

Staff Report for Decision

File Number: DP001289

DATE OF MEETING March 4, 2024

AUTHORED BY CALEB HORN, PLANNER, CURRENT PLANNING

SUBJECT DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION NO. DP1289 – 337 ROBSON STREET



Proposal:

A 31-unit multi-family residential development

Zoning: DT2 – Fitzwilliam

City Plan Land Use Designation: Primary Urban Centre

Development Permit Areas: DPA8 – Form & Character

Lot Area: 498m²



DP



OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To present for Council's consideration a development permit application for a multi-family residential development at 337 Robson Street.

Recommendation

That Council issue Development Permit No. DP1289 for a multi-family residential development at 337 Robson Street with variances as outlined in the "Proposed Variances" section of the Staff Report dated 2024-MAR-04.

BACKGROUND

A development permit application, DP1289, was received from Beck Vale Architects and Planners Inc., on behalf of 1362132 BC Ltd., to permit a five-storey multi-family residential development with 31 dwelling units at 337 Robson Street. A previous development permit for the property, DP1127, was approved in 2019 and expired in 2021.

Subject Property and Site Context

The subject property is located in the Old City Quarter at the western edge of Downtown Nanaimo. Robson Street is a cul-de-sac extending from Franklyn Street with a pedestrian connection to Fitzwilliam Street to the north. The property contains a private gravel parking lot, and no trees or other significant vegetation are present on the lot.

The surrounding neighbourhood includes a mix of commercial and residential land uses. Adjacent properties include St. Andrew's United Church to the north, offices across Robson Street to the east, surface parking lots and future development sites along Robson Street to the south, and a mix of commercial uses (retail stores, restaurants, and offices) along Wesley Street to the west. A number of amenities are located nearby with commercial services on Fitzwilliam Street, Victoria Crescent, and Commercial Street. Nearby recent residential developments include the 46-unit five-storey Cardea building at 238 Franklyn Street (completed 2019) and the 195-unit six-storey Telus Living development at 235 Wallace Street (under construction).

DISCUSSION

Proposed Development

The proposed development is a five-storey multi-family residential building with 31 studio rental units and under-the-building parking. The proposed units are micro-units with sizes ranging from 30m² to 34m².

The proposed gross floor area is $1,233m^2$ and the total Floor Area Ratio (FAR) will be 2.48, which is below the maximum permitted FAR of 2.50 for this development. The base maximum FAR in the DT2 zone is 2.30 and the applicant is proposing to achieve an additional 0.20 FAR through the provision of amenities as outlined in 'Schedule D – Amenity Requirements for Additional



Density' of the "City of Nanaimo Zoning Bylaw 2011 No. 4500". The applicant is proposing to meet Tier 1 in Schedule D by providing amenities including the following:

- Wood frame construction;
- The use of recycled building materials;
- Exceeding the BC Energy Step Code by one step;
- Low-flow plumbing features;
- Rainwater collection for on-site irrigation; and,
- Educational signage for sustainable building materials, energy management practices, and water management practices.

Site Design

The proposed building covers the entire site with 100% lot coverage as permitted in the DT2 zone. Access to the under-the-building parking will be provided from Robson Street via a drive aisle located in the centre of the property. A portion of the building footprint is set back from Robson Street to accommodate the parking entrance and short-term bicycle parking. The pedestrian entrance is located on Robson Street at the northeast corner of the building.

A total of 11 vehicle parking spaces are proposed onsite (see "Proposed Variances" section of this report), in addition to the required 16 long-term bicycle parking spaces and four short-term bicycle parking spaces. Waste collection will be from a garbage room in the parking level.

Building Design

The relevant design guidelines are the Downtown Urban Design Plan and Guidelines (the "Downtown Design Guidelines") which encourages residential uses along Robson Street. The front façade of the five-storey building includes a two-column element at zero lot line, with wood-like cladding framing the corners of the building. The remainder of the front façade is set back from the street in order to break up the massing of the building and allow for underground parking access. Exterior materials will include a mix of cementitious panels.

The Downtown Design Guidelines encourage a 1.5m setback from Robson Street; and the central portion of the upper storey is set back slightly further (approximately 2m) to allow an open deck and articulation of the building. Balconies on each level add visual interest to the building. The front entrance is defined by an overhead deck and prominent glazing. The front elevation emphasizes a street wall character while maintaining a human scale of development.

The rear elevation includes a more pronounced terraced design where the parking level is partially underground. The second floor of the building is set back approximately 3m and the uppermost floor is set back an additional 10m. By stepping back the building, the applicant is able to provide rooftop outdoor amenity space and transition to the existing two-storey office building to the rear. The proposed development is in substantial compliance with the applicable Downtown Design Guidelines.

Landscape Design

The 100% lot coverage allows for limited landscaping opportunities. The applicant is proposing ornamental planting to screen the pad-mounted transformer at street level in addition to a raised planter adjacent to the sidewalk. Additional planter beds are proposed on second-level private



patios and the fifth-level rooftop terrace. Garden beds for residents are also proposed in the rooftop amenity space.

Design Advisory Panel

The application was not referred to the Design Advisory Panel (DAP) as the design is in substantial compliance with the design of DP1127 that was previously accepted by DAP in 2019.

Proposed Variances

Maximum Building Height

The maximum permitted height for a principal building in the DT2 zone is 12.0m and the proposed building height is 16.1m, a requested variance of 4.1m. The variance request is consistent with the previously approved DP.

The height variance is requested in order to accommodate the uppermost floor and to maximize outdoor amenity space onsite with rooftop amenities. The fifth level only covers a portion of the building and the massing is concentrated towards the Robson Street elevation. The development will not impact a public view corridor as identified in the Downtown Urban Design Plan and Guidelines. The proposed building elevation will be similar to that of St. Andrew's United Church to the north.

City Plan supports taller building heights in the Downtown Urban Centre, with typical building forms including a mix of low-rise, mid-rise, and high-rise buildings.

Minimum Required Parking

The minimum required parking for the development is 14 parking spaces and the total number of spaces accounted for is 12, a requested variance of two spaces.

While only 11 parking spaces are provided onsite, the City of Nanaimo "Off Street Parking Regulations Bylaw 2018 No. 7266" (the "Parking Bylaw") allows cash-in-lieu for up to 10% of the required parking in this area. The applicant is proposing to pay cash-in-lieu for one parking space and is requesting a variance for the remaining two spaces.

The applicant intends to cater the rental development towards those who do not have private vehicles as a principal mode of transport. The site is located in close proximity to services and transit, with a bus stop on Fitzwilliam Street approximately 100m northwest (identified as Bus Frequent Transit by City Plan) and the future transit exchange approximately 400m southeast. The site is less than 100m away from Wallace Street which is identified as a future Secondary Active Mobility Route by City Plan. Additionally, City Plan encourages alternative mobility modes and development in close proximity to services where there is less reliance on a private vehicle, and further supports the removal of minimum parking requirements in the Downtown Urban Centre.

Staff support the proposed variances.



SUMMARY POINTS

- Development Permit Application No. DP1289 is for a five-storey multi-family residential development with 31 dwelling units at 337 Robson Street.
- The proposed development is in substantial compliance with the applicable Downtown Design Guidelines.
- Variances are requested to increase the maximum permitted building height from 12.0m to 16.1m and to reduce the minimum required parking from 14 spaces to 12.
- Staff support the proposed variances.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A:	Permit Terms and Conditions
ATTACHMENT B:	Subject Property Map
ATTACHMENT C:	Site and Parking Plans
ATTACHMENT D:	Building Elevations and Details
ATTACHMENT E:	Building Renderings
ATTACHMENT F:	Landscape Plan and Details
ATTACHMENT G:	Schedule D – Amenity Requirements for Additional Density

Submitted by:

Concurrence by:

Lainya Rowett Manager, Current Planning Jeremy Holm Director, Planning & Development

ATTACHMENT A PERMIT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

TERMS OF PERMIT

The "City of Nanaimo Bylaw 2011 No. 4500" is varied as follows:

1. *Section 11.7.1 Size of Buildings* – to increase the maximum permitted height of a principal building from 12.0m to 16.1m.

The "City of Nanaimo Off Street Parking Regulations Bylaw 2018 No. 7266" is varied as follows:

2. *Section 7.1 Multiple-Family Dwelling Parking Table* – to reduce the minimum required number of off-street parking spaces from 14 spaces to 12 spaces.

CONDITIONS OF PERMIT

- 1. The subject property shall be developed in substantial compliance with the Site and Parking Plans prepared by Beck Vale Architects and Planners Inc., received 2023-AUG-28 and 2024-JAN-30, as shown on Attachment C.
- 2. The subject property shall be developed in substantial compliance with the Building Elevations and Details prepared by Beck Vale Architects and Planners Inc., received 2023-DEC-17, as shown on Attachment D.
- 3. The subject property shall be developed in substantial compliance with the Landscape Plan and Details prepared by Bloom Landscape Architecture., received 2023-AUG-28 and 2023-DEC-17, as shown on Attachment F.
- 4. The subject property shall be developed in accordance with the 'Schedule D Amenity Requirements for Additional Density' prepared by Beck Vale Architects and Planners Inc, received 2024-FEB-12, as shown on Attachment G, and to include the following items:
 - A letter from the coordinating professional submitted prior to building permit issuance outlining how the required items for additional density will be achieved; and
 - A letter from the coordinating professional with accompanying evidence submitted prior to building occupancy demonstrating that the required items have been provided.
- 5. Payment of \$10,000 cash-in-lieu for one of the twelve parking space prior to building permit issuance.



337 Robson Street



DP1289 2023-AUG-28 Current Planning

1:100

Page 2 of 2



2024-JAN-30



35

R E C E I V E D DP1289 2023-DEC-17



ATTACHMENT E BUILDING RENDERINGS











Wesley Street View



RECEIVED DP1289 2023-AUG-28 Protect Number

ISSUED

AUGUST 11, 2022 ISSUED FOR DP

RENDERINGS



NV



Robson Street View

BECK VALE ARCHITECTS + PLANNERS INC.
The sense of a support for ender the dense of lense tables to a support of a contract of the dense of the of

Wesley Street View

ATTACHMENT F LANDSCAPE PLAN AND DETAILS

Page 1 of 2

2023-DEC-17



Page 2 of 2

LEVEL 5

THE SOUTH FACING ROOF DECK ON LEVEL FIVE PROVIDES A GENERAUS OUTDOOR AREA FOR ALL RESIDENTS TO ENJOY. THE SPACE IS DEFINED BY RAISED PLANTERS WITH FIXED BENCH SEATING AND MOVERALE CHAIRS AND TABLES. RESIDENTS CAN CHOOSE TO GATHER IN GROUPS OR FIND A QUET PLACE TO READ. THE LAYOUT IS CONSIDERATE OF WHELCHARK USERS AS THE ROOF DECK AND ALL AREAS ON IT ARE ACCESSIBLE.

TWO OF THE FOUR P.M.TERE ARE AVAILABLE FOR USE BY RESEARCHS TO GROW THEIR OWN PRODUCE AND ORNAMENTAL PARTS. THE REMAINING PLANTERS ARE FILLED WITH NEADOW STREE PLANTINGS TO CREATE ALL SEARCH VISUAL INTEREST AND ANTRACT FOLUNTORS AND ENTERELES FOUR TREES LIVE THE BECK, PROVINING SUMMER SHADE, BEAUTIFUL FALL COLOR, AND WITTER FORM. THESE TREES ALSO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PROVIDING VERTICAL GREENERY WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT THE VIEWED FORM THE STREET LEVEL AND ADJACENT BUILDINGS.





BECK VALE ARCHITECTS + PLANNERS INC.





BLOOM LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

UNION BAY, BC, V0R 3B0 t: 250-218-1303 e: info@bloom-la.com www.bloom-la.com

PLANT LIST				
QUANTITY	COMMON NAME	SIZE / SPACING		
TREES				
2 3 5	COLUMNAR BLUE ATLAS CEDAR PACIFIC DOGWOOD PARKLAND PILLAR ASIAN WHITE BIRCH	4.5 CM CAL 6.0 CM CAL 4.5 CM CAL		
SHRUBS				
19	GREEN VELVET BOXWOOD	#03 CONT.		
ORNAMENTAL GRASSES AND PERENNIALS				
20 30 20	DRUMSTICK ALLIUM MEXICAN FEATHER GRASS RHAPSODY IN BLUE MEADOW SAGE	BULB/PLANT IN FALL #01 CONT. #01 CONT.		



BENCH SEATING AROUND PLANTERS

DECIDUOUS TREE

DECIDUOUS SHRUB

ORNAMENTAL GRASS FLOWERING PERENNIAL

PLANTING LEGEND

 \odot

0

0









A DATE AUGUST 11, 2022 ISSUED FOR DP

ISSUED



R E C E I V E D DP1289 2023-AUG-28 Drawn: CAF, TO Checked:



38



NV

Page 1 of 2

ATTACHMENT G

SCHEDULE D - AMENITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL DENSITY

337 Robson Street

SCHEDULE D – TIER 1

ADDITIONAL DENSITY REQUIREMENTS - SCHEDULE D

	1	SITE SELECTION (MIN.10)
	2	RETENTION AND RESTORATION OF NATURAL FEATURES (MIN. 8)
	_	
	3	PARKING AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION (MIN. 10)
0 16	4	
9- 10	4	BOILDING MATERIALS (MIN. 8) ATCTDTETIL 9
1 - 1	Α.	WOOD IS THE PRIMARY BUILDING MATERIAL YES WOOD FRAME BUILDING
0-2	B.	THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT USES SALVAGED, REFURBISHED OR
-		REUSED MATERIALS; THE SUM OF WHICH CONSTITUTES AT LEAST 10% OF
		THE TOTAL VALUE OF MATERIALS ON THE PROJECT. NO.
3 - 3	С.	AT LEAST 50% OF ALL WOOD PRODUCTS USED IN CONSTRUCTION ARE
		CERTIFIED BY THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (FSC), THE
		SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE (SFI), THE CANADIAN STANDARDS
		ASSOCIATION - SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD (CSA-
2-2	П	THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT LISES MATERIALS WITH RECYCLED
Z - Z	0.	CONTENT SUCH THAT THE SUM OF THE POSTCONSUMER RECYCLED
		MATERIAL CONSTITUTES AT LEAST 25%. BASED ON COSTS, OF THE TOTAL
		VALUE OF THE MATERIALS IN THE PROJECT. YES.
2 - 2	E.	THE PROJECT DEVELOPER HAS SUBMITTED A CONSTRUCTION AND WASTE
		MANAGEMENT PLAN THAT, AT A MINIMUM, IDENTIFIES THE MATERIALS TO
		BE DIVERTED FROM DISPOSAL AND WHETHER THE MATERIALS WILL BE
0.0	-	SURTED UNSITE OR COMINGLED. YES.
0-2	F.	RESOURCES, NO.
0 - 3	G.	THE PROPERTY INCLUDES AN EXISTING BUILDING AND AT LEAST 75% OF
		EXISTING BUILDING STRUCTURE OR SHELL IS RETAINED. NO.
1 - 1	Н.	THE DEVELOPMENT INCLUDES PERMANENT EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE OR
		DISPLAY(S) REGARDING THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF BUILDING MATERIALS
		USED DURING CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT. YES. RE: 1/DP2-1
11 - 31	5	
11-51	5	
10 - 10*	Α.	THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT MEETS AT LEAST THE REQUIREMENTS OF
		STEP 2 OF THE BC ENERGY STEP CODE AND EXCEEDS THE REQUIREMENT
		SPECIFIED IN THE BUILDING BYLAW BY ONE STEP.* YES. THE PROJECT IS
		DESIGNED FOR PART 3 BUILDING. IT IS REQUIRED TO MEET STEP 2 BUT
		PROJECT WILL MEET STEP 3.
15^-	В.	THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT MEETS AT LEAST THE REQUIREMENTS OF
		STEP 3 OF THE BUILDING BY AW BY ONE STEP * VES THE PROJECT IS
		DESIGNED FOR PART 3 BUILDING. IT IS REQUIRED TO MEET STEP 2 BUT
		PROJECT WILL MEET STEP 3
30*-	C.	THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IS CONSIDERED A PART 3 WITHIN THE
		BRITISH COLUMBIA BUILDING CODE (BCBC) AND THE BUILDING MEETS THE
		MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF STEP 4 (NET ZERO READY) WITHIN THE BC
		ENERGY STEP CODE; OR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IS CONSIDERED
		A PART 9 WITHIN THE BRITISH COLUMBIA BUILDING CODE (BCBC) AND THE

		BUILDING MEETS THE MIN. REQ. OF STEP 4 OR 5 WITHIN THE BC ENERGY
1 - 1	D.	THE DEVELOPMENT INCLUDES PERMANENT EDUCATION SIGNAGE OR DISPLAY(S) REGARDING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES USED ONSITE. YES. SIGNAGE ON THE LOBBY WALL. RE: GROUND FLOOR PLAN 1/DP2-1
8 - 16	6	WATER MANAGEMENT (MIN. 8) B+E+G+H= 8
• • • •		
0 - 2	Α.	AT LEAST 50% OF THE PROPERTY IS COVERED WITH A PERMEABLE SURFACE AREA WHICH MAY INCLUDE A GREEN ROOF, NO.
2 - 2	В.	THE PROPOSED BUILDINGS ON THE PROPERTY INCLUDE PLUMBING FEATURES WHICH WILL USE 35% LESS WATER THAN THE BC BUILDING CODE STANDARD. YES.
0 - 3	С.	A GREEN ROOF IS INSTALLED TO A MINIMUM 30% OF THE ROOF AREA. NO.
0 - 2	D.	A LIVING WALL IS INSTALLED TO COVER AT LEAST 10% OF THE TOTAL AVAILABLE WALL AREA FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT. NO.
3 - 3	E.	A NON-POTABLE IRRIGATION SYSTEM IS INSTALLED AND USED FOR ALL ON-SITE IRRIGATION. YES. WATER TO BE COLLECTED UNDER SLAB (CISTERN) AND PUMP BACK UP TO USE FOR GREEN SPACE ON TERRACE AND ROOF.
0 - 1	F.	A WATER EFFICIENT IRRIGATION SYSTEM (SUCH AS DRIP) IS INSTALLED. NO.
2 - 2	G.	THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT INCLUDES A RAIN GARDEN, CISTERN, BIOSWALE OR STORM WATER RETENTION POND ON THE PROPERTY. YES. WATER TO BE COLLECTED UNDER SLAB (CISTERN).
1 - 1	H.	THE DEVELOPMENT SITE INCLUDES PERMANENT EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE OR A DISPLAY(S) REGARDING SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES USED ON SITE. YES. SIGNAGE ON THE LOBBY WALL. RE: GROUND FLOOR PLAN 1/DP2-1
<u> </u>	7	SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY (MIN. 8)
	•	
	8	AFFORDABLE HOUSING (MIN. 10)