

Bryant, Shellie

Subject: FW: P4G Community Plan

From: Edward Kendall [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 7:43 AM
To: Neal Sarnecki <nsarnecki@partnershipforgrowth.ca>
Subject: P4G Community Plan

Dear Neal,

I am writing to express my general support for the proposed plan for Corman Park, with one exception: the limits placed on equestrian facilities.

I subscribe to: "The vision for the future of the P4G municipalities is for a vibrant, prosperous and internationally competitive region. The municipalities are known for a high quality of life, a thriving and diverse economy, healthy and connected ecosystems and efficient infrastructure supporting sustainable growth and development." It strikes me that Corman Park is well-positioned to create a unique lifestyle setting. The benefits of life in the country and the convenience of city amenities. Of course life in the country should not just be the creation of a dormitory facility for Saskatoon, rather it should foster the kinds of activities and opportunities that are not available in the city. Equestrian facilities are one such opportunity. they potentially benefit both the city and the country. First, they retain the agricultural essence of country living while creating opportunities for income supplementation, or even a career. Second they offer urbanites exposure to good animal husbandry; reducing the isolation from means of food production. They offer young people life skills that really are not replaceable: teaching basic nutrition, responsibility and regularity as essential to good horse care. The local economic benefits are important as these facilities will offer an outlet for regional feed producers, land service providers, seasonal employment for students and equipment sales and so on. Capital investment in these facilities generally includes a focus on aesthetics as well as functionality. For these reasons, I feel that Corman Park should encourage development of these facilities.

For the Type one facilities: As I understand it these are hobby farms where a few horses are kept and bred. Fair enough. Perhaps contrary to popular belief, equestrians are very social and will hold Pony Club (4H) and gymkhana and schooling show activities as part of the normal course. In fact these small gatherings are essential for the operation of amateur sport. While monies for expenses may change hands, one would be hard pressed to call these volunteer activities "commercial". These acreages will carry insurance, usually through membership in the Saskatchewan Horse Federation, and will be supervised by industry experts. This is a safe and in my mind desirable activity, one which supports equestrian sport and the horse industry in general. Corman Park is particularly well-placed to encourage this type of activity as we are located close to a major urban centre. The horse limit restriction (10) is not reasonable nor is the specific exclusion of events. Small hobby-type holdings are well-suited to Corman Park and will certainly constitute the majority of horse acreages. I urge you to reconsider the restrictions placed on these facilities. Perhaps, instead of explicit horse number and events restrictions, consider encouraging a level of investment that will ensure the best operation of these facilities.

For the Type two facilities: These are described as commercial facilities. If the listed livestock limits apply to events they will guarantee that events lose money. Break-even for a recognized show (= the safest) is ~55 horses. If these facilities are seen as boarding-horse barns, please be aware that with staff, operational costs, feed and bedding the break even is about \$1000/ horse/ month. Given that horse owners have other expenses (herd health, farrier, training and consumables) the typical owners monthly bill will total \$1400 per horse, this is before participating in shows. In an effort to make the sport accessible to more, Saskatoon-area stables have kept stabling rates well below the \$1000, and supplemented their income with revenues from events. Typically, one would want four events in the summer and perhaps another four small events during the off-season (indoors). Events are typically 2 - 4 days.


Furthermore, instead of 50, one would want 100 or so horses to achieve a meaningful revenue from an event. Also, the number of events is listed as "at the discretion of the RM". Is it feasible to monitor the number of events? Is it even desirable? Will operators make capital investments knowing that their source of revenue is "at the discretion of the RM". In my opinion, discouraging facility development with unnecessarily restrictive rules is not in the best interest of the horse industry nor of Corman Park. I urge P4G to reconsider the horse number restrictions and to provide a more certain investment environment by removing the "at the discretion of the RM" or at least defining the parameters!

In summary, equestrian facilities are an important bridge between the agricultural and urban world... much like Corman Park! They generally represent a major capital investment, provide employment for youth, foster good values of care and responsibility and generate or support secondary business. For all these reasons they should be encouraged to be economically viable, rather than limited to hobbyists with deep pockets.

On another matter, I understand that one of the goals of the P4G is to level out the regulatory field in the region. This is probably a good idea. However, as regulations increase so will the demand for efficiency. In this regard, I encourage Corman Park to expand its on-line services and most particularly to modernize its payment systems. Although I do not see this explicitly mentioned in the planning document, in my opinion, this should be a key element to achieve the "efficient infrastructure " in the vision statement.

I would be happy to discuss this further with you via Skype or Zoom and would be delighted to offer alternatives for the proposed limits.

Kind regards,

Edward Kendall,


Director of the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses
Past President Equine Canada (now Equestrian Canada)
Past Vice-President Saskatchewan Horse Federation
Past Chair Saskatchewan Dressage Development Association
Past President Saskatoon Riding Club
Honorary member of the Canadian Warmblood Horse Breeders Association