
Subject: Email - Communication - Anna Hopkins - City Centre School Optimist Park - CK 610-11

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>

Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 8:11 PM

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

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Submitted on Sunday, February 21, 2021 - 20:10

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date Sunday, February 21, 2021

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Anna

Last Name Hopkins

Phone Number

Email [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED] Avenue E South

City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code [REDACTED]

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

Subject City Centre School / Optimist Park

Meeting (if known) Regular Business Meeting of City Council - Feb 22

Comments Hello,

I live in Riversdale and have an infant that will attend this school once complete. I strongly support community schools in the core neighbourhoods.

SPD to date has not conducted any meaningful community engagement of residents - not just parents of existing students, but residents of all affected neighbourhoods & schools.

Leaving aside arguments about the ideal location for the moment, my biggest issue is with the lack of meaningful engagement and communication about this project. I am not convinced that SPD has demonstrated the capacity or willingness to do this kind of engagement, and certainly would struggle to achieve it over the span of just a month during the proposed validation study (reporting back to Council by April).

If Council is to approve the request to investigate Optimist Park as a potential site, I strongly urge you to hold the SPD accountable to the same principles and standards of public participation in the City's Engagement Policy and Procedures.

I would also urge you to question SPD as to why they are ruling out building on existing sites, such as King George, which is only a few blocks south of Optimist Park. Similarly, they have argued that King George site can replace Optimist Park for community green space - if you have been to the School you'll know these parks don't compare at all, particularly in

terms of the large trees, hill, and overall character. When this area also has many vacant lots and brownfield sites, it is puzzling to me why we'd agree to explore building on an existing, well-loved green space in an area with a deficit of parks and green infrastructure. I encourage Council to challenge SPD to widen this viability study to include other possible sites in the area.

Thank you for considering my remarks.

Anna Hopkins

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]