

Sonia Kniehl
7124 Nancy Greene Drive
Unit #70
Whistler, BC

Mayor and Council
Resort Municipality of Whistler
4325 Blackcomb Way
Whistler, BC V8E 0X5

Dear Mayor and Council,

As a neighbour to the proposed 7104 Nancy Greene Drive development, I am writing to council to bring your attention to the set-backs and height of the development application. This property is currently zoned for a single residential home and changing the set-backs and height allowances to accommodate this high density building will ensure it not only doesn't fit in the neighbourhood, but will very much encroach on neighbouring privacy and livability.

Set-backs

The set-backs being proposed in the March application from Vidorra are significantly less than what the surrounding properties were required to meet. Here is a quick look at what you are asking the neighbours to have in their backyards -

	Set-back – Front	Set-back – Side	Set-back - Rear	Height Max	Density
Current Zoning – RSE1	7.6m	3-6 m	7.6 m	7.6 m	35%
RS1 Zoning	7.6m	3-6m	7.6m	7.6m	35%
RT1 Zoning	7.6m	3-6m	7.6m	7.6m	35%
RM1 Zoning	7.6m	3.0m	7.6m	7.6m	40%
Proposed Zoning	1.5m	1.5m	3.0m	8.5m	95%

For reference attached is a map identifying the surrounding lots and their zonings.

Reducing the set-backs so drastically will result in:

- Existing large coniferous trees being removed, therefore resulting in the loss of natural screen barrier and privacy for neighbours. This cannot be replaced!
- Existing rock structure being removed and completely changing the natural landscaping!
- Loss of privacy for neighbours

Previous projects have been forced to have larger set-backs and this project should not be treated any different. For example 5298 Alta Lake Road, the proposal saw the building set-back changed from 7.6 meters to 20 meters. This is significant! Councillor Jewett stated in February in regards to the development that “the good thing about this is it will be model moving forward for some of the other proposals we’ll get in front of us in the near future”. This development application at 7104 Nancy Greene Drive is exactly what she would have been referring to.

See article - <https://issuu.com/whistlerpublishing/docs/piguewebissue2708/16>

Consider a development such as that illustrated in attachment 'The Coops on 7104 Nancy Greene Drive. This illustrates that a building such as The Coops (in Creekside) could be built on this plot of land and would not only maintain more consistent set-backs that match the neighbourhood, but would preserve the existing mature trees and natural rock.

The 9291 Emerald Drive employee housing project was required to preserve existing trees on the property – again this should be not different. See article - <https://issuu.com/whistlerpublishing/docs/piquewebissue2706/20>

The developer himself as also previously mentioned that he would not be removing the mature trees on the site “I think the most important issue are the mature trees on the site and the setbacks from the property lines. We have completed a detailed survey of the existing trees on the site and the height of those trees. We have moved the building closer to the Highway side of the property and preserve many of those trees and the rock face that is a great feature facing 7124”. Clearly this proposal does not preserve the trees or the rock face.

Have you looked around the neighbourhood? None of the surrounding homes are built this close to their property lines (the adjacent building H at Fitzsimmons walk is 10 meters from the property line) and their neighbours. All are separated by natural tree screening and this property should be no different. The neighbouring properties would like to see:

- the rock and coniferous trees between the proposed apartment building and Fitzsimmons walk remain and be undisturbed,
- increase the set-backs so that they are consistent with neighbouring properties – at least 15 meters.

Height

As you can see from the previously presented the table, the height of the proposed development application is far greater than the neighbouring properties. It is unrealistic to think that a development with greater density and height than the surrounding properties will meet the requirement of guideline 12 in the 'Guidelines for Evaluating Private sector Rezoning Proposals for Employee Housing' dated 26 March 2019. For reference this states; “Proposed densities, scale of development and form of housing should be appropriate for the site context. Visual impacts and impacts on solar access should be minimized.” – highlight the second part of this statement!

What would be appropriate for this site is a 2 story building consistent with the low to medium density residential properties that it will be adjacent too.

I look forward to seeing council re-evaluate this development application with an understanding of how this will change our neighbourhood and the liveability of it. This project is far to dense, close to properties lines and will dwarf the surrounding properties. It must be reduced in size for it to be complimentary to the surroundings in which it is being built.

Sincerely,

Sonia Kniehl

Cc: RMOW General Manager of Resort Experience

Cc: RMOW Planning Department

Director of Planning – M Kirkegaard

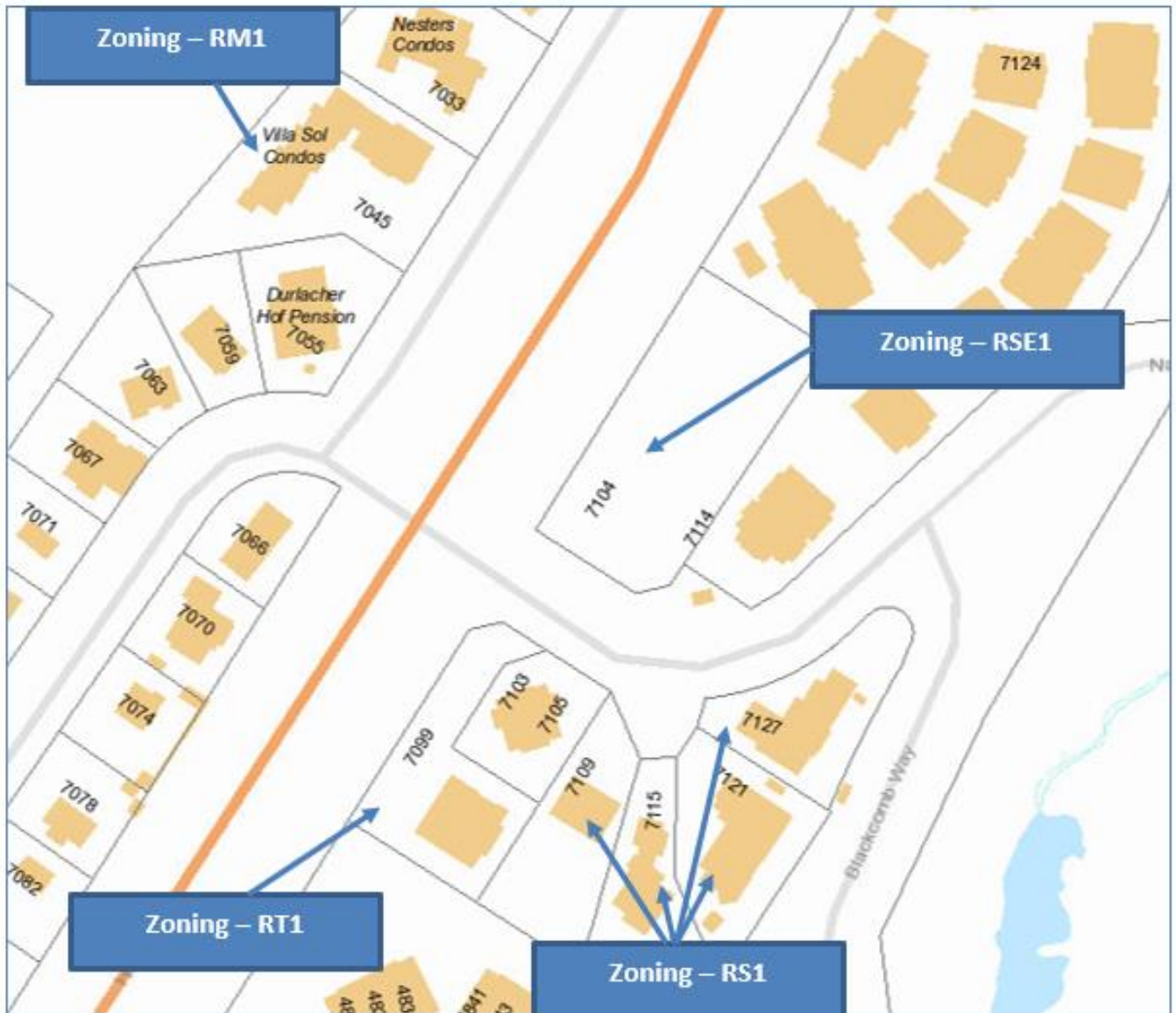
Senior Planner – Roman Licko

Planner – Stephanie Johnson

Attachments:

Zoning of Surrounding properties to the development
The Coops on 7104 Nancy Greene Drive
Guidelines for Evaluating Private sector Rezoning Proposals for Employee Housing

Zoning of Surrounding properties to the development



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Dear Mayor and Council,

As a member of the Whistler community I have been following the progress of the development and rezoning application for RZ1146 – 7104 Nancy Greene Drive. Council needs to reject this proposal now and only consider a much smaller development.

The development, not only being too dense for the parcel of land it will be on, but it also has the following flaws:

- Inadequate storage for residents of the complex
- Inadequate availability of parking for residents and visitors
- It will significantly increase traffic congestion

The high density that is being requested for this parcel of land results in the above issues. We therefore need to reconsider how many LIVABLE units can be built on this parcel of land. The 'Comparative Evaluation of Potential Resident Housing Sites in Whistler' study and workshop estimated 5 rental townhouses. This could look like something such as The Coops (see attached transposition onto the proposed site). If we abide by this professional and thoughtful report, the issues I am bringing to your attention would not be issues at all.

Storage

As Whistler residents, we love to play. Most of the sports/activities that we participate in, skiing, mountain biking, rock climbing, hiking etc., all require equipment. This equipment needs to be securely stored in our own residences. The proposed development for 7104 Nancy Greene Drive includes a bike storage room for 60 bikes but does not include any in-unit storage OR storage assigned to the unit.

Council needs to reflect on how many bikes their own households have – this will be no different for people moving into this development. On average a Whistler resident has 2 bikes - one for valley trail riding and one for trail riding. The neighbouring Fitzsimmons Walk property conducted a survey. Of the 67 residents living onsite (in 36 units) at any one time, there are 153 bikes. How do these fit in a storage room designed for 60 bikes? This will result in balconies being used for storage as well as the units themselves, which poses its own security concern, but means the balconies will not be used for outdoor enjoyment as intended.

At the neighbouring Fitzsimmons Walk property, all 36 WHA units have in-unit storage, an assigned locker of 60sq ft per unit AND a dedicated bike storage room. All of this space is used to its full capacity. And we still regularly deal with storage issues. Consider, if you lived in this proposed space, where would you store chariots, suitcases, hockey nets, kids scooter, skis, tires for cars etc...all the things that people in Whistler, including members of council, own and need to store! Storage is an issue in this proposal!

Parking

The developer is requesting a reduction in the number of required parking spaces in the proposed development. How can we allow this?

Council in their May 5th, 2020 meeting suggested that residents that live close to the village and a supermarket would not have a need for a vehicle. This could not be further from the truth! Life is not solely lived in the village or shopping solely done at Nesters. Residents of Whistler use vehicles to access hikes around the valley, to travel along highway 99, transport a pet, and to visit friends. As a resident of Fitzsimmons Walk, I bike regularly for work, for social, to get groceries etc. but I still use a car for travel in inclement weather, transporting a paddle board to the lake and for traveling with my pet, I cannot travel anywhere on public transit with a dog.

Leniency was granted for parking allocations in both the Cheakamus and Rainbow projects. Look at the mess these neighbourhoods are now – cars parked everywhere. Cheakamus has the most frequent bus service and everyone still has a car or two. This is not what we want for our neighbourhood.

In the neighbouring Fitzsimmons Walk property (that is just as close to the village and Nesters as the proposed development) we have 56 assigned parking spaces and 16 visitor parking spaces. We use all of these spaces and still regularly encounter parking issues within the complex. The developer is expecting 2 persons per bedroom in this proposal. This is 128 people expected to be living onsite (Fitzsimmons Walk is assigned 126 bed units). 41 parking spaces is not enough. This lack of parking will result in people attempting to use the Fitzsimmons walk guest parking along with 'street parking', I could see parking on Nancy Greene dr. and on Blackcomb way becoming an issue. Honestly during peak times there are people who work in the village, that may live in alpine, emerald, pemberton etc. who park in this vicinity and walk in, because they can't park anywhere in the village.

The 2019 Community Life Survey of Whistler (attached) found that over half of the residents said that their preferred method of transportation to/from work is by personal vehicle with 1 occupant. This does not indicate that people want to be carless in their lifestyle choices.

Traffic Congestion

As a resident living on Nancy Greene Drive, I observe considerable confusion and congestion on the section between the highway 99 intersection and Blackcomb Way. It is an accident waiting to happen. Adding additional vehicles due to a high-density building is an issue that Council needs to avoid.

For example, at any one time at the intersection of Nancy Greene Drive and Blackcomb Way, there are vehicles travelling along Nancy Greene Drive, cars entering Nancy Greene Drive from either Blackcomb Way or Fitzsimmons Walk driveway, or other driveways. Compound this issue by having the valley trail coming from Spruce Grove or down the hill from highway 99 with bikes, strollers pedestrians, e-bikes and school children. Who has the right of way? The high volume of traffic on this section cannot sustain an increase resulting from a high density development! It will become a serious safety issue for not only motorists, but pedestrians. I think it already is a safety concern.

Refer to your 'Guidelines for Evaluating Private Sector rezoning Proposals for Employee Housing' item 17 (attached) and you will see this development proposal does not meet this criteria.

As you can see, the proposed development and rezoning poses not only livability concerns, but also safety and security concerns. The severe lack of storage and parking makes these places unlivable for residents of Whistler that love to enjoy the outdoors. The increase in density will result in significantly more pedestrian and vehicle congestion along Nancy Greene Drive and is a serious safety concern!

Council must reject this proposal and only consider a much smaller development!

Regards,
Sonia Kniel

Cc: RMOW General Manager of Resort Experience

Cc: RMOW Planning Department

Director of Planning – M Kirkegaard

Senior Planner – Roman Licko

Planner – Stephanie Johnson

Attachments:

2019 Community Life Survey of Whistler

Guidelines for Evaluating Private Sector rezoning Proposals for Employee Housing

The Coops transposition