

Walter, Penny

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - George Zerebecky - Meadowgreen Recycling Depot - File CK 7830-5
Attachments: letter_to_lemke_re_dump_2.docx

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

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 7:41 PM

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

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

Submitted on Thursday, April 8, 2021 - 19:40

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

Date Thursday, April 08, 2021

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name George

Last Name zerebecky

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED] Montreal Avenue South

City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)

Subject Meadowgreen Recycling Depot

Meeting (if known) Planning, Development and Community Services standing policy committee

Comments

Attached please find a letter my wife and I sent to Brendon Lemke in response to his March 28, 2021 letter to Meadowgreen residents.

We seek your support to the City Administration's recommendation for permanent closure of the Meadowgreen Recycling Depot.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Attachments

[letter to lemke re_dump 2.docx](#)

April 4, 2021

Brendon Lemke
Director
Water and Waste Operations
City of Saskatoon

Dear Mr. Lemke,

Re: Your letter of March 29, 2021 to residents concerning the Meadowgreen Recycling Depot

Thank you for finally taking actions in cleaning up this 'landfill'. We appreciate your efforts in this matter to date; however, it should never have been allowed to get to this state!

In reference to the proposed changes being implemented Friday, March 26, 2021, to quote from your letter: "We regret that it has come to this, but ongoing issues have left us with no choice but to take these measures".

These measures are precisely what we as residents have been imploring the city to take, what we have asked for repeatedly for the last 2 decades!

Your recent PR blitz in the media claimed you would be increasing security. What security? There was none – no gate, no fence, no cameras and no personnel onsite. If you think having someone cruise through a couple of times a day as being some sort of deterrent then we sincerely hope you have learned that this is not the case.

Email messages from former councillor Pat Lorje and current councillor Hilary Gough, in response to our pleas, suggested that we need to "have patience", that the status of the depot is being monitored, that it is under study. Platitudes!

On June 21, 2018, area resident Mr. Ken Cowan organized a meeting of concerned residents with City Planner Elizabeth Miller, Councillor Hilary Gough and a representative of city police in the alley backing the depot. City representatives were given a long list of issues related to the depot with suggestions to help ease the situation. We were promised a report from city hall. We are still waiting!

It is most interesting that enquiries from the Star Phoenix on March 24, 2021, and the threat of negative publicity resulted in an action plan within hours!

Your temporary "fix" of the problem has included moving the bins to the alley side of the depot, which makes them 30-40 feet closer to our kitchen and bedroom! What can't be related in photos is the horrific noise of 17 metal bins being emptied, being crashed against the top of the truck 3-4 times to dislodge the huge cardboard boxes that are wedged inside and then being lowered and

thrown to the ground, sometimes causing the house to shake. This happens at least 4 times per week, sometimes more often, and takes between 45 and 60 minutes each time. The bin fires, which happen often, are now even closer to our property and can spread to the trees in close proximity.

Is this situation better than it was? Certainly, although things were so bad that anything is an improvement. Our fear that you will assume this 'honeymoon' period means that the problem is solved. It is not:

1. The noise is unacceptable. We pay over \$3,100 yearly in property taxes for the privilege of having our ears assaulted week and week.
2. Since the temporary fencing was installed last Friday, we have already had to close up openings created by pedestrians wanting a more convenient exit from the depot.
3. Debris caught by the wind while bins are being emptied continues to invade our yard and alley.
4. The remaining BIOHAZARD against the west fence has not yet been cleared away. A bobcat could cut through any snow or ice left.
5. A commissionaire sitting in a car at the entrance to the depot does not see what people are dumping. On Good Friday from my kitchen, I heard the unmistakable sound of furniture and metal being dumped. I ran around to the entrance to alert the 2 commissionaires chatting and completely oblivious to events. Meanwhile an entire ½ ton full of bikes and furniture was being unloaded. Eventually the commissionaires had the culprit retrieve the bike, table, dresser and large chairs he had already binned.
6. This site is used as often by businesses as it is by residents of the area, for whom it was intended. Existing signage to this effect is completely ignored! As I'm writing this letter, Easter Sunday 3:00 pm, an SUV with the business name clearly marked on the side, arrived to empty its contents. A business! The commissionaire simply sat in his vehicle. When I asked the person unloading if he realized this is for residents, not businesses, I was told to mind my own business. So, what is the point of having a commissionaire on site? Obviously he has no authority or interest to control the situation.

We strongly urge the city to finally close down this site and to move it out of this neighbourhood!