16 January 2018

Re: 122 Peter Street at Richmond  TEYCC  16 January 2018  TE29.18

To the Chair and members of the Toronto and East York Committee of Adjustment:

The Grange Community Association has watched the evolution of this proposal and the rocky discussions about the SPAR block (Spadina, Peter, Adelaide, Richmond) as a whole with a combination of delight and dismay. As the staff report notes, the corner lot proposal now is much better than it was originally. The sidewalk-width and historic building issues are solvable, and we hope that the OMB mediation will succeed.

This block cries out for something like a block plan. There is (I think) universal agreement that the centre of the block could and should be a public landscaped open space. Getting there has proven to be enormously difficult, not least because of the challenge of servicing the perimeter buildings. But in an OMB settlement just last week on Widmer Street, an arrangement for servicing two big tower buildings – in a kind of private-enterprise block plan – was devised that might be a model for the two active proposals here. We urge the City and the developers, and the other owners around the SPAR block, to keep trying.

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