

DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER PUBLIC MEETING

Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Council for the District of North Vancouver held at 7:06 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 in the Committee Room of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

Present: Mayor M. Little
Councillor J. Back
Councillor M. Bond
Councillor M. Curren
Councillor J. Hanson

Absent: Councillor B. Forbes
Councillor L. Muri

Staff: Mr. D. Milburn, General Manager – Planning, Properties & Permits
Mr. B. Dwyer, Manager – Development Services
Ms. L. Brick, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Ms. A. Reiher, Confidential Council Clerk
Ms. C. Rucci, Social Planner

1. OPENING BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Little 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. Anna Amiri, Owner – Itsy Bitsy Daycare, at 2391 Berkley Road. She noted that Ms. Amiri has applied to amend her current Family Child Care License for seven children to a Group Child Care for school age children for twenty children. Ms. Amiri has been operating Itsy Bitsy Daycare, from her singly family home for approximately three years without complaints. She has decided to amend her license in response to requests from parents living in the community, searching for out of school care for their children entering kindergarten in September 2019 at Seymour Heights and Blueridge Elementary Schools.

Ms. Rucci advised that staff reviewed this proposal against the Planning Guidelines for Home Occupied Child Care Facilities and considers the proposal to be in an under-served neighbourhood, close to community amenities, located on an easily accessible street. In the opinion of staff the application addresses arrival and departure, parking needs and maintains neighbourhood characteristics.

Ms. Rucci reported that the child care facility will be located on the ground level of the home, while the applicant and her family will live on the second floor. The daycare is located at the northern edge of Berkley Avenue, is situated across the street from Blueridge Park and is a five-minute walk from Blueridge Elementary School.

Ms. Rucci advised the hours of operation will be from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. in the morning and from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the afternoon. The children will be walked to Blueridge School and will be transported by van to Seymour Heights School. The applicant will hire two qualified staff and is proposed to be open on professional development days, during the spring, summer and winter breaks and will be closed on holidays, statutory holidays and for one week during Christmas break.

Ms. Rucci advised that if her license is approved the applicant will renovate her home to create a child care space for twenty children. She noted that one family child care and two group child care facilities are near the daycare and that close to Mount Seymour Parkway, there are several larger facilities. She advised that there are approximately seventy out-of-school spaces that are located east of the Seymour River and West of Northlands Drive and that all these facilities are at capacity and have waitlists. Ms. Rucci advised that the applicant, Ms. Amiri, has sixteen children on her waitlist. She reported that the 2016 Census notes approximately 675 school age children living in this area.

Ms. Rucci reported there are currently six parking spots on the site and that off-site parking is also available. She advised that to manage noise, the applicant intends to divide the children up into two groups to play in the backyard and will bring each group out separately. During the summer months and school breaks the applicant will regularly bring the children on field trips to the local amenities and parents will be encouraged to pick their children up from these locations.

Ms. Rucci advised that the applicant hand delivered a letter of introduction to all of her neighbours located within fifty metres of her home where she outlined her proposal and included an invitation to attend an open house. The open house was held on February 12, 2019 and was attended by staff and a neighbour. Since the public meeting, staff have received one phone call and one letter from members of the public.

3. PRESENTATION BY APPLICANT

Ms. Anna Amiri, Owner – Itsy Bitsy Daycare, commented that her daycare currently cares for five children. She stated that she strives to keep noise levels down and respect her neighbours and will try to arrange alternate pick-up locations and times to mitigate traffic and noise. She advised that eighteen children, including one set of siblings will be cared for in addition to her two children by herself and two staff members. She discussed planned field trips and activities at playgrounds and advised that parents will arrive at staggered pick-up times for their children. She also expressed her willingness to discuss any concerns with neighbours.

4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

4.1 Ms. Donna Fullerton, 3100 Block Strathaven Lane:

- Expressed support for the proposal;
- Commented about the after-school care in the neighbourhood and her work with the community to address childcare needs and solutions;
- Expressed that the proposal provides the best solution and commented favourably about the services provided by Itsy Bitsy Daycare.

4.2 Ms. Amie Kukkola, 2900 Block Eddystone Crescent:

- Expressed concern about the lack of childcare services in the Blueridge and Seymour Heights community; and,
- Commented about the desire for the children to stay within their community and need for childcare services such as those provided by Itsy Bitsy Daycare.

4.3 Mr. Bryan Gardiner, 2300 Block Berkley Avenue:

- Expressed concern about noise, increase traffic and parking;
- Requested that the Noise Regulation Bylaw be followed;
- Expressed support for the proposal on the condition that the applicant and District address any concerns that may be raised.

4.4 Ms. Chantal Seeley, 2700 Block Hamber Place:

- Commented about her difficulty in obtaining childcare services for her young family; and,
- Opined that Itsy Bitsy Daycare provides good service to the community.

4.5 Mr. Eric Andersen, 2500 Block Derbyshire Way:

- Expressed concern about traffic during pickup times after school; and,
- Expressed concern about noise levels for immediate neighbours and requested that District staff advise Community Associations directly about related childcare proposals.

4.6 Mr. Corrie Kost, 2800 Block Colwood Drive:

- Expressed concern about the impacts to the neighbourhood and the location of the home on a busy roadway;
- Expressed concern about the home valuation of properties adjacent to a daycare; and,
- Expressed concern about the transportation of children to school.

4.7 Mr. Peter Teevan, 1900 Block Indian River Crescent:

- Commented about the difficulty of maintaining staffing levels for before and after school daycare services; and,
- Suggested that schools accommodate such services for the community.

5. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that a grant is available through the Ministry of Children and Family Development for childcare providers to provide facilities.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the need for school age care is rising and that toddler age care is also in demand.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised a change of license, for example from out of school care to infant/toddler care would require notification to the neighbours.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised if a complaint is made by a member of the public, the applicant would be advised of the concern and staff would work with the childcare to address the issue.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the person who drives the children from the daycare to school would require a class four drivers license.

6. CLOSING

MOVED by Councillor CURREN

SECONDED by Councillor HANSON

THAT the March 5, 2019 Public Meeting is adjourned.

CARRIED
(7:48 p.m.)


Confidential Council Clerk