Memorandum to the City of Markham Committee of Adjustment January 08, 2025

File:A/130/24Address:2 Windridge Drive, MarkhamAgent:Pro Vision Architecture Inc (DAVID EQBAL)Hearing Date:Wednesday, January 22, 2025

The Applicant is requesting relief from the following "Residential – Established Neighbourhood Low Rise (RES-ENLR) zone requirements under Comprehensive Zoning By-law 2024-19, as amended, as they relate to a proposed garden home and a new two-storey dwelling. The variances requested are to permit:

a) By-law 2024-19, Section 4.9.10 (f):

a garden home with a maximum height of 5.8 metres, whereas the by-law permits a garden home with a maximum height of 4.5 metres; and

b) <u>By-law 2024-19, Section 5.3.2 (f):</u>

a driveway with a maximum width of 8.95 metres, whereas the by-law permits a driveway with a maximum width of 8.49 metres.

BACKGROUND

Property Description

The 1,012.92 m² (10,903.06 ft²) subject property is located on the west side of Windridge Drive, north of Highway 7 and west of Main Street Markham Road North. The property is located within an established residential neighbourhood comprised of a mix of one and two-storey detached dwellings. The surrounding area is undergoing a transition with newer dwellings being developed as infill developments.

The property currently contains a one-storey detached dwelling with an integral garage. Vegetation exists on the property which includes cedar hedges along the south and west property lines.

Proposal

The applicant is proposing to demolish the existing dwelling to construct a new two-storey detached dwelling with an integral two-car garage and a garden home. The proposed structures will have an approximate total floor area of 265.94 m² (2,862.55 ft²).

Official Plan and Zoning

<u>Official Plan 2014 (partially approved on November 24/17, and updated on April 9/18)</u> The subject property is designated "Residential Low Rise", which provides for low rise housing forms including single detached dwellings. Section 8.2.3.5 of the Official Plan outlines development criteria for the "Residential Low Rise" designation with respect to height, massing and setbacks. This criteria is established to ensure that the development is appropriate for the site and generally consistent with the zoning requirements for adjacent properties and properties along the same street. In considering applications for development approval in a "Residential Low Rise" area, which includes variances, infill development is required to meet the general intent of these development criteria. Regard shall also be had for retention of existing trees and vegetation, and the width of proposed garages and driveways.

Comprehensive Zoning By-law 2024-19

The subject property is zoned "Residential – Established Neighbourhood Low Rise (RES-ENLR) under Comprehensive Zoning By-law 2024-19, which permits one single detached dwelling per lot. The proposed dwelling does not comply with the garden home height and driveway width provisions.

Zoning Preliminary Review (ZPR) Undertaken

The applicant has completed a Zoning Preliminary Review (ZPR) to confirm the <u>initial</u> variances required for the proposed development. The applicant submitted revised drawings on December 17, 2024. The applicant has not conducted a Zoning Preliminary Review for the revised drawings. Consequently, it is the owner's responsibility to ensure that the application has accurately identified all the variances to the Zoning By-law required for the proposed development. If the variance request in this application contains errors, or if the need for additional variances is identified during the Building Permit review process, further variance application(s) may be required to address the non-compliance.

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.

Increase in Maximum Building Height a for Garden Home

The applicant is requesting relief to permit a maximum building height for a garden home of 5.8 m (19.0 ft), whereas the By-law permits a maximum building height of 4.5 m (14.7 ft). This represents an increase of 1.3 m (4.2 ft). The increased building height is to accommodate a two-storey garden home.

Staff do not anticipate any negative impacts from the proposed increase in height. Staff have considered that the proposed garden home is permitted by the By-law and are of the opinion that the requested variance is consistent with similar developments in the area. Staff opine that the proposed increase in height will not result in a <u>garden home</u> that is incompatible with the surrounding context and have no concerns with the requested variance.

Increase in Maximum Driveway Width

The applicant is requesting relief to permit a maximum driveway width of 8.95 m (29.36 ft), whereas the By-law permits a maximum driveway width of 8.49 m (27.85 ft). This represents an increase of approximately 0.46 m (1.51 ft).

The requested variance only applies to the driveway width at its widest point with no proposed changes to the existing curb cut. Notwithstanding the driveway width increase,

the property will provide generous landscape space in the front yard. Staff have no concerns with the requested variance.

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

No written submissions were received as of January 15, 2025. 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:

ZM

Brashanthe Manoharan, Planner II, East District

REVIEWED BY:

Stacia Muradali, Development Manager, East District

APPENDIX "A" CONDITIONS TO BE ATTACHED TO ANY APPROVAL OF FILE A/130/24

- 1. The variances apply only to the proposed development for as long as it remains.
- 2. That the variances apply only to the subject development, in substantial conformity with the batch stamped plans 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 his or her satisfaction.

CONDITIONS PREPARED BY:

ZM

Brashanthe Manoharan, Planner II, East District













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