Memorandum to the City of Markham Committee of Adjustment June 27, 2024

File: A/049/24

Address: 5900 14th Avenue, Markham

Applicant: Baldassarra Architects Inc. (Milica Zekanovic)

Hearing Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2024

The following comments are provided on behalf of the East Team:

The applicant is requesting relief from the following requirements of By-law 108-81, as amended, as it relates to a multi-unit industrial building.

a) By-law 28-97, Section 3.0 (Table B):

a minimum 162 parking spaces, whereas the by-law requires a minimum of 255 parking spaces

BACKGROUND

Property Description

The 45,980.92 m² (11.36 ac) subject property is located on the north side of 14th Avenue, west of Markham Road and east of Canfield Drive. The property is located within an established industrial area neighbourhood comprised of a mix of one and two-storey industrial and commercial buildings. Mature vegetation exists across the property.

There is an existing industrial building on the property, which according to assessment records was constructed in the 1990s.

Proposal

The applicant is proposing to reconfigure the existing parking lot as a result of a new building permit application seeking to divide the existing building into a multi-unit building.

Official Plan and Zoning

Official Plan 2014 (partially approved on November 24/17, and updated on April 9/18)

The Official Plan designates the subject property "General Employment", which provides for manufacturing, processing, and warehousing, along with supplementary storage, retail service, and office functions that support the main manufacturing, processing, or warehousing use. Trade schools are included under this designation.

Furthermore, the 2014 Official Plan provides discretion for other uses such as restaurants, services, commercial schools, offices (excluding medical offices), as well as motor vehicle body shop and repair facilities, and crematoriums. These discretionary uses require a site-specific development application for zoning approval and are subject to conditions outlined in section 8.5.5.3 of the 2014 Official Plan.

Zoning By-Law 108-81

The subject property is zoned Select Industrial and Limited Commercial (M.C) under Bylaw 108-81, as amended, which permits banks and financial institutions, professional and business offices, commercial schools, hotels and motels, in addition to the uses permitted in Section 7.1.1 of Zoning By-Law 108-81, as amended.

Parking Standards By-law 28-97

The proposed development does not comply with the number of required parking spaces in Parking By-law 28-97, as amended.

Zoning Preliminary Review (ZPR) Undertaken

The owner has completed a Zoning Preliminary Review (ZPR) on January 24, 2024 to confirm the variances required for the proposed development.

COMMENTS

The Planning Act states that four tests must be met in order for a variance to be granted by the Committee of Adjustment:

- a) The variance must be minor in nature;
- b) The variance must be desirable, in the opinion of the Committee of Adjustment, for the appropriate development or use of land, building or structure;
- c) The general intent and purpose of the Zoning By-law must be maintained;
- d) The general intent and purpose of the Official Plan must be maintained.

Parking Reduction

The site currently provides a total of 162 parking spaces. Under Parking By-Law 28-97, the proposed development will increase the parking requirement to 255 parking spaces. This will result in a deficiency of 93 parking spaces.

The proposed 162 parking spaces exceeds the new parking requirement of 120 spaces in the City's new Comprehensive Zoning By-Law 2014-19, as amended, which was passed on January 31, 2024 and is currently under appeal and not in full force and effect. Since the new By-Law is not in full force and effect, the variance is needed so that the applicant complies with the current applicable By-Law 28-97, as amended, which requires 255 sparking spaces.

Transportation Engineering staff have reviewed the application and stated that the existing number of parking spaces are adequate for the proposed division of the existing development into multiple units as it will satisfy and exceed the parking requirements set out by the City's Comprehensive Zoning By-Law 2014-19, as amended, when it in comes into effect.

Therefore, Staff have no objections to the approval of the proposed parking reduction.

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

No written submissions were received as of July 27, 2024. It is noted that additional information may be received after the writing of the report, and the Secretary-Treasurer will provide information on this at the meeting.

CONCLUSION

Planning Staff have reviewed the application with respect to Section 45(1) of The Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13, as amended, and are of the opinion that the variance request meets the four tests of the Planning Act and have no objection. Staff recommend that the Committee consider public input in reaching a decision.

The onus is ultimately on the applicant to demonstrate why they should be granted relief from the requirements of the zoning by-law, and how they satisfy the tests of the Planning Act required for the granting of minor variances.

Please refer to Appendix "A" for conditions to be attached to any approval of this application.

PREPARED BY:

Aaron Chau, Planner I, East District

REVIEWED BY:

Stacia Muradali, Development Manager, East District

APPENDIX

Appendix "A" – A/049/24 Conditions of Approval

Appendix "B" – Drawings

Appendix "C" - Transportation Comments

APPENDIX "A" CONDITIONS TO BE ATTACHED TO ANY APPROVAL OF FILE A/049/24

- 1. The variances apply only to the proposed development as long as it remains.
- 2. Submission of a Tree Assessment and Preservation Plan, prepared by a Qualified Tree Expert in accordance with the City's Tree Assessment and Preservation Plan (TAPP) Requirements (2024) as amended, to be reviewed and approved by the City, and that the Secretary-Treasurer receive written confirmation from the Tree Preservation By-law Administrator that this condition has been fulfilled to his/her satisfaction, and that any detailed Siting, Lot Grading and Servicing Plan required as a condition of approval reflects the Tree Assessment and Preservation Plan.
- 3. That prior to the commencement of construction or demolition, tree protection be erected and maintained around all trees on site, neighbouring properties, and street trees, in accordance with the City's Streetscape Manual (2009) as amended, and inspected by City Staff to the satisfaction of the Tree Preservation By-law Administrator.
- 4. If required as per Tree Preservation review, tree securities and/or tree fees be paid to the City and that the Secretary-Treasurer receive written confirmation that this condition has been fulfilled to the satisfaction of the Tree Preservation By-law Administrator.

CONDITIONS PREPARED BY:

Aaron Chau, Planner I, East District



