

**DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER
PUBLIC MEETING**

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Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Council for the District of North Vancouver held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, September 23, 2013 in the Committee Room of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

Present: Mayor R. Walton
Councillor R. Bassam
Councillor R. Hicks
Councillor M. Little
Councillor L. Muri
Councillor A. Nixon

Absent: Councillor D. MacKay-Dunn

Staff: Mr. B. Bydwell, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. S. Dal Santo, Section Manager – Planning Policy
Ms. N. Letchford, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Ms. C. Rucci, Social Planner
Ms. L. Brick, Confidential Council Clerk

1. OPENING BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Walton welcomed members of the public to the meeting and reviewed the procedures for the meeting.

2. PRESENTATION BY STAFF

Ms. Cristina Rucci, Social Planner, reviewed the application of Ms. Laya Shakery, Little Bunnies Learning Centre, at 496 West Kings Road who is requesting to expand her current childcare licence from 10 children to a total of 20 children. The additional licence would allow the applicant to care for 10 children aged 36 months to school aged in addition to the current 10 children under 36 months. Childcare services will continue to be provided between the hours of 7:30 am and 5:30 pm.

Ms. Rucci advised that there are two other child care facilities in the immediate area; Little Rascals, which has a waiting list, and Bella Balloon, which currently has four openings.

Ms. Rucci advised that there are two employees at the facility; one of which drives and the other takes transit. Ms. Rucci advised that more than half of the families walk or cycle to the facility and parking is available on site for drop off and pick up.

Ms. Rucci advised that three neighbours have expressed concern regarding the number of childcare facilities in the immediate neighbourhood and have expressed concern regarding traffic.

3. PRESENTATION BY APPLICANT

Ms. Laya Shakery spoke in support of the application and reviewed her credentials and history of providing childcare in the community. Ms. Shakery advised that there is a shortage of quality child care centres in

North Vancouver and opined that it is disruptive to the children leave a facility once they reach the age of 36 months and start in a new facility; therefore, she is requesting Council consider approving her request to increase her facility licence and the age range of the children.

Ms. Shakery addressed concerns expressed by neighbours by suggesting that expanding the daycare will not affect the dynamics of the neighbourhood as many of the neighbours she spoke with were unaware of the existence of her facility.

Ms. Shakery advised that traffic concerns will be addressed as she will work with parents and staff to reduce noise and traffic flow. She also noted that she offers a two hour drop off window in the morning and afternoon to reduce the number of cars parked in the centre at any one time.

In response to concerns raised about outdoor noise, Ms. Shakery advised that the total time spent by the children in the yard is one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon and she will divide the children into subgroups for alternate outdoor activities such as nature walks.

5. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Council inquired about a gradual movement to increasing the size of the facility to 20 children; Ms. Shakery advised that the facility will gradually increase the number of children and priority placement will be given to existing clients.

Ms. Shakery advised that the intention is to expand the facility from the basement to include a portion of the main floor and her family will be residing on the upper floor and a portion of the main floor.

Ms. Rucci advised that a review of the licence will be conducted if there is two or more complaints received after one year.

4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

4.1 Ms. Marlies Coventry, 400 Block West Kings Road

- Expressed concern regarding the tenants in the home between them;
- Expressed concern regarding noise from the children;
- Spoke regarding the impacts that the facility has had on the neighbourhood;
- Commented that there is increased traffic in the neighbourhood and it is not as safe as it once was; and,
- Suggested that this increase is not a reasonable home based business and is better suited to a commercial area.

4.2 Mr. James Gail, 500 Block West Kings Road

- Commented on the impact that the three daycares in their vicinity has on their residence (36 daycare spaces within the area);
- Noise from traffic on street parking and facility;
- Expressed frustration at the cumulative daily noise;
- Commented on the application of the bylaw opining that this daycare does not balance the interest of the neighbours;
- Urged council to not approve an increase in the licence; and,
- Commented that families do not arrive by transit or walk.

6. CLOSING

The meeting recessed at 6:54 pm and will continue on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at 6:00 pm in the

The Public Meeting Reconvened in the Committee Room of the District Municipal Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, B.C. on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Acting Mayor D. MacKay-Dunn
Councillor R. Bassam
Councillor M. Little
Councillor A. Nixon

Absent: Mayor R. Walton
Councillor R. Hicks
Councillor L. Muri

Staff: Mr. B. Bydwell, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. N. Letchford, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Ms. C. Rucci, Social Planner
Ms. S. Berardo, Confidential Council Clerk

1. **OPENING BY THE MAYOR**

Acting Mayor D. MacKay-Dunn welcomed members of the public and staff to the meeting and advised that the reconvened Public Meeting is to allow for further public input.

4.1 **Mr. Neil Roberts, 500 Block West Kings Road**

- Expressed concern with increased noise from the children;
- Suggested that this increase is not a reasonable home based business and is better suited to a commercial area;
- Stated that parking issues in the neighbourhood have dramatically increased; and,
- Spoke in opposition of the proposed expansion.

4.2 **Mr. Cy Morgan, 500 Block West Kings Road**

- Commented that there are already two daycares at both ends of the street;
- Expressed concern with regards to construction noise from renovations; and,
- Urged Council to not expand Little Bunnies Daycare until Baptist Church Daycare renovations are complete.

4.3 **Ms. Jennifer Trost, 3770 Block St. Andrews Avenue**

- Spoke in support of the daycare;
- Spoke to the shortage of daycares;
- Commented that Little Bunnies Daycare provides quality childcare;
- Stated that not all daycare are created equal; and,
- Noted that her family walks to Little Bunny Daycare.

4.4 **Ms. Liza Trianca, 600 Block East 1st Street**

- Spoke in support of Little Bunnies Daycare;
- Commented that Little Bunnies is clean, well equipped, and provides high quality education.

4.5 **Mr. Jonathan Vroom, 4300 Block Capilano Road**

- Spoke in support of the proposed application;
- Commented on the feeling of security when dropping children off;
- Stated that having a daycare in the neighbourhood creates a sustainable community; and,
- Commented that there has not been a major increase in traffic as most people walk.

4.6 Mr. Joel VanBurgen, 3000 Block Jones Avenue

- Spoke in opposition to Little Bunnies Daycare; and,
- Expressed concern with increased traffic.

4.7 Ms. Jennifer Trost, 3770 Block St. Andrews Avenue

- Spoke for a second time;
- Commented on the convenience of having both children able to attend Little Bunnies Daycare; and,
- Commented on the high quality of education provided by the applicant.

4.8 Mr. Jim Gail, 500 Block West Kings Road

- Spoke in support of the District of North Vancouver's Child Care Policy;
- Commented that there should be a balance between daycares and the interest of the neighbourhood;
- Expressed concern with traffic and noise issues; and,
- Stated that most people drive their children to the daycare.

4.9 Ms. Jessie Vroom, 4300 Block Capilano Road

- Spoke to the quality of education at Little Bunnies Daycare;
- Commented on the consistent dependable relationships developed at Little Bunnies Daycare;
- Stated that switching daycares is detrimental to the children's education;
- Noted that other daycares are not as affordable; and,
- Noted that the applicant is concerned with the well-being of the neighbours.

4.10 Ms. Kari Marr, 2300 Block Kilmarnock Crescent

- Commented that Little Bunnies Daycare feels like an extended family;
- Spoke to the quality of Little Bunnies Daycare;
- Commented on the convenience of having both children able to attend Little Bunnies Daycare; and,
- Urged council to allow the expansion of Little Bunnies Daycare.

4.11 Mr. Jordan Marr, 2300 Block Kilmarnock Crescent

- Spoke to the District of North Vancouver's Child Care Policy;
- Stated that Little Bunnies Daycare is instrumental to the success of the Child Care Policy; and,
- Commented that Little Bunnies Daycare has created a sense of belonging within the community.

4.12 Mr. Sarah Bird, 1800 Block Apins Road

- Spoke to the challenges of finding good childcare; and,
- Commented on the convenience of having both children able to attend Little Bunnies Daycare.

4.13 Ms. Luciana Roberts, 500 Block West Kings Road

- Expressed concern with noise; and,
- Expressed concern with increased traffic.

4.14 Mr. Stuart Carpentry, 400 Block West Kings Road

- Requested that a balance in the neighbourhood be maintained;
- Stated that there are enough daycares in the neighbourhood; and,

- Commented that businesses should not be allowed in residential neighbourhoods.

4.15 Mr. Jim Gail, 500 Block West Kings Road

- Speaking a second time;
- Commented that parents dropping children off park on Jones street;
- Commented that tandem parking does not work when dropping off and picking up children;
- Expressed concern with increased noise from the children;
- Stated that there are too many daycares in one neighbourhood;
- Urged Council to maintain Little Bunnies Daycare for ten children; and,
- Expressed concern that the District of North Vancouver did not consult the community when Little Bunnies Daycare was first created.

4.16 Ms. Laya Shakery, 400 Block West Kings Road

- Commented that the intent is to maintain the peacefulness of the neighbourhood;
- Expressed concern that neighbours feel that Little Bunnies Daycare has been intrusive; and,
- Commented that this is a passion and is not doing this to make money.

5. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Council requested that staff provide information regarding rates for daycare services throughout the District of North Vancouver.

Council queried who is responsible for maintaining the quality of daycares. Staff advised that Vancouver Coastal Health has high standards of care and there is a basic standard that all daycares must comply with.

Staff advised that nineteen hundred children in the District of North Vancouver are not able to get into daycares.

6. CLOSING

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Confidential Council Clerk