

Walter, Penny

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Kathy Probert - Rezoning Application for 1414-1416 Main Street - CK 4351-021-001
Attachments: to.docx

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

Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 11:43 AM

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

Subject: Email - Communication - Kathy Probert - Rezoning Application for 1414-1416 Main Street - CK 4351-021-001

Submitted on Sunday, February 21, 2021 - 11:42

Submitted values are:

Date Sunday, February 21, 2021

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Kathy

Last Name Probert

Phone Number

Email

Address Main Street

City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code

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

Subject Re-zoning application for 1414 & 1416 Main Street

Meeting (if known) City Council Feb. 22, 2021

Comments Please attach this letter submission concerning the Re-zoning application for 1414 & 1416 Main Street to the documents attached to this agenda item for the Monday, Feb. 22nd City Council meeting.

Thank you.

Attachments to.docx

To: Our Mayor and Councillors, City of Saskatoon

Re: Re-zoning application of 1414 and 1416 Main Street

and City's first time use of the land use designation "Corridor Residential"

As a retiree and ordinary resident of _____ Main Street, I am a participant in the current dispute regarding the re-zoning of 1414 and 1416 Main Street. (Though I suspect the other side would say there is no dispute. The other side being the City of Saskatoon communicators - mostly city planners.) The problem is -- there are too many words coming from them and there are not enough words coming from us (that is, words that are being sought after and heard.)

This is a big problem because we have these wonderful new city plans that will need to be implemented over the next few years. I refer to, of course, the Corridor Planning Program and the Growth Plan to Half a Million. Plans that envision a "healthy and sustainable Saskatoon." Plans that say things like "land use designation is supposed to be developed through a collaborative and consultative process with landowners, neighbourhood residents, local business owners and community and stakeholder groups." Wow -- that's a lot of people and a lot of ideas and a lot of disagreement and hopefully -- eventually -- agreement. With agreement comes "buy in" and a shared sense of purpose. Those are gold.

And that's what the city has consistently told residents the process would be. As residents in the 1400 block of Main Street - that is not the process that we are experiencing. For this reason we urge you on Monday, February 22 to reject the re-zoning application for 1414 & 1416 Main Street and postpone any decision until consultation happens with all stakeholders regarding Corridor Planning.

There has already been a lot of great work done in the Corridor Planning Program. Might I suggest it is impossible to launch a great program by skipping over the stage that will lay the foundation. Trust erodes if you, "the city," tell a block of residents, a street of families, a community of people, and a city of communities, that you have decided that the neighbouring property is going to be rezoned and that it is entirely legitimate because the City of Saskatoon has decided that that piece of property will best be utilized as _____. You fill in the blank because it really doesn't matter. Your residents and your communities are going to feel shut out and angry, and you - the city - is going to miss out on some good ideas that you may not have thought of (in spite of all the committed professionals that you have working for you/us.) But most sadly you will lose out on the commitment and energy and creativity that ordinary people want to give to each other and to the city they love.

When the people of the city are not heard by the officials who have so much power over their lives you might hear things like I heard last night at a local zoomed community meeting These are dark things so listen carefully: "When it comes to this re-zoning application there is no real consistency and anytime we ask a question it falls on deaf ears." "The definition of density is so vague no one knows what it means." "Is it fair to wake up some morning and find out that a four story condo building is going up next to your house." "A zone change can happen on a moment's notice." "When there is no consistent area plan it is frustrating and tiring

for home owners." "We fought this same battle five years ago." "The ad hoc nature of this re-zoning process and others like it undermines trust." "Who is doing the designating of land use -- is it the developers?" "They are just pushing the risk onto the home owner." "Wide ranging consultation has not been done." "As residents we need to be able to predict what is coming." "We spent a lot of money on renovations for our house and we want to know that the zoning is stable." "What was wrong with the old plan." "They are always moving the target." "Consultation needs to start before the decision." -- Would you believe that not one of these comments came from someone on my block, the 1400 block of Main Street, which tells me that many of us care about each other and each other's blocks; we have the capacity to imagine what it would feel like to be in someone else's shoes.

So let's try on each others' shoes -- let's get together and hash things out in the open. Its going to be messy and interesting and fun. As our mayor and councillors you are successful leaders and probably already know that leadership is the art of building trust. Our job together is to cultivate community and connection.

I also believe that we have the capacity to build a healthy and sustainable Saskatoon and I want to be there - together with you.

Sincerely,
Kathy Probert

P.S. To Councillors Mairin Loewen and Troy Davies, who first addressed the communication issues around recurring problems and disputes over land uses - a special thank you for your actions. This re-zoning vote is the opportunity to change the narrative and build trust with people by following the process laid out in the Corridor Plan.