

ATTACHMENT F
RESPONSE FROM SOUTH END COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Caleb Horn

To: Caleb Horn
Subject: Re: REFERRAL - 355 Nicol Street Application for Rezoning (RA000489)

From: Sydney Robertson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 6:32 PM
To: Caleb Horn [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: REFERRAL - 355 Nicol Street Application for Rezoning (RA000489)

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Dear Mayor, Council and City Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to relay some feedback to the City from the South End Community Association about the supportive housing building planned for 355 Nicol Street.

I first want to say that we're very supportive of the Snuneymuxw First Nation in this endeavour and we're impressed with the thoughtful vision they bring to the project. We look forward to more conversations together and building this important relationship.

In that vein, we're hoping to hear soon about a Community Advisory Committee (or other similar discussion forum) for this project. We'd like to have some early discussion of the details that could ensure the best possible integration into the surrounding community. (For example, hearing about the array of supports that would be available to the people living at Samaritan Place helped allay some neighbours' concerns during the months leading up to that building opening its doors.)

Two specific items we would like to discuss are parking spaces and the neighbouring Food Forest.

Parking was raised as a concern when the project was discussed at a SECA meeting last spring. In our first discussions with BC Housing about both the proposed supportive housing buildings, we expressed concern that the parking planned for Samaritan Place at 702 Nicol Street wouldn't be adequate and were assured that there wouldn't be many cars. Even with some added spaces, we've since seen that there are just not enough parking stalls at that site to accommodate all the staff, support people, and people living in this housing with cars. We can't imagine the situation at 355 Nicol Street being very different, except that there is no nearby cul-de-sac to handle overflow parking.

The Food Forest is a special place and deserves some focussed discussion. There was broad support expressed at the SECA meeting for the SFN using the Food Forest, especially as a spiritual and therapeutic space, but some concern about fencing it off from the community. We would welcome the opportunity to talk about the Food Forest, as well as the possibility of building community relationships in caring for that land.

And last but not least, we want to be clear that while we support this proposal at 355 Nicol Street, the South End Community Association still advocates for a much more dispersed model for the siting of social housing of all types. We'll work with our community partners to make this project a success, but we need future projects to be sited across the entire city, so as not to add to the overburdening of this small geographic area with the social supports every neighbourhood should share in absorbing.

SECA is looking forward to supporting this endeavour in whatever way we can. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sydney Robertson