

Walter, Penny

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Adam Colvine - Removal of Municipal Reserve Designation-1635 Mckercher Drive - CK 4000-3 x 750-1
Attachments: City Council Letter.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Sunday, August 25, 2024 6:16 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Adam Colvine - Removal of Municipal Reserve Designation-1635 Mckercher Drive - CK 4000-3 x 750-1

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

Submitted on Sunday, August 25, 2024 - 17:51

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, August 25, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Adam

Last Name: Colvine

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: Adam Coal-vine

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] McKercher Dr

Ward: Ward 8

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Wednesday August 28/2024

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Housing accelerator fund-removal of municipal reserve
Drsignayion-1635 Mckercher Drive

Comments:

Please see attached letter

Attachments:

- [City Council Letter.pdf](#)563.72 KB

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

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

https://www.saskatoon.ca/admin/structure/webform/manage/webform_398/submission/87925

Proposal to remove Municipal Reserve status at 1635 Mckercher Drive

His worship Mayor Charlie Clark and members of City Council,

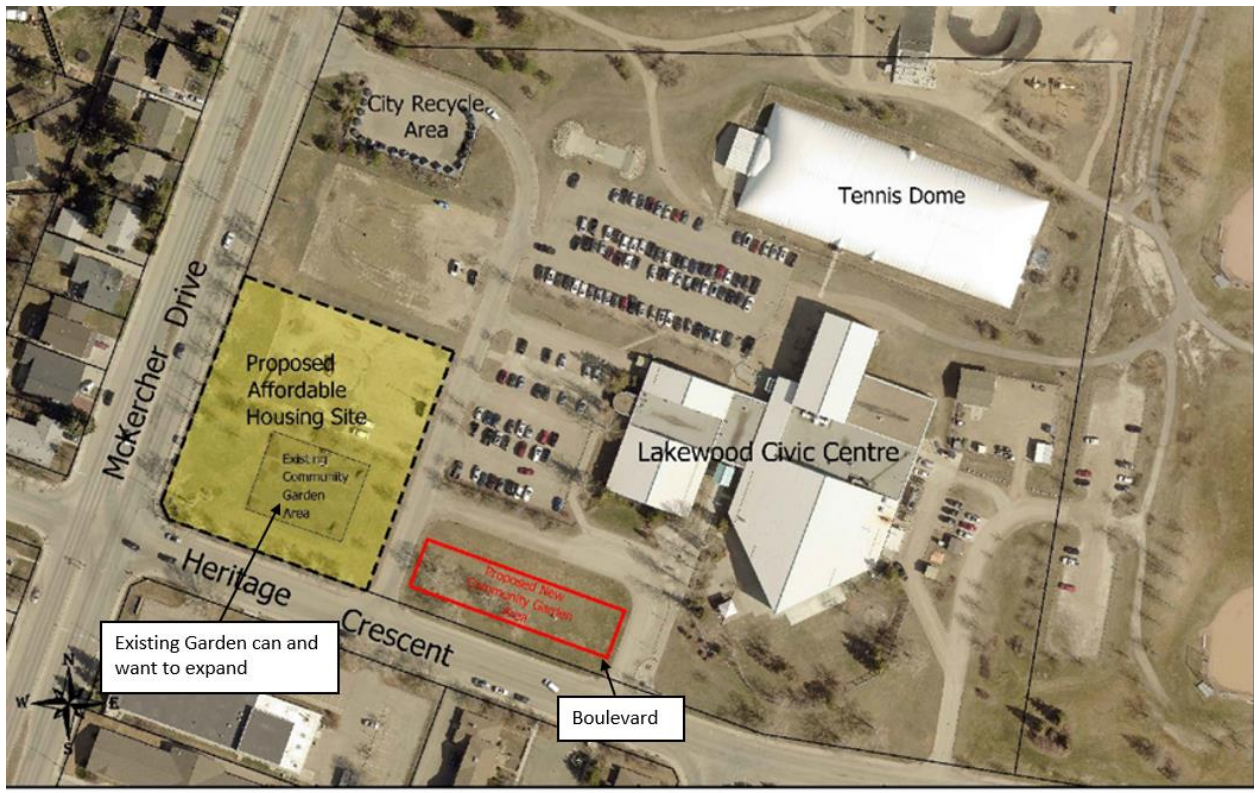
My name is Adam Colvine and I am writing to you in regards to the City's proposed HAF site at 1635 Mckercher Drive. I have lived across the street from the civic center for 15 years now and our family has fallen in love with this area and all the green spaces and facilities it currently has available. That is why I'm deeply concerned about the negative long term and lasting effects that adding a multistorey/multifamily complex on this land will have for the entire community and its residents. The people I have spoken with feel this decision is being rushed and is a complete shock to the surrounding community as most of us have only learned of this proposal in the past two weeks. The information that is found on the City website (4 storey buildings) is different than what is being proposed at this site (11 storey building) which is raising a lot of concern and confusion. I'm hoping we can all slow down and consider all facts being put forward considering the negative impacts this will have on this community before making a quick vote just to secure federal funding.

Community Garden

Relocating the community garden to a boulevard is not a safe and economical solution. There are numerous families and elderly people that use this garden every day. Moving the garden to a high traffic area where people are constantly driving in, out and around is just asking for an accident to happen and/or inability to use the garden. These people look forward to this garden every year and to have that ruined will have lasting effects on their health and mental wellness. People use gardening to get exercise, get outside, have social interactions and lower stress. Not to mention the obvious benefits of fresh healthy produce and lowering already staggering grocery bills. There are currently 57 plots at the garden and they have applied to the city to expand as the demand is so great. There is currently a waiting list of 53 people wanting a plot at the garden since May of 2022, further showing the high demand and need for this garden. The current location is bigger and can expand to accommodate more families in a safe and realistic manner as opposed to the proposed location which is limited the boulevard.

The city has proposed for this lot that the building can be up to 37m(121'4"). 1 story is 3.3m(10'8"), so that means this building has the potential to be 11 storeys tall. Moving the garden behind an 11 story building will obviously block the much needed sun to make this garden flourish. If the garden then can't produce, families will stop all their hard work and enjoyment until the garden and all interest dies.

On the city website it states, "Residential development is not planned for green spaces such as parks, cemeteries, golf courses or similar areas." A Garden surrounded by established trees and grass is a green space to me any day of the week.



Site Image: Proposed Affordable Housing Site and New Community Garden location.

Parking Lot

It has been said that this will replace an under utilized parking lot and that there will be a program to make parking more efficient. I'm not sure how taking away a good portion of the civic center parking lot (~100 stalls) won't have "any anticipated impacts to current park programming or open space activities".

The parking lot is vital to the enjoyment of all the facilities surrounding this area including the soccer field, Ball diamonds, Newly renovated BMX track(which has a long term lease with the city and is currently fundraising to further expand), Tennis dome, walking paths, Library and Civic center for families that come here daily from all over the city for different lessons, games, tournaments, championships, birthday parties and just get togethers. I would like to invite City Council to come down during any of these events and just see what a booming vibrant place the civic center is and the absolute NEED for that parking lot.

All spots are full to capacity during these events to the point people already have to park on the surrounding streets. Taking away that parking lot and adding a multifamily building with 75-150 Units will take away the enjoyment of the entire community and usefulness of the facilities.

The typical "nuclear family" has 2 parents and 2 kids, using 4 people per unit, in a 150 unit building adds 600 people to an already highly dense area. With the off street parking restrictions lifted the only logical place the new residence will park will be at the remaining civic center parking lot and surrounding streets. When that happens there will be no where for visitor's to park and people will find other places to enjoy themselves where they know they can easily access parking instead of dreading the struggle to simply find a place to park.

Keep in mind these are families and elderly that are bringing sporting equipment, BMX bikes, gardening equipment and decorations including birthday cakes to these events so they won't be taking our bus system. There will still be a large need for individuals and groups gathering to take personal vehicles.

Alternative Possibilities

I fully understand and get behind the need for more affordable housing in this city, I am just asking the city not rush into a decision that will have negative long term and lasting implications to a community and it's residents. Putting a multistory/multifamily building in an already developed area that was built around a civic center and it's facilities and then taking away accessibility to these facilities is asking for trouble with more problems in the future, that will lead to detrimental affects to the city and this community.

With the City's requirements for proposed properties for the HAF I did a search of city owned land that was already zoned M3 and found 412 Slimmon Rd. This parcel would be a better fit for a project like this.

This parcel is already subdivided, zoned properly and has similar tall buildings already in place so this new building would match the area. No relocation of a green space, community garden along with vital parking would be needed. As of today it is grass and ready to be built on.

There is a church and bus stop across the street, firehall down the street, family doctor, pharmacy and grocery store a block and a half away with a new school within walking distance. This to me is a better use of city owned land than what is being proposed.

I use this as an example showing that there are better suited alternatives out there that will not have such a negative, detrimental effect on a community. Options that won't cost the city more money to subdivide a lot, fund a parking lot efficiency program, move a community garden along with the underground water lines, remove numerous established trees that will potentially die if tried to transplant elsewhere and remove a vital fully utilized parking lot.

I ask the city to slow down and consider what this decision means and the negative effects this will do this beautiful community and its residents. We do need affordable housing options available but with that should it have to bring so many downfalls and negative impacts on an established community and it's people? Thank you for your time.

