
Subject: Email - Communication - Jason Aebig - Dedicated On-site Outdoor Space - File CK 5400-1 x 600-3
Attachments: 2022_06_24_dedicated_on-site_outdoor_space_requirements_for_shelter_services.pdf

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

Sent: Friday, June 24, 2022 1:54 PM

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

Subject: Email - Communication - Jason Aebig - Dedicated On-site Outdoor Space - File CK 5400-1 x 600-3

--- Replies to this email will go to ceo@saskatoonchamber.com ---

Submitted on Friday, June 24, 2022 - 13:53

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date Friday, June 24, 2022

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Jason

Last Name Aebig

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City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code S7K2C5

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce

Subject Dedicated On-Site Outdoor Space Requirements for Shelter Facilities

Meeting (if known) City Council Meeting - June 27

Comments

Please see the attached correspondence regarding making dedicated on-site outdoor spaces a requirement for future shelter facilities.

Attachments

[2022_06_24_dedicated_on-site_outdoor_space_requirements_for_shelter_services.pdf](#)

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting? No

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

June 24, 2022

Saskatoon City Council
222 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK
S7K 0J5

Re: Dedicated On-Site Outdoor Space Requirement for Shelter Facilities

Dear Mayor Clark and City Council,

Shelter facilities have played a vital role in supporting our most vulnerable neighbours. This winter, City Council and Administration recognized the urgent need for STC's Emergency Wellness Centre over the winter months to provide Saskatoon's most vulnerable with clean, safe and warm accommodation free from the harsh Saskatchewan winter. Without the Centre, vulnerable individuals and families would have been left outside in the frigid cold and Saskatoon would have seen tent city developments and more people living dangerously on our streets.

The Information Report regarding a Dedicated Outdoor Space for the Wellness Centre, we believe, highlights the need for policy changes before any future shelter facilities are approved.

Over the last 10 years, area businesses and their employees have expressed real concerns over the concentration of shelter facilities in our downtown and the impact these facilities have on area properties, people who frequent downtown, and public perceptions of downtown safety. At the same time, we have seen the challenges vulnerable people face day-to-day as they leave the facilities after their overnight stay and find themselves without safe or suitable places to go.

Bylaw and related zoning changes are needed to balance the needs of all community members – those who require the services of shelter facilities and those affected by their operations.

We believe a requirement for future facilities to provide on-site outdoor spaces, in proportion to the number of people they shelter, would address this need. This approach would lessen the impact of shelter facilities on area businesses and residents; provide shelter residents with safe and welcoming places to gather and commune; and, safeguards their dignity and well-being.

The inclusion of on-site outdoor spaces in built environments has a positive impact on mental health, offering restorative effects linked to cognitive function, outlook, and overall wellness. The COVID-19 pandemic also highlighted the public health benefits of outdoor spaces to mitigate the risk of spreading airborne viruses and other disease.

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We urge you to draft and approve bylaw changes for future shelter facilities that:

1. Require 100 square feet of on-site outdoor space per facility resident.
2. Stipulate facilities should not front along arterial roadways unless: (1) required on-site outdoor spaces are suitably screened or segregated from such roadways, and (2) the site offers suitable access that will not impede arterial roadway traffic.
3. Require on-site outdoor spaces to include appropriate places for cultural ceremony.

We believe these changes would assist in balancing the needs of all stakeholders including, most importantly, shelter residents who deserve a place to live in safety and dignity.

We look forward to working with you to advance these options and subsequent bylaw changes. As Saskatoon's voice for business, we are a powerful network of businesses, organizations and community-minded leaders who want the best for their city.

Sincerely,



Jason Aebig
CEO

Cc: Morgan Hackl, Fire Chief
Troy Cooper, Police Chief
Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, Community Services
Lesley Anderson, Director of Planning and Development
Matt Grazier, Director of Community Standards