

Lasby, Mary

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - John Krowina - Northeast Swale Boundries - CK 4205-40
Attachments: SwalesubstoStdCttee2023.doc

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 4:16 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - John Krowina - Northeast Swale Boundries - CK 4205-40

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

Submitted on Monday, February 6, 2023 - 16:10

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

Date: Monday, February 06, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: John

Last Name: Krowina

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: Kroweena

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Adelaide St. E.

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7J [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): n/a

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 7.2.3

Comments:

Please see attached file SwalesubstoStdCttee2023.doc

Thank you. John Krowina

Attachments:

- [SwalesubstoStdCttee2023.doc](#) 29.5 KB

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

Comments to the Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services Meeting, Feb. 8, 2023

Agenda Item 7.2.3 – Swale Boundaries

1. The Northeast and Small Swales (“the Swales”) are a natural area that is rich in biodiversity, natural beauty, and amenity for the residents of Saskatoon. They constitute a very high-value natural area, situated close to an area under consideration for designation as a National Urban Park. They are also not far from Wanuskewin Heritage Park, a candidate UNESCO World Heritage Site.
2. The question for this Committee is: which of the plans proposed best achieves the dual objectives of present-day economic growth and revenue, on the one hand, and conservation of a thriving green space for the benefit of current and future generations, on the other hand. To me it is clear that the Swale Watchers’ plan stands head and shoulders above the City’s plan in both of these respects. It is professional, thorough, thoughtful and realistic.
3. Today there is growing recognition that near-urban and urban ecosystems are critically important components of Canada’s overall environmental quality and biodiversity. We know that there aren’t many such areas left. We also know that complex and established communities of plants, animals and birds can’t just pick up and move down the road.
4. Such areas, if properly established and maintained, can provide a fantastic resource and source of enjoyment, relaxation, recreation, education and general amenity for generations of Saskatonians to come. There is a new maxim: “Enjoy and bond with nature where you live, work and play! (J.M. Marzluff, Welcome to Subirdia (Yale Univ Press) 2014, p. 215.)
5. The decision of this Committee must be made with a generous spirit, in which any uncertainty is resolved in favour of the Swales. This is in keeping with the future-oriented perspective necessary here. The question is: **“Which plan will give us the most pride, satisfaction and confidence that we are passing the best version of the Swales that we have on to our children, their children, and their children’s children?” That plan is the one which gives the Swales the best shot at long-term surviving and thriving.**
6. The City’s plan is inadequate and pinched. It does not exhibit a generous spirit. The best example of this is the demonstrably inadequate space allotted to the sharp-tailed grouse dancing grounds. There is no point in a plan which is doomed to fail, a plan which leads to the disappearance of that which it is supposed to protect.
7. The City’s plan sacrifices known areas of high-quality habitat and biodiversity. This price

is too high to pay.

8. There is insufficient protection of the Swales from runoff and flooding under the City's plan. The Swale Watchers' plan provides for additional necessary buffering. The City's plan does not.
9. The Swale Watchers' plan takes into account the need for environmental connectivity between the Swales. The City's plan does not.
10. Sensitive ecological areas cannot exist where high-traffic roadways run too close by. Knowing this, we need to route traffic away from such areas. The Swale Watchers' plan does this. The City's plan does not.
11. The Swale Watchers' plan is not pie-in-the-sky. Realistically, it envisages residential development, and leaves space for appropriate future development. But it makes reasonable and balanced compromises that will give the Swales a much better shot at long-term survival.
12. To conclude, when our descendants look back at us today, in 100, 300 or 800 years, will they look back and say **Why didn't the City allow another 300 homes to be built there? Not likely.** Adopting the Swale Watchers' plan will not lead to a hangover. On the contrary, the Swales will be embraced with pride as a part of our living heritage, as the living jewels that they are.
13. On the other hand, disappointment and bitterness will follow if a plan is adopted which leads to the death of the Swales by the proverbial 1000 cuts.
14. If something is worth doing, it is worth doing right. The Swale Watchers' plan does it right. The City's plan does not.

John Krowina
Saskatoon
February 6, 2023

John Krowina