Memorandum to the City of Markham Committee of AdjustmentOctober 24, 2024

File: A/115/24

Address: Plan 65M-2665, Block 1 (Commerce Valley Drive East)

Applicant: Weston Consulting (Raj Lamichhane)

Hearing Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2024

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

The applicant is requesting relief from the following requirements of the Select Industrial Limited Commercial (M.C. (90%)) Zone in By-law 165-80, as amended, to permit:

a) By-law 165-80, Amending By-law 108-92, Section 1.2(b)(i):

an industrial building height of 3 storeys with a maximum height of 29.0 metres, whereas the by-law permits a maximum industrial building height of 2 storeys, provided the maximum height does not exceed 8.0 metres;

as it relates to the development of a three-storey data processing centre building.

This application is associated with a Site Plan Control application (File No.: SPC 23 116627) which is currently under review. This application is also related to Minor Variance application A/064/24 which was approved on August 14, 2024, and was Final and Binding on September 6, 2024.

BACKGROUND

Property Description

The 11.58 ha (28.6 ac) subject property is located at the southeast corner of Highway 7 and Commerce Valley Drive East. The subject property is currently vacant with an existing stormwater management pond located at the southeast corner of the property. Surrounding land uses predominantly include hotels, office buildings, and commercial uses.

Proposal

The applicant is proposing to construct a three-storey data centre building with a total GFA of 33,372 m² (359,213 ft²) on the subject property.

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.

Application History

On August 14, 2024, the Committee of Adjustment approved variances for the subject property, including a variance related to the maximum building height (refer to Appendix

'D' – Previous Staff Report). Through review of the related Site Plan Control application, it was identified that the approved maximum building height variance did not include required wording related to the maximum number of storeys. For this reason, the applicant has made a further application to the Committee of Adjustment to revise the height variance to include the maximum number of storeys. The proposed height variance is technical in nature and intended to correct a previous wording error. There are no changes to the plans as a result of the variance. Staff have no objection to the requested variance.

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

No written submissions were received as of October 24, 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:

Garley Miller

Hailey Miller, Senior Planner, West District

REVIEWED BY:

Hick Church

Rick Cefaratti, MCIP, RPP, Acting Development Manager, West District

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APPENDIX "A" CONDITIONS TO BE ATTACHED TO ANY APPROVAL OF FILE A/115/24

- 1. The variances apply only to the proposed development as long as it remains;
- 2. That the variances apply only to the subject development, in substantial conformity with the plan(s) attached as 'Appendix B' to this Staff Report, and that the Secretary-Treasurer receive written confirmation from the Supervisor of the Committee of Adjustment or designate that this condition has been fulfilled to their satisfaction;
- 3. 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;
- 4. 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:
- 5. 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;
- 6. That the applicant satisfies the requirements of the *TRCA*, financial or otherwise, as indicated in their letter to the Secretary-Treasurer attached as Appendix C to this Staff Report, to the satisfaction of the *TRCA*, and that the Secretary-Treasurer receive written confirmation that this condition has been fulfilled to the satisfaction of *TRCA*.

CONDITIONS PREPARED BY:

Harley Miller

Hailey Miller, Senior Planner, West District



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ISSUED FOR SITE PLAN CONTROL APPLICATION - 2.R1







