

Lauri Feindell

Subject:

FW: DVP No. F2024.018-DVP 1124 Park Place

From: Judy Burton <

Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 10:40 AM

To: planning@rdos.bc.ca <planning@rdos.bc.ca>

Subject: DVP No. F2024.018-DVP 1124 Park Place

I am writing to voice concerns over the DVP for 1124 Park Place to vary the number and location of the bee hives at this property.

My concerns are:

1. **Safety** - the increased number of bee hives has caused a concerning safety issue for the little children in the immediate vicinity. Bees are swarming around the kids outside especially when they are playing in the water or when the irrigation is on. Some of the children have been stung and my grandchildren are leery of playing outside because of the ever-increasing number of bees around us.
2. **Bear Attractant** - Bears are attracted to honey and we have had an increase in bear activity in our neighborhood in the last few years. See attached link BC Conservation regarding bee hives: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/human-wildlife-conflict/staying-safe-around-wildlife/bears>
3. **Hardship Case**- There appears to be no hardship case to support the DVP.
4. **Applicant Canvassing**-The DVP applicant has been canvassing the neighborhood to garner support for this application through personal visits and phone calls stating how important bees are to the environment. But that fact alone should not be influencing the RDOS Boards decision because in her canvassing, (at least to us with two phone calls) she is failing to tell her neighbors that the children are being stung, rather simply stating that "my neighbor doesn't like bees" which is not true.
5. **Information** - The RDOS sent us a letter notifying us about the DVP, however there was no further file information on the website or included with the letter. I searched online and found RDOS Zoning Bylaw 2800, 2022 that states that a property under 2500 square meters is allowed to have 2 bee hives. I also searched online through EValue BC and found that this property is 2387.65 square meters. According to

these facts, the property in question does not support more than 2 hives which makes sense in a residential neighborhood.

6. **Current Bylaw** - there should be more consideration given to issues caused by bees invading neighboring properties if for no other reason than human safety. Hopefully RDOS will take a look at how they can protect property owners against recreational bee farms in the middle of a residential area.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Judy Burton

Lauri Feindell

Subject:

FW: DPV No.F2024.018-DPV 1124 Park Place

From: ashelyn hohenstein

Sent: June 10, 2024 9:33 PM

To: Planning <planning@rdos.bc.ca>

Subject: DPV No.F2024.018-DPV 1124 Park Place

Good morning,

I am responding to the Development Variance Permit requested by 1124 Park Place.

My driveway is directly adjacent to 1124 Park Place's driveway and we can see the hives from our front door.

As I grew up on an orchard with several bee hives, I understand the importance of hives and what the bees contribute to our fruit trees and flowers. My concern is not with the bees but rather with the way they are being maintained and the resulting impact on my family.

The bees are located in the front yard, at the top of the driveway, opening up the bees flight path directly into neighboring yards. As I have several children, we like to use water toys to cool down in the summer (water tables, pools, blow up waterslides). Unfortunately, the bees are now relying on our water sources and swarming them to the point where my children can no longer go in the back yard without an understandable fear of being stung multiple times. We even went so far as to sell our hot tub to get rid of any additional large bodies of water (the bees were swarming the cover).

Last year, I approached the owner and had a lengthy conversation regarding how we could work together to keep the swarms of bees out of my yard. The response was consistently thrown back at me, saying that if I have a problem with it, I would have to deal with it by putting out more water sources between our properties to keep the bees at bay. No additional effort was made by the hive owner.

As I was concerned about my children, I did just that. I added several water sources in between their driveway and ours as well as additional sources around the perimeter of my yard. Unfortunately, this did not keep the swarms at bay.

I contacted a bee farmer in Naramata to gain more information as to why this would be happening. According to the bee keeper, several factors come into play regarding this kind of activity. He confirmed that this could be a water source problem and, in order to keep the bees from venturing off to locate water, a significant water source must be placed in the flight path of the bees around the hive. He also said that, if the bees are outgrowing their hive, they may also act this way. Finally, he said that it usually it comes down to a problem with the contentment of the hive. If this is the case, these hives are experiencing discontent consistently over the past three years.

I have also confirmed with bee keepers in the Okanagan that 1-2 hives are more than adequate to properly pollinate an acre of land which is larger than the size of property they sit on. Additional hives are overkill for the size of the property in question.

Therefore, this year, when the bees emerged, I called the homeowner back and requested that she take the necessary steps to add a water source close to the hive, in the front yard. She adamantly refused and said its up to me to take care of it. The conversation ended with a comment about how there are no bylaws in RDOS about bees so "what are you going to do about it".

The owner of these hives has proven over and over again that they are not willing to take steps to reduce the problem and is not concerned for their neighbors or children's safety. Several attempts have been made to work together to solve this problem to no avail. Hostility and threats are the common response. I believe that we are all responsible for what we put on our property and how it affects our neighbors.

Concerns:

1. The owner of the hives has consistently proven that they are not willing to take steps to reduce the problem and adequately take care of the bees they already have. Any additional hives will only cause increase swarming and decrease safety among the small children in the vicinity.
2. The previous disregard of RDOS bylaws regarding number of hives and location

Thank you,
Ashelyn Janzen

Lauri Feindell

Subject:

FW: Development Variance Permit for 1124 Park Place

From: Hillary Ward

Sent: June 14, 2024 10:26 AM

To: Planning <planning@rdos.bc.ca>

Subject: Fwd: Development Variance Permit for 1124 Park Place

Hi -

I have significant concerns about the development variance permit for 1124 Park Place. I'm generally very supportive of bees but also recognize the impacts bees have on others. We have two small kids who frequently ride their bikes in Park Place. The ground is sometimes covered in bees. These bees also end up in our yard and seem starved for water so they are attracted to our kids swimming pool. My kids have been stung in these areas. I have confirmed that these are honey bees and feel confident they are linked to this property.

I would suggest the RDOS works with the owner to ensure the bees are properly kept in her back yard and that she provides a water source. Given the current challenges these bees pose, I am very concerned about increasing the number of hives at this time.

Thanks,
Hillary Ward

Lauri Feindell

Subject: FW: DVP Application No. F2024.018-DVP 1124 Park Pl. Penticton

From: David Borsheim

Sent: June 19, 2024 6:26 PM

To: Planning <planning@rdos.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: DVP Application No. F2024.018-DVP 1124 Park Pl. Penticton

We have no objections to this proposal. A suggestion has come from neighbors with small children to include a good water supply for the bees. They have a small children's pool and the bees come seeking water.

Joan & David Borsheim