

Lasby, Mary

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Sheila Catto - Northeast Swale and Small Swale Boundary Endorsement - CK 4205-40
Attachments: City Council letter Feb 20 2023 re Council agenda 9.3.1 Swale boundaries.docx

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2023 4:49 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Sheila Catto - Northeast Swale and Small Swale Boundary Endorsement - CK 4205-40

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

Submitted on Monday, February 20, 2023 - 16:45

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

Date: Monday, February 20, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Sheila

Last Name: Catto

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: SHEE-lah CAT-toe

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Fairbrother Bay

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7S [REDACTED]

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Feb 22 2023 Regular Business Meeting of City Council

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 9.3.1 Swale boundaries

Comments:

My letter is in a file attached.

Attachments:

- [City Council letter Feb 20 2023 re Council agenda 9.3.1 Swale boundaries.docx](#)15.21 KB

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

Letter regarding the Swale Boundaries

Regular Business Meeting of Saskatoon City Council

For February 22, 2023

Agenda item 9.3.1

To Mayor Charlie Clark and the honourable Members of City Council,

I am writing to express my concern about proposed development in the northeast part of the city adjacent to the Northeast Swale and Small Swale. I understand that Council is deciding on boundaries for the Small and Northeast Swales this week, as a step toward the design and construction of a new neighbourhood, University Heights III.

City administration is asking Council to choose one of three options. Sadly, I believe that none of these proposals is adequate to protect the long-term health and ecological integrity of the Swales:

- Option 1 derives unchanged from the Natural Area Screening (NAS) study that was commissioned by the developer, Saskatoon Land.
- Option 2 is also based on the NAS study but with a couple of minuscule additions to the protected area. It was developed by the City's Long-range Planning division.
- Option 3 is an improvement on Options 1 and 2 because it incorporates a few more small areas of quality habitat. It was put forward by the Meewasin Valley Authority.

Last week, these options were considered by a subcommittee of Council, the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services. To their credit, the Councillors on the planning committee chose to support Option 3 (view attachment). Unfortunately, even the best of these options leaves many crucial problems unresolved. Specifically, the city's proposals all:

- Fail to provide optimal protection for the sharp-tailed grouse dancing ground in the Northeast Swale.
- Fail to safeguard the wetlands in the hydrologically sensitive Small Swale, and
- Fail to provide viable habitat linkages between the Small and Northeast Swales and between the Northeast Swale and the river valley. Providing these connections is absolutely crucial to maintaining the health of the Swales and the species who live there.

The Swale Watchers' proposal answers all these needs. Please see <https://swalewatchers.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Swale-Watchers-Recommendation-Feb-2023.pdf> At the same time, those recommendations also invoke future-friendly standards of Low-mid to Medium density neighbourhood design to create a livable community of 6,500 to 17,000 people with a low environmental footprint.

The Swale Watchers' recommendations have been endorsed by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Saskatchewan, Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas, Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation, Nature Saskatchewan, the Saskatoon Nature Society, the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, SOS Trees Coalition, Walking Saskatoon and Wild about Saskatoon.

As a City resident, I am very grateful to be able to walk in the Swales year round and appreciate the grasslands, observe the birds, wildlife and insects, watch the stars and aurora at night, and teach others

about the land and ecosystems here. Many native species will be forced to leave these areas if too much development continues in this sensitive area of grasslands and wetlands.

I would also like to ask Council what consultation has taken place with First Nations and Metis people in the region. All the land here is sacred Treaty Six land. I believe that all governments have a duty to consult with the First Nations and Metis Treaty rights holders when planning land development, particularly when there will be a big impact on the water, plants, animals and land. Development in the Swales areas would greatly limit the Treaty rights of Indigenous peoples to use the land for gathering medicine and food, sacred ceremonies or cultural practices and spending time on the land.

In conclusion, I would like to ask Councillors to consider the Swale Watchers' proposal for more expansive swale boundaries, including a wildlife corridor to connect the Northeast Swale with the Little Swale and allowing wildlife to freely move through the whole area and access the river, and expanding protection further north to protect the sharp-tailed grouse grounds. That proposal would be much better than even Option 3 presented to Council this week.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Sheila Catto

█ Fairbrother Bay

Saskatoon SK S7S █