, 2017, indicating that the project will incorporate the appropriate heating and cooling mechanisms to achieve ASHRAE 55-2004 "Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy". The proponent has noted that the building is being designed to meet LEED Silver equivalence with interior thermal comfort being included in the LEED measures. Building Approvals staff will review the Building Permit application plans to ensure that the necessary heating and cooling mechanisms are incorporated into the building's construction.

## Conclusions

As the proposed development would meet applicable policies and Development Permit Guidelines, staff recommend that a Development Permit which would permit the construction of 263 residential units in two four-storey residential apartment buildings over a single-level parkade at $9491,9511,9531,9551$, and 9591 Alexandra Road be endorsed, and issuance by Council be recommended.


David Brownie
Planner 2
(604-276-4200)
DCB:blg
The following are to be met prior to forwarding this application to Council for approval:

- Final adoption of the Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 7812.
- Receipt of a Letter-of-Credit for landscaping in the amount of $\$ 570,763$ inclusive of a $10 \%$ contingency cost.

Prior to future Building Permit issuance, the developer is required to complete the following:

- The applicant is required to obtain a Building Permit for any construction hoarding associated with the proposed development. If construction hoarding is required to temporarily occupy a street, or any part thereof, or occupy the air space above a street or any part thereof, additional City approvals and associated fees may be required as part of the Building Permit. For further information on the Building Permit, please contact Building Approvals Department at 604-276-4285.
- Submission of a construction traffic and parking management plan to the satisfaction of the City's Transportation Department (http://www.richmond.ca/services/ttp/special.htm).
- Incorporation of accessibility measures in Building Permit (BP) plans as determined via the Rezoning and/or Development Permit processes.


## DP 16-740665

Address: 9491/9511/9531/9551/9591 Alexandra Road
Applicant: Polygon Trafalgar Square (South) Ltd. Owner: Same

Planning Area(s): West Cambie Area Plan - Alexandra Neighbourhood
Floor Area Gross: $24,367.55 \mathrm{~m}^{2}\left(262,290 \mathrm{ft}^{2}\right) \quad$ Floor Area Net: $23,232.54 \mathrm{~m}^{2}\left(250,073.07 \mathrm{ft}^{2}\right)$

|  | Existing | Proposed |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Site Area: | $15,125.99 \mathrm{~m}^{2}\left(162,814.90 \mathrm{ft}^{2}\right)$ | $13,699.99 \mathrm{~m}^{2}\left(147,465.57 \mathrm{ft}^{2}\right)$ <br> after dedications |
| Land Uses: | Vacant | Multi-Family Residential (Low <br> Rise Apartment) |
| OCP Designation: | "Apartment Residential" | Same |
| Zoning: | "Single Detached (RS1/F) and Two-Unit <br> Dwellings (RD1)" | "Low Rise Apartment <br> (ZLR30) - Alexandra |
| Number of Units: | Vacant Site | Neighbourhood (West <br> Cambie)" |
|  | 263 Apartment Residential <br> Units |  |


|  | Bylaw Requirement | Proposed | Variance |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Floor Area Ratio | 1.5 FAR plus 0.2 FAR with Affordable Housing Contribution | 1.7 FAR with Affordable Housing Contribution | none permitted |
| Lot Coverage | Building: Max. 40\% | Building: Max. 40\% | none |
| Setbacks (m) - Alexandra Road Street Parkade | $\begin{aligned} & 4.0 \mathrm{~m} \text { Min. } \\ & 3.0 \mathrm{~m} \text { Min. } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 4.0 \mathrm{~m} \text { Min. } \\ & 3.0 \mathrm{~m} \text { Min. } \end{aligned}$ | none |
| Setbacks (m) - May Drive Street Parkade | 4.0 m Min. <br> 3.0 m Min. | 4.0 m Min. <br> 3.0 m Min. | none |
| Setbacks (m) - Tomicki Avenue Street <br> Parkade | $\begin{aligned} & 6.0 \mathrm{~m} \text { Min. } \\ & 3.0 \mathrm{~m} \text { Min. } \end{aligned}$ | 6.0 m Min. <br> 3.0 m Min. | none |
| ```Setbacks (m) - eastern property line Eastern Property Line Parkade``` | 6.0 m Min. <br> 3.0 m Min. | 7.5 m Min. 7.5 m Min. | none |
| Height (m): | 18.5 m and no more than 4 storeys | 18.5 m and no more than 4 storeys | none |
| Lot Size | none | $13,699.99 \mathrm{~m}^{2}$ $\left(147,465.57 \mathrm{ft}^{2}\right)$ after dedications | none |


| Off-street Parking Spaces - <br> Regular (R) / Visitor (V): <br> For 263 dwelling units <br> As per TDM Measures | $332(\mathrm{R})$ and 48 (V) per <br> unit <br> [TDM Ratios: $1.28(\mathrm{R})$ <br> and 0.18 (V)] | $332(\mathrm{R})$ and $48(\mathrm{~V})$ per <br> unit | none |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Off-street Parking Spaces - Total: <br> As per TDM Measures | 380 | 380 | none |
| Tandem Parking Spaces: | Permitted - Maximum of <br> $50 \%$ of required spaces | none | none |
| Handicapped Spaces | 8 | 8 | none |
| Amenity Space - Indoor: | $100 \mathrm{~m}^{2}\left(1,076 \mathrm{ft}^{2}\right)$ | $509.83 \mathrm{~m}^{2}\left(5,487.77 \mathrm{ft}^{2}\right)$ | none |
| Amenity Space - Outdoor: | $1,578 \mathrm{~m}^{2}\left(16,985.45 \mathrm{ft}^{2}\right)$ | $2,657 \mathrm{~m}^{2}$ <br> $\left(28,603.1 \mathrm{ft}^{2}\right)$ | none |

TDM Measures to include the following:

- Provide 120 V electric plug-ins for $20 \%$ of all parking stalls.
- Provide 120 V electric plug-ins for electric bikes, one for every 40 bicycle storage racks (if there are fewer than 40 bicycle racks in a storage compound, one 120 V electric plug-in is required for the same compound).


# Excerpt from the Minutes from <br> The Design Panel Meeting 

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 - 4:00 p.m.
Rm. M.1.003
Richmond City Hall

## 2. DP 16-740665 - 2 FOUR-STOREY BUILDINGS OVER PARKING WITH APPROXIMATELY 263 APARTMENTS, INCLUDING 6 AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS <br> ARCHITECT: Robert Ciccozzi Architects <br> PROPERTY 9491, 9511, 9531, $9551 \& 9591$ Alexandra Road LOCATION:

## Applicant's Presentation

Robert Ciccozzi and Shannón Seefeldt, Ciccozzi Architecture Inc., David Stoyko, Connect Landscape Architecture, and Robin Glover, Polygon Homes Ltd., presented the project and answered queries from the Panel.

## Panel Discussion

Comments from the Panel were as follows:

- strong vertical elements break up the massing; consider aligning parts of the development along the streetscape with these vertical elements, e.g., stairs to access the parkade and brick walls could be aligned with the vertical elements of the building;
a. No action required.
- consider relocating some of the hedging to the front of exposed concrete walls; will maintain consistency of approach for strong materiality in the building to come down to the planting; look at precedent photos for guidance;
a. Hedging has been included in front of concrete walls to aid in visually breaking up the streetscape; see L2.1 to L2.4.
- appreciate the good balance of broader canopy and columnar trees on the landscaped podium; shade trees need to be aligned more with sun exposure; review the proposed planting of trees around the south lawn;
a. Tree locations on the podium have been adjusted to aid in solar exposure to open spaces; see L2.1 to L2.4.
- consider replacing the proposed wood fence on private yards adjacent to the greenway with metal fence to bring down the metal elements in the building down onto the greenway;
a. Wood fencing has been replaced with painted aluminum fencing to match guardrails of the balance of the project; see L1.5.
- consider a softer hedge planting along the east edge of the site to match some of the planting along the greenway;
a. Edges of the site have been softened with additional hedge and shrub planting, including additional planting along the Greenway edge (east edge of the site). See Planting Plans L2.1 to L2.4.
- appreciate the project; the model helps in examining and understanding the project; like the dark red and charcoal colours together;
a. No action required.
- stairs parallel to the podium wall work better than stairs perpendicular to the podium wall in terms of visually bridging the change of grade;
a. No action required.
- the proposed open internal courtyard is well-considered; appreciate the extensive planting palette and areas of planting commensurate with the scale of the building;
a. No action required.
- reconsider proposed tree planting around the south lawn; shading on lawn may pose maintenance issues for future strata management;
a. Shade tolerant tree species indicated around the south lawn, trees also removed where sun exposure is limited around the lawn and their growing success could be impacted. See Planting Plans L2.1 to L2.4.
- reconsider the planting or consider rearranging of orchard immediately south of the garden plots to mitigate significant shading on the garden plots;
a. Tree locations on the podium have been adjusted to aid in solar exposure to open spaces; see L2.1 to L2.4.
- appreciate the choice of plant materials on the small private yards; proposed small trees are appropriate, particularly along the east and north sides of the proposed development;
a. No action required.
- look at Polygon's Kingsley Estates project in Richmond for precedent in varying two to three hedge species to respond to light and shade and to differentiate the landscaping in different sections of the site; consider a similar approach for landscaping in the subject development;
a. Additional hedge species added (Buxus, Prunus, and Thuja). Hedge locations vary in revised planting plan. See Plant Materials L2.0 and
Planting Plans L2.1 to L2.4.
- appreciate the east-west walkway; consider maximizing the width of the walkway; also consider widening the stairs at the east side which appears narrow in the model;
a. 6' path east/west walkway provided through the site. Stairs at east side widened to 6' and reconfigured. See Site Plan L1.0.
- main east-west halfway of design symmetrical along two axes; consider not being symmetrical in the long axis or provide an active element in the water feature to animate a calm landscape;
a. 6' path symmetry kept for design and pedestrian clarity, water feature to have an element of movement to animate the landscape and provide a central unifying feature.
- consider eliminating the proposed lawn or non-shade tolerant trees on the north side of the courtyard to avoid potential long-term maintenance issues for strata management;
a. Shade tolerant trees and shrubs proposed on the north side of the buildings. See Plant Materials L2.0 and Planting Plans L2.1 to L2.4.
- wood fence in private yards adjacent to the greenway appear tacked-on; consider replacing with metal fence or introducing a hedge around the fence; also consider bringing the lawn up a foot or two steps to enhance the transition from the building to the pedestrian walkway;
a. Wood fencing has been replaced with painted aluminum fencing to match guardrails of the balance of the project; see L1.5.
- review katsura trees to ensure they will not grow too big in planters on the podium wall; may pose a potential maintenance issue for strata management;
a. Katsura trees replaced with Stewartia pseudocamellia. See Plant Materials L2.0 and Planting Plans L2.1 to L2.4.
- ensure adequate width and appropriate slope for the proposed berm (adjacent to the pedestrian walkway along the greenway) in achieving 900 mm minimum depth to ensure survivability of trees planted on the berm;
a. Berms to be minimum 1500 mm wide, and allow 900 mm minimum soil depth for tree planting and 450 mm minimum soil depth for shrub planting. See Grading Plan L1.1 to L1.4 for berm heights and locations, and Softscape Details L3.0.
- agree with comment that individual unit entry stairs parallel to the podium wall works better; mid-level planting helps soften the grade transition;
a. No action required.
- would have preferred to bring down the brick to grade on the angled concrete walls; however, understand the rationale for focusing this proposed treatment only at the podium entrance/exit;
a. No action required.
- appreciate the comprehensive design rationale provided by the applicant; the proposed four-storey building form provides a good transition from the sixstorey buildings to the west (nearing completion) to the existing three-storey townhouse development to the east of the subject development;
a. No action required.
- appreciate the high-level of detailing for the proposed development; ensure that it will be carried through to construction stage;
a. No action required.
- appreciate the break-up of the long facades through colour and material variations;
a. No action required.
- appreciate the substantial break (approximately 40 feet) between the north and south buildings;
a. No action required.
- agree with comment that the stairs to the open internal courtyard area should be wider to accommodate the expected high volume of visitors and residents accessing them;
a. Walkway width increased. See Layout Plan L1.0 and Landscape Sections L1.7.
- appreciate the clearly defined and formal courtyard arrangement in terms of amenity uses and wayfinding;
a. No action required.
- private lawns provide a welcome supplement to the internal units; ensure proper maintenance for the private lawns;
a. No action required.
- agree with comments on consistency of materials to be used for private yard fencing and for exterior building stairs and guardrails;
a. No action required.
- support the unit lay-out and proposed location of the affordable units;
a. No action required.
- appreciate the openness of the internal courtyard considering the scale of the proposed development;
a. No action required.
- at the internal courtyard corner, the units on the upper levels are the most successful; common approach to fill the corner with mechanical rooms; boiler rooms on the ground floor have been pushed to the exterior of the building while the interior bedrooms of A units have been pulled in; consider reversing the unit lay-out, i.e., bring the boiler room in and living space to the exterior, to make the lay-out more successful;
a. The boiler rooms need to be directly accessible from the building exterior in order to provide maintenance access. Boiler replacement, though highly unlikely, must occur from the exterior.
- support the scheme for universal housing units to be evenly distributed throughout the proposed development;
a. No action required.
- potential CPTED issues have been carefully addressed by the applicant;
a. No action required.
- clear axial integration helps with the visual connection across the site;
a. No action required.
- address potential overlook concerns for two units facing each other across the entry breaks;
a. Unit plan orientations in these locations have been carefully considered to minimize views between common areas in adjacent suites.
- support the rationale for the proposed siting of the indoor amenity area in the north building; however, consider relocating the lounge area and BBQ area to be adjacent to each other on the opposite side of the courtyard to take advantage of the afternoon sun exposure;
a. The BBQ is now omitted and a fire bit has been added at the southwest corner of the amenity.
- appreciate the well-defined accessibility in and around the buildings;
a. No action required.
- appreciate the package materials circulated by the applicant and updated renderings presented to the Panel;
a. No action required.
- design rationale provided by the applicant is well-written but could have included diagrams to help explain its contents;
a. No action required.
- request City staff to consider in future City design guidelines the suggestion to require more architects to work on different phases of big projects or neighbouring projects with the same developer to differentiate each phase/project;
a. No action required.
- concerned on wayfinding in the neighbourhood due to similar schemes for Phases 1 and 2 of the subject development and the nearly completed development to the west; investigate opportunities to further break the symmetry of the two phases in the proposed development, e.g. consider adding more brick into the materials palette;
a. Symmetry in this style of architecture is part of its distinct character. A consistent rhythm along the buildings length punctuated by distinct elements provides identity and hierarchy. Building ends or wrapping corners are identified with a higher volume and change in material, providing a rationale in siting. The two residential entries are further identified with both vertical and horizontal elements and direct connection to the street, both physically and visually. An additional layer of identity and orientation is added in the finer detailing of these entries and the Amenity Entry, including brick detailed columns with face mounted lighting and custom planters, steel canopies, soffit lighting, custom building signage and addressing.
- the indoor amenity area appears hidden within the complex as viewed from the exterior; could be emphasized a bit more;
a. The entrance to the indoor amenity has been visually heightened through the addition of feature lighting on the building face as well as signage located at the base of the stairs at grade.
- consider locating stairs close to the elevator at the lobbies to promote an accessible and active way to access different levels of the building;
a. Security concerns necessitate that stairs are fobbed and have restrictive access and can only be used for exiting purposes; therefore, stairs have not been relocated.
- consider access for replacement of exterior rainwater leaders in the future; consider tidy placement of exterior rainwater leaders and wall vents;
a. Rainwater leaders and wall vents are carefully coordinated for both maintenance access and to maximize distance away from bedrooms.
- character of the building is elegant and proposed materials are robust; a. No action required.
- appreciate the consideration for energy efficiency in the design rationale for the project; however, details should have been provided, e.g. use of LED lighting should have been specified instead of a generic statement on utilizing energy efficient lighting;
a. The project will meet or exceed LEED Silver equivalency and as such, will be fully energy modelled.
- the proposed development will be connected to a district energy system; review whether the district energy system will absorb energy from buildings; if not, will pose a design challenge for the applicant;
a. No action required as previously addressed by staff.
- note that a mechanical room is needed for domestic hot water heating; applicant needs to confirm with City staff;
a. A water entry room is provided in the parkade, a mechanical room is provided on the podium and a mechanical room is located in at the inside corner of each building.
- note that hybrid heat pumps are normally required by the City for the proposed geo-exchange system; applicant needs to confirm requirement with City staff;
a. Heating and cooling will be provided by heat pumps.
- considering the scale of the project, the design rationale should have included (i) LEED equivalency targets and scorecards and (ii) EnerGuide rating to be achieved to measure sustainability features;
a. The project will meet or exceed LEED Silver equivalency and as such, will be fully energy modelled.
- support the proposed use of natural ventilation; however, an active mechanical system may present challenges; applicant needs to look at the requirements for using natural ventilation system in BC Building Code;
a. The heat pumps will provide active ventilation for the project which will be compliant with the BCBC.
- consider increasing the width of the proposed pedestrian walkway adjacent to the greenway to facilitate pedestrian circulation;
a. The north-south pathway has been widened to 5 , in width to accommodate the passing of two wheelchairs.
- level of colour contrast in the different building facades should be consistent to visually break up the massing in all elevations;
a. The colour contrast (brick, gray horizontal siding and white board \& batten) have been coordinated with the steps in building plan so they act in tandem to reinforce each other.
- consider introducing a ramp parallel to the parkade entrance to provide access to courtyard without stairs;
a. Ramps studies have been completed previously and shared with staff. A ramp from grade to the podium was determined to be prohibitively long. Further, the raising of the greenway grade was not supported by Staff.
- consider introducing an access through the curb around the bocce court;
a. The Bocce court access reviewed. For grading, drainage, and safety purposes, curb drop not included off of the court. Space provided for a ramp to be added at either end of the bocce court.
- appreciate the raised garden planters and provision of benches nearby; however, ensure adequate manoeuvring space for people accessing the planters along the edges of the garden;
a. Planter locations reviewed to ensure minimum $1.2 m$ access around all planters, with a 1.5 m wide paved path added through the crushed gravel surfacing to ensure accessability. See Layout Plan L1.0.
- consider a soft landing under the climbing wall;
a. Fibar surfacing proposed throughout the play area. See Layout Plan L1.0.
- support the scheme for spreading out of the affordable units throughout the proposed development; appreciate the location of some affordable units at the north end to receive sun exposure;
a. No action required.
- consider introducing pocket doors in affordable units to enhance their accessibility;
a. Pocket doors were considered; however, they have not been included as maintaining them is extremely difficult and they provide inferior acoustic isolation to a swing door.
- applicant is requested to provide unit numbers for universal housing units to identify their location in the proposed development;
a. The universal units in Phase 1 are 109, 209, 309, 409, 119, 219, 319, 419, 127, 227, 327, 427, 129, 229, 329 and 429
- appreciate the proposed development's interface with the public realm; could be further enhanced through further architectural reinforcement of public entrances into the site;
a. The stair to the east as well as the width of the east-west pathway have been widened. Note that while the podium is publicly accessible it is not intended for public use and access to the podium is neither encouraged or discouraged.
- appreciate the project's objective to create a pedestrian-oriented streetscape; consider recessing the front steps from the sidewalk to mitigate adjacency impacts;
a. Variation in the streetscape is achieved through a variety of means;
varying the retaining wall height, switching from brick to concrete at stairs and modifying planting in front of the stairs to in response to their locations.
- appreciate the architecture, design, and colours of the two buildings;
a. No action required.
- if the proposed public walkway is a required midblock connection, consider making the public walkway accessible and increasing the size of the stairs to draw people through;
a. The stair to the east as well as the width of the east-west pathway have been widened. Note that while the podium is publicly accessible it is not intended for public use and access to the podium is neither encouraged or discouraged.
- bricks on angled walls look nice as opposed to the concrete angled walls which appear heavy as shown in Drawing L1.4 in the materials package;
a. Variation in the streetscape is achieved through a variety of means; varying the retaining wall height, switching from brick to concrete at stairs and modifying planting in front of the stairs to in response to their locations.
- appreciate the private spaces looking onto public spaces;
a. No action required.
- consider making some of the affordable units into accessible or adaptable units;
a. This was explored but was ultimately abandoned.
- appreciate the building's interface with the street;
a. No action required.
- appreciate the colour palette and size of the windows on the fourth floor; layering on the landscaped podium is well done;
a. No action required.
- support comments regarding edge treatments adjacent to the greenway;
a. Comments previously addressed above.
- support comments regarding further design development for inner corner units;
a. Comments previously addressed above with respect to boiler room access.
- support the comment that the subject development should have a different character and identity from the neighbouring development to the west; and
a. Comments previously addressed above.
- the project is well done and has the right elements; proportions are well managed.
a. No action required.


## Panel Decision

It was moved and seconded
That DP 16-740665 be supported to move forward to the Development Permit Panel subject to the applicant giving consideration to the comments of the Advisory Design Panel.

No. DP 16-740665

To the Holder:
Property Address:
Address:

POLYGON TRAFALGAR SQUARE (SOUTH) LTD.
9491/9511/9531/9551/9591 ALEXANDRA ROAD
C/O ROBIN GLOVER
900-1333 WEST BROADWAY VANCOUVER, BC V6H 4C2

1. This Development Permit is issued subject to compliance with all of the Bylaws of the City applicable thereto, except as specifically varied or supplemented by this Permit.
2. This Development Permit applies to and only to those lands shown cross-hatched on the attached Schedule "A" and any and all buildings, structures and other development thereon.
3. Subject to Section 692 of the Local Government Act, R.S.B.C.: buildings and structures; off-street parking and loading facilities; roads and parking areas; and landscaping and screening shall be constructed generally in accordance with Plans \#1 to \#37 attached hereto.
4. Sanitary sewers, water, drainage, highways, street lighting, underground wiring, and sidewalks, shall be provided as required.
5. As a condition of the issuance of this Permit, the City is holding the security in the amount of $\$ 570,763$ to ensure that development is carried out in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Permit. Should any interest be earned upon the security, it shall accrue to the Holder if the security is returned. The condition of the posting of the security is that should the Holder fail to carry out the development hereby authorized, according to the terms and conditions of this Permit within the time provided, the City may use the security to carry out the work by its servants, agents or contractors, and any surplus shall be paid over to the Holder. Should the Holder carry out the development permitted by this permit within the time set out herein, the security shall be returned to the Holder. The City may retain the security for up to one year after inspection of the completed landscaping in order to ensure that plant material has survived.
6. If the Holder does not commence the construction permitted by this Permit within 24 months of the date of this Permit, this Permit shall lapse and the security shall be returned in full.

## Development Permit

No. DP 16-740665

```
To the Holder: POLYGON TRAFALGAR SQUARE (SOUTH) LTD.
Property Address: 9491/9511/9531/9551/9591 ALEXANDRA ROAD
Address: C/O ROBIN GLOVER
900-1333 WEST BROADWAY
VANCOUVER, BC V6H 4C2
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7. The land described herein shall be developed generally in accordance with the terms and conditions and provisions of this Permit and any plans and specifications attached to this Permit which shall form a part hereof.
This Permit is not a Building Permit.

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION NO. DAY OF

DELIVERED THIS DAY OF

MAYOR


City of Richmond



DP 16-740665 SCHEDULE "A"

Original Date: 09/13/16
Revision Date:










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## TRAFALGAR SQUARE <br> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL SET - REISSUED FOR DP

General notes


PROJECT INFORMATION


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