

Lasby, Mary

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Candace Savage - Wild About Saskatoon - P4G North Concept Plan - File CK 4250-2
Attachments: Re North Concept Plan.pdf

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

Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2022 8:14 PM

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

Subject: Email - Communication - Candace Savage - Wild About Saskatoon - P4G North Concept Plan - File CK 4250-2

--- Replies to this email will go to hello@wildaboutsaskatoon.org ---

Submitted on Sunday, October 30, 2022 - 20:13

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date: Sunday, October 30, 2022

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Candace

Last Name: Savage

Email: hello@wildaboutsaskatoon.org

Address: [REDACTED] Albert Avenue

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7N [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Wild about Saskatoon

Subject: P4G North Concept Plan agenda item 6.1.3

Meeting (if known): City of Saskatoon Public Hearing October 31. 2022

Comments:

Please share the attached letter with members of council. Thank you.

Attachments:

- [Re North Concept Plan.pdf](#) 61.2 KB

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



October 30, 2022

Re: City of Saskatoon Public Hearing, October 31, 2022

Agenda item 6.1.3. Proposed New Saskatoon North Partnership for Growth Plan Bylaw

Wild about Saskatoon was a founding stakeholder in the development of the Partnership for Growth. In fact, even before the P4G was initiated, we hosted a public lecture in the spring of 2013 entitled “The Nature of Cities” featuring renowned landscape architect Douglas Olson of O2 Planning + Design. An announcement about this lecture in *Canadian Architecture* magazine noted that “As Saskatoon sprawls in all directions, planning with nature in mind has become an urgent issue.”

When Olson was subsequently chosen to lead the P4G planning process, groups that advocate for nature, including Wild about Saskatoon, continued to be engaged as stakeholders. A report issued by the P4G in 2016 noted:

There is general support for protection of important environmental features such as the swales, South Saskatchewan River valley, and native prairie grasses. **Many individuals would like to see the Conservation + Drainage areas expanded.** At the same time, some landowners were worried that the Conservation + Drainage category would limit their ability to develop their land.

This tension, between environmental protection and development, was reflected when the “Conservation + Drainage” areas were renamed the “Green Network *Study Area*.” This new designation carried an implied suggestion that these “green,” or conservation, reserves merited reconsideration. We know from conversations with him at the time that Douglas Olson was frustrated by the limitations placed on these reserves and believed they were insufficient to meet the region’s conservation goals.

A decade has passed, and no progress has been made on expanding or reconnecting or protecting these crucial, last-remaining fragments of habitat. More than 95% of the landscape around Saskatoon has been appropriated for human economic activity. Less than 5% of the natural grasslands and wetlands remain more or less intact. We need to treat these surviving lands as the irreplaceable inheritance that they are. This vision is not reflected in the North Concept Plan.

Instead, the North Concept Plan proposes to intrude on the Green Network by developing it as the site for drainage ponds. At the same time, the new plan also calls for an intensification of industrial activity adjacent to several of the key natural areas.

Land-owners, tax-based municipalities and other proponents of development continue to be recognized as stakeholders in the P4G process. Voices for nature are no longer regularly consulted. For instance, the current call for P4G District Planning Commission does not highlight “conservation,” “ecological restoration,” or “protected areas management” as relevant areas of expertise.

We have two recommendations to restore the priority of conservation to the P4G planning process:

1. City Council must work with your partners to conduct a thorough reevaluation of the Green Network Study Area to assess its capacity to support long-term ecological health in the planning region.
2. City Council must ask the P4G secretariat to reopen dialogue with individuals and organizations that give a voice to Nature and to include them as valued stakeholders in P4G discussions.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Blythe
Chad Hammond
Candace Savage
Andrea Schmidt

Wild about Saskatoon
www.wildaboutsaskatoon.org