

Vancouver Cohousing Rezoning Application

1729-1735 East 33rd Avenue,
Vancouver, BC



- Mr Mayor, Council, **thank you** for your time
- My name is Colin Angel
 - and I hope to be a **future resident** of this project
- **Learned** a lot working through the rezoning **process** and working with city staff
 - **Citizens**, so we're new to this
 - Incredible **journey**
- Worked hard to address concerns of staff and neighbours
- We appreciate that there are still some **things to work out** before we meet UDP approval
 - and we are looking forward to **working with staff** to meet those requirements.

Vancouver Cohousing What Is Cohousing?



- Healthy balance of **private** and **public** space
- Private homes in **close proximity** with **extensive shared amenities**
- There are over 100 in North America, 1,000+ in Europe
- **Proven** model
- Its success is due to its **sustainability**: not just environmentally - economically, and socially
- Community **within** a community
- It's about **sharing** meals, spaces and resources - people **supporting** one another
- It's a **different form** of architecture where the goal is to foster **interaction** amongst the residents

Vancouver Cohousing Who We Are



- Citizens from **all walks** of life
- **22 individuals** and **families**
- **Multi-generational, multi-cultural**
- Young families, single mom, Order of Canada recipient, Landed Immigrant, retirees
- **Investing** in our future and have **put a lot on the line** to create this **unique, non-profit** project



Vancouver Cohousing The Project



- Multi-family home with 29-31 units
- Everything **from studios** to three bedrooms and rentals
- This accommodates a **variety** of lifestyles and families
- In addition to the private units
 - **Common** kitchen and dining room for common meals
 - Guest rooms, work space, kids' playroom, exercise/music room, workshop, gardens
- Cohousing **amenities go beyond** the average development
- Common house really becomes an extension of your home, **enhancing communal interaction**



- We thank Council for their **foresight** to include Cohousing - **Interim Rezoning Policy**
 - This project is a **great example** of this form of **affordable housing**
- Affordability **means different things** to different people
 - **First home** buyer, need to **downsize**, afford to **move back** to Vancouver
 - Many have asked, **how** can our **project** be affordable with a target price of **\$550/sf?**
- Example: **My wife** and I live in a 2 bedroom
 - **2nd bedroom** serves as guest room/office/nursery
 - We can **downsize** 200sf with **this project** and save \$100k on our **purchase price**

- And the common house becomes an **extension** of our home
 - Areas for entertaining, working and playing
- **This is the key** to cohousing's affordability

But Wait, There's More:

- Cohousing is also more affordable than other forms of development:
 - **Lowers barrier** to entry - new home buyers
 - **Lowers cost of living:** through shared meals, shared cars, shared camping gear...
 - **Savings of shared costs** and shared **services** - child care, internet, laundry
 - Residents that **live together, help each other**
 - Break a **hip**, switch unit
 - Lost **job**, neighbours pitched in

Summary

- Cohousing affordability **cannot be measured by \$/sf** alone
- Extensive **common spaces, ongoing cost savings** via **sharing** and **cooperation**
 - these make Cohousing **inherently affordable**

Vancouver Cohousing



- This process has encouraged us to **reach out** to the community
 - and we have **developed important relationships** with the neighbours.
- We've received a lot of support, with 1000 letters and signatures, and over 80 supporters in the 2 block area

To conclude:

- Cohousing is **inherently affordable** - at the **time of purchase** and in **ongoing savings**.
- Cohousing is a **worthy model** to pursue and I think we are a great example

- Considering how important cohousing is to me, I'd like to **thank Council** for including this in their interim policy
- We would like to be the **first example** and will set an **excellent precedent** for the future

At this point I would be happy to answer any questions