



Report Committee of Adjustment

Filing Date: May 14, 2024
Hearing Date: June 18, 2024

File: A-2024-0165

**Owner/
Applicant:** Arpit Jain, Garima Jain
Tanvir Rai

Address: 80 Vezna Court

Ward: WARD 5

Contact: Emily Mailling, Planning Technician

Recommendations:

That application A-2024-0165 is supportable, subject to the following conditions being imposed:

1. That the extent of the variances be limited to that shown on the sketch attached to the Notice of Decision;
 2. That the owner implement planting to adequately screen the below grade entrance and minimize visual impact on the streetscape in a manner satisfactory to the Director of Development Services;
 3. That drainage on adjacent properties shall not be adversely affected;
 4. The owner shall provide to City Planning Staff a letter from the builder stating no objections to the requested variances;
 5. That the below grade entrance shall not be used to access an unregistered second unit; and
 6. That failure to comply with and maintain the conditions of the Committee shall render the approval null and void.
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Background:

The subject property is located within a recently constructed subdivision which has not yet been assumed by the City. City Staff have reached out to the developer's engineer responsible for the subdivision and they have not provided comments on the proposal stating no concern. Until the subdivision is assumed, the developer is responsible for ensuring that ongoing requirements of the subdivision under maintenance be respected, including requirements relating to drainage and grading. The proposed below grade entrance may impact the lot grading requirements or drainage of the subject property for which the developer is currently responsible. A condition has been recommended that the owner shall provide to City Planning Staff a letter from the builder stating no objections to the requested variances.

Existing Zoning:

The property is zoned 'Residential -Special Section 2227 (R1F-9.0-2227)', according to By-law 270-2004, as amended.

Requested Variances:

The applicant is requesting the following variances:

1. To permit a proposed exterior stairway leading to a below grade entrance in the required exterior side yard, whereas the by-law does not permit exterior stairways constructed below established grade in the required exterior side yard; and
2. To permit an exterior side yard setback of 1.95 metres to a proposed exterior stairway leading to a below grade entrance, whereas the by-law requires a minimum exterior side yard setback of 3.0 metres to the proposed exterior stairway leading to a below grade entrance.

Current Situation:

1. Maintains the General Intent and Purpose of the Official Plan

The property is designated 'Residential' in the Official Plan and 'Low Density 2 Residential' in the Credit Valley Secondary Plan (Area 45). The requested variances are not considered to have significant impacts within the context of the Official Plan policies. As stated in Official Plan Section 3.2.8.2(ii), a second unit must comply with the Ontario Building Code and/or Fire Code, Property Standards By-law and other applicable approval requirements. The requested variances are considered to maintain the general intent and purpose of the Official Plan.

2. Maintains the General Intent and Purpose of the Zoning By-law

Variance 1 seeks to permit a proposed exterior stairway leading to a below grade entrance in the required exterior side yard, whereas the by-law does not permit exterior

stairways constructed below established grade in the required exterior side yard. The intent of the by-law in prohibiting below grade entrances between the main wall of a dwelling and the flankage lot line is to ensure that the appearance of the below grade entrance does not negatively impact the streetscape located at the intersection.

Variance 2 seeks to permit an exterior side yard setback of 1.95 metres to a proposed exterior stairway leading to a below grade entrance, whereas the by-law requires a minimum exterior side yard setback of 3.0 metres to the proposed exterior stairway leading to a below grade entrance. The intent of the by-law in requiring a minimum exterior side yard setback is to ensure that sufficient space is maintained for drainage and access to the rear yard.

The below grade entrance is proposed to be constructed along the eastern wall of the dwelling fronting Germain Circle. The subject property is a corner lot located at the northwest intersection of Vezna Crescent and Germain Circle. The applicant provided a Site Plan which illustrates that the entrance will be screened from the streetscape using forms of vegetation/shrubs. The proposed below grade entrance is not considered to negatively impact the overall streetscape as it will be screened, limiting visual impact. City Engineering Staff have also reviewed the proposed development and are satisfied with the proposal as it does not negatively impact drainage on the subject parcel or abutting property. Subject to the conditions of approval, the variances are considered to maintain the general intent and purpose of the Zoning By-law.

3. Desirable for the Appropriate Development of the Land

The variances are requested to permit a proposed exterior stairway leading to a below grade entrance in the required exterior side yard, whereas the by-law does not permit exterior stairways constructed below established grade in the required exterior side yard; and to permit an exterior side yard setback of 1.95 metres to a proposed exterior stairway leading to a below grade entrance, whereas the by-law requires a minimum exterior side yard setback of 3.0 metres to the proposed exterior stairway leading to a below grade entrance. The addition of the below grade entrance should not interfere with the streetscape of the community as the applicant has submitted a Site Plan which depicts the stairway and entrance being screened by the addition of vegetation. It is recommended that a condition of approval be that the below grade entrance shall not be used to access an unregistered second unit. Staff do not anticipate any negative impacts to drainage or access to portions of the property and consider the location of the below grade entrance appropriate given the sitting of the property. Subject to the recommended condition of approval, the variances are considered desirable for the appropriate development of the land.

4. Minor in Nature

Variances 1 and 2 are requested to permit an exterior stairway to a below grade entrance to be located between the main wall of the dwelling and the front of a flankage lot line

which will encroach into the exterior side yard setback. Given that the below grade entrance will be screened by vegetation that will be adjacent to the side lot line, Staff are satisfied that the existing streetscape will not be negatively impacted. Additionally, the below grade entrance is not considered to have negative impacts on drainage or to limit access to the rear of the property. Subject to the recommended conditions of approval, Variances 1 and 2 are considered minor in nature.

Respectfully Submitted,

EMailling

Emily Mailling, Planning Technician

Appendix 1: Site Visit Photos

