

Bryant, Shellie

From: Robert Kavanagh [REDACTED]
Sent: November 14, 2019 4:55 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council
Attachments: council_and_swale.pdf

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Submitted by anonymous user: 207.47.175.195

Submitted values are:

Date Thursday, November 14, 2019
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name Robert
Last Name Kavanagh
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED] MAHABIR CRT
City SASKATOON
Province Saskatchewan
Postal Code [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) none
Subject Northeast Swale
Meeting (if known) unknown
Comments see attached letter
Attachments
[council_and_swale.pdf](#)

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/349244>

November 14, 2019

His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council,

I lived in Southern California for five years. There are many people there who may never see anything like wilderness, let alone an area of land that is largely in its natural state within their municipal borders. The Northeast Swale can be a jewel in Saskatoon's crown, to be enjoyed by future generations, but only if we preserve and protect it.

There is a need for Council to exercise some leadership with regard the Swale, in two areas. First, rather than decrying the fact that some people complain about having to slow down on parts of the roadways leading to the Chief Mistawasis bridge, we could be celebrating the fact that we have major roadways where speeds of at least 50 Kph can be sustained from end to end, instead of living in Toronto or Los Angeles, where roadways with much higher posted limits turn into parking lots at the times travellers need them the most. Both McOrmond Drive and Central Avenue have sections (2.5 Km and 0.7 KM in length respectively) posted at 50 Kph, bracketed by limits of 60 Kph, and both have a traffic light within the 50 Kph zones. Assuming the traffic lights don't require coming to a complete stop, the difference in travelling times between 50 and 60 Kph are 50 seconds for the slower zones of McOrmond and 8 seconds for Central Avenue. Drivers already accept the need to slow to 30 Kph in School zones, and coming to a complete stop at railroad crossings occupied by trains. It should not be a hardship to also exercise some restraint while crossing through the Swale.

Second, the notion that changing the plan to build yet another major roadway through the Swale would be a 'major mistake' implies that we should ignore information that was not available or considered when the current plan was drawn up decades ago. What really would be a mistake would be to refuse to thoroughly examine the full implications of going ahead with this project as currently envisioned, and identify new options that are more appropriate for the future. Note that a recent CPAWS report¹ concludes that Canada needs to not only protect areas like the Swale, but in fact to TRIPLE the amount of protected land and water. It may well be that changing the route will cost more money; but having leadership that would explain and defend putting funds into environmental sustainability, instead of attacking it, would be something future generations would applaud.

I honour your commitment to being elected members of Council. I know this is not an easy job. In your roles as community leaders, there must be times when you are called upon to tell your constituents something that they need to hear, rather than what they want to hear. Some people want to be told that they can drive as fast as they wish, anytime and anywhere they want. Some see the Northeast Swale as an 'inconvenience', rather than as a remarkable asset to the City. However, what they need to be told is that "there are good reasons for speed limits in the City; there is a need to protect this important piece of land; your Council has considered these needs very carefully and has chosen courses of action and regulations that will make people proud to live in Saskatoon."

I hope you will consider fully the many aspects of preserving and protecting the Swale. It is too great an opportunity to fail to seize.

Robert Kavanagh
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Saskatoon, SK
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