

Thank you

Mr Mayor, Councillors

I speak in reference specifically to item 4 on each of the two agenda items Report No. DS-022-24 and Report No. DS-023-24, to wit “That Council confirm that notwithstanding that the proposed Zoning By-Law Amendment is different from the Zoning By-law proposed at the September 27, 2023 Statutory Public Meeting, the revisions are minor in nature and that no further Statutory Public Meeting is required.”

Since the revisions are stated to be minor in nature it made sense to review the video recording of what was said at that Statutory Public Meeting. There were many residents expressing their opinions there, almost all of whom had significant concerns with the proposal. Unfortunately, today’s meeting has been scheduled with only short notice being provided of these agenda items as well as being during the working day. This makes it highly inconvenient for the public to participate and so attendance from the public is much less than it would have been if it had been encouraged. Councillors will have received emails from a number of residents who would otherwise have been here expressing their concern. One should not draw any conclusion from their absence that there is any lack of interest on their part.

Additionally it is important to remind Councillors of the comments they made during the Statutory Public Meeting. These words are the exact words used in response to the proposals. Surely, if the changes are minor in nature, it stands to reason that Councillors would feel that most if not all of these words must still apply to what is being requested here today.

Councillor Acton:

To Developers - do you listen?

Not even close

Make changes (and I’m sure this meant not just “minor in nature” changes)

Councillor Sherban:

Insufficiency

Disappointment

Nothing creative, nothing wow

No regard for this community

Insults the residents and council

Cutting it up piecemeal

Not fair

Never seen anything like it

Sad

Gobsmacked

Be better, do better as humans

Councillor Upton:

Nuts

Ridiculous

Greed
Frustrating
\$ grab and run

Councillor Bartley:

Arrogance
Best subdivision in this community

Councillor Smith:

Look forward to changes (again I'm sure this didn't mean just "minor in nature" changes)

Councillor Kroon:

Long road ahead
Aghast
Almost unbelievable
Ridiculous
Unmaintainable
Dangerous
Not a place where families want to live
Rethink this
Not happy

These are strong words I'm sure you will agree. Councillors, they are YOUR words. They are so strong that a few "revisions minor in nature" cannot possibly mean that they aren't still applicable.

So, with that in mind, I submit that it is inconceivable that Council could agree to proceed. I remind you again of all the input that was received at the Public Meeting from the community that YOU represent - and how YOU reacted.

If you approve this, you will be on the record and will forever have to live with approving an application that you have described in such strong, negative words.

Would that really be a true, faithful and responsible representation of the opinions of those whom you represent?

I ask Councillors to look deep into their consciences and give these thoughts careful consideration before voting.

Thank you.

Should I be asked how I want council to proceed, here is a possible response.

I leave it to council to make the most appropriate decision applying all the wisdom that they possess, but I do expect that they will bear in mind their previously stated, rather strong, opinions on the matter. I believe we should expect nothing less from our elected representatives.