

Walter, Penny

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Graham MacDonald - Hearthside Commons - Housing Accelerator Fund - CK 750-1

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 3:07 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Graham MacDonald - Hearthside Commons - Housing Accelerator Fund - CK 750-1

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

Submitted on Monday, May 27, 2024 - 15:05

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Monday, May 27, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Graham

Last Name: MacDonald

Phone Number : [306-222-2222](tel:306-222-2222) [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Melrose Ave

Ward: Ward 6

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

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Municipal Planning Commission

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Housing Accelerator fund

Comments:

To the Municipal Planning Commission,

I am writing on behalf of Hearthside Commons, a group currently developing a co-housing community in Varsity View. We enthusiastically support the proposed changes outlined in Saskatoon's Housing Accelerator Fund Action Plan for the reasons outlined below. Overall, these changes will benefit both us as property owners and the city as a whole.

Firstly, our project is "middle housing" – co-housing offers residents access to amenities typically found in single family dwellings while keeping individual units closer in size and feel to apartments. While we do not expect every new development that comes out of these changes to look like ours, we hope to demonstrate an attractive option for future development in these areas.

Secondly, encouraging density along BRT routes will reduce Saskatoon's dependence on cars, making the city more people-friendly. A vibrant transit network ensures equitable access to essential services for all Saskatoon residents. Our project was particularly drawn to this area for that exact reason, as we want to take advantage of public transportation and non-vehicle options wherever possible.

Thirdly, allowing multi-unit dwellings within 800 meters of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) routes will enable us to densify our properties without the time-consuming and expensive rezoning process. Removing these development barriers will be beneficial to everyone, as it allows for an efficient way to encourage density and diverse home types in the area.

Finally, with housing prices steadily increasing, boosting the supply of all types of housing is crucial to ensuring that all residents have access to affordable and appropriate housing. Having lived in Saskatoon for most of my life, it is heartbreaking to see people moving away or choosing not to live here due to housing affordability issues. Our co-housing project is a way for us to be part of building the type of city we wish to live in, and to foster the type of positive community Saskatoon is known for.

For these reasons, we ask you to continue to act boldly in the best interests of all Saskatoon residents. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Graham MacDonald, on behalf of Hearthside Commons

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