

Walter, Penny

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Tom Gode - SOS Trees Coalition - Proposed Zoning Changes to accommodate Federal Housing Accelerator - CK 750-1
Attachments: Letter Housing Fund.docx

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Sunday, June 23, 2024 2:41 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Tom Gode - SOS Trees Coalition - Proposed Zoning Changes to accommodate Federal Housing Accelerator - CK 750-1

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

Submitted on Sunday, June 23, 2024 - 14:40

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: Sunday, June 23, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Tom

Last Name: Gode

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: [REDACTED]

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] 2nd st E

Ward: Ward 6

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): SOS Trees Coalition

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Public Hearing 26 June

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Proposed Zoning Changes to accommodate Federal Housing Accelerator

Comments:

attached

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



June 23, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of the City Council

Re: Proposed Zoning Bylaw Changes - Federal Housing Accelerator Fund

The SOS Tree Coalition wishes to express its concerns regarding recent proposed zoning changes which would allow four-plex housing development in any residential zoning district as a right without discretionary review. It furthermore appears that there would be no landscape requirement for these sites.

Over the last few years, the city has been losing significant tree canopy due to the Cottony Ash Psyllid and drought. It is also likely that the city may lose many more trees to the Dutch Elm disease. The City's Urban Forestry program and budget is struggling to replace these trees. Furthermore, the trees that are replaced takes many years to develop a canopy equivalent to that lost. Exacerbating the problem are the trees lost to infill development. Typically, small houses are removed, including the trees on site, and replaced with much larger houses often with little room for trees or even permeable ground. The survival of adjacent boulevard trees is threatened during construction by the movement or storage of heavy equipment and materials or by excavation near the roots. It is therefore important to require landscaping for multi-unit housing development in all residential zones to retain tree canopy cover. Landscaping also helps integrate these new units into the fabric of the older established neighbourhoods. The City should also take special measures to assure the developer respects and retains as many on site trees as possible and immediately replace any destroyed and removed boulevard trees adjacent to the site. Therefore, infill development should include some conditional controls.

Regarding the commercial and residential mix of development along the rapid bus routes, the development permit process should incorporate a provision and perhaps an incentive for the retention and/or development of trees and permeable ground cover on site. The City should also take special measures to provide boulevard trees adjacent to these new developments as an inherent part of the site development.

In general, the SOS Tree Coalition supports infill development and sees it as an opportunity to expand the urban forest provided it included landscaping requirement by the developer in conjunction with boulevard tree development.

Yours truly
Linda Moskalyk, President
SOS Tree Coalition