
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council
Attachments: optimist_park.docx

From: Web NoReply
Sent: February 20, 2021 12:13 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Saturday, February 20, 2021 - 12:13

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date Saturday, February 20, 2021
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name Margaret
Last Name Hearn
Phone Number
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED] Albert Avenue
City Saskatoon
Province Saskatchewan
Postal Code [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)
Subject Optimist Park Proposal
Meeting (if known)
Comments I am attaching a letter of concern.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

February 20th 2020

To: His Worship Mayor Charlie Clark and the Members of the City of Saskatoon Council

In regards to the Proposed Saskatoon Public School Board School Construction on the site of Optimist Park

Hello...

I am a resident of the University area who has just been made aware of the proposal put forward by the Saskatoon Public School Board to amalgamate three inner city west side schools on a location that greatly concerns me. The Optimist Park site that is being put forward serves as an invaluable public green space in an area of our city that dearly needs one. Not only is it an oasis in an area that borders on a light industrial area but it also provides a swimming pool facility for the neighbourhood which is a rarity. It is a park that has served this community for over 100 years and the demographics show that there are many young families that rely on this amenity. They are the future builders of community and should be consulted on how they see this plan benefiting their decision to live there going forward. In a comparison, I wonder how citizens on the east side of the river would react to the news that Buena Vista, Weaver or President Murray parks which are long term, well-established resources would be subject to a development being parceled out on a piece of its land.

It saddens me as well that many trees would be sacrificed but also that in a similar way, honour would not be paid to Pleasant Hill and King George Schools heritage architecture. Could not a new school incorporate the existing structure which would likely stand for another 200 years if maintained? The example of Albert Community Centre springs to mind, which is a community resource in our neighbourhood but a fine example of how well-built structures from the past provide for us, to say nothing of the historical value. We have fewer and fewer examples left standing in this city. Perhaps if the school needs to be elsewhere these buildings could be saved and repurposed to help alleviate pressure on other facilities trying to assist people in need much like the Lighthouse and Station 20 West. Cost factors need to be weighed against the possibility of other resources that end up being even more costly such as police services, health care supports, the penal and social work structures that could result from ongoing helplessness and homelessness.

Having only driven by the aforementioned sites it was apparent that across the street from the north end of Optimist Park there is an extensive piece of land that is un-used and unsightly. Could this not provide an option for a new school once remediation occurred and serve as an accompaniment to the park adjacent to it? I can see nothing but benefits for the school having access to the park as well.

Please give your deliberations the courtesy of careful thought and gathering the hopes and advice of the people living in these neighbourhoods. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Margaret Rae Hearn