
Subject: Email - Request to Speak - Candace Savage - Wild about Saskatoon - Speed Limits through the Northeast Swale - CK 6320-1
Attachments: wild_about_saskatoon-2.pdf

From: Candace Savage [<mailto:hello@wildaboutsaskatoon.org>]

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 1:32 PM

To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>

Subject: Email - Request to Speak - Candace Savage - Wild about Saskatoon - Speed Limits through the Northeast Swale - CK 6320-1

Submitted on Thursday, May 21, 2020 - 13:32

Submitted by anonymous user: 127.0.0.1

Submitted values are:

Date Thursday, May 21, 2020

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Candace

Last Name Savage

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Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) Wild about Saskatoon

Subject May 25 agenda item 9.4.1. speed limits through the Northeast Swale

Meeting (if known) Saskatoon City Council

Comments

Please circulate the attached letter to Council. I would like to speak to this issue.

Candace Savage

Attachments

[wild_about_saskatoon-2.pdf](#)

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Wild about Saskatoon

Re Agenda Item 9. 4. 1.

Wild about Saskatoon is opposed to raising the speed limits through the Northeast Swale. Here are our reasons:

Just Because Something Is Possible, That Doesn't Mean It's a Good Idea.

Let's say you had an urge to eat an entire cake all at once. If you asked a doctor whether or not you should do it, the response would "No." If you didn't like this answer, you could ask a physiologist if it was "feasible" to do what you wanted to do. But even if the answer was "yes" -- that it was physically possible--that still wouldn't make it a good idea.

Similarly, the mere fact that it is feasible from an engineering perspective to raise the speed limit through the Swale does not make it a wise thing to do.

If It Ain't Broke, Don't Fix It.

City Council has consistently stated its determination to value and protect the Northeast Swale. This commitment is reflected in the Northeast Swale Development Guidelines and many other council-approved documents and decisions. At the same time, Council also mandated the construction of two thoroughfares through this valuable natural area. The reduced speed limits on the Swale crossings are an attempt to reduce the damage caused by these roads, both by preventing wildlife collisions and easing the stress of rushing traffic. Insufficient as these measures are, they acknowledge the challenge of maintaining the ecological integrity of the Swales in an urban setting. Although detailed data is lacking, the evidence that is available to date suggests that the reduced speed limits are working.

Speed Up Protection of the Swales

Rather than raising the speed limits through the Northeast Swale, Council needs to accelerate its own efforts to protect and enhance both the Northeast and Small Swales. This could include a well-thought-out promotional campaign directed to both residents and visitors about the cultural and ecological significance of these areas; captivating signage that identifies the Swales as special; strong policy to protect the Swales and other natural areas; and traffic-calming interventions. Rather than over-valuing the minor irritation to some drivers, Council needs to put its commitment to protecting the Swales into consistent policy and action.

Joanne Blythe
Candace Savage
May 21, 2020