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Sent: March 12, 2017 10:27 PM
To: Web E-mail - City Clerks
Subject: Submission of the text of my presentation to EUCS Committee March 13
Attachments: eucs_sask_lpa_170313.pdf



Submitted on Sunday, March 12, 2017 - 22:26
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==Your Message==

Service category: City Council, Boards & Committees
Subject: Submission of the text of my presentation to EUCS Committee March 13

Message: I have already submitted by REQUEST TO SPEAK through Debby Sackmann on March 9 at the EUCS meeting regarding agenda item 7.1.1. Debby assures me she has forward my request to the appropriate City Clerk. I have attached my intended presentaton in case it is needed for meeting minutes.

Attachment:
eucs_sask_lpa_170313.pdf:
https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/webform/contact/eucs_sask_lpa_170313.pdf

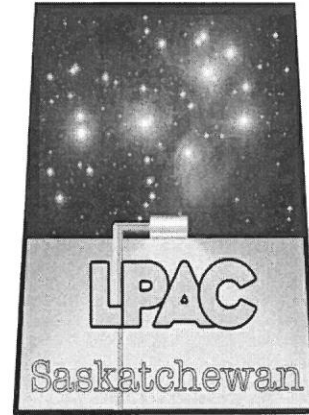
Would you like to receive a short survey to provide your feedback on our customer service? The information you share will be used to improve the service we provide to you and all of our customers.:
Yes

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/405/submission/156833>

March 13, 2017

Saskatchewan Light Pollution Abatement Committee
RASC Saskatoon Centre
PO Box 317, RPO University
Saskatoon, SK
S7N 4J8

Environment, Utilities & Corporate Service Committee
City of Saskatoon
222 – 3rd Avenue N.
Saskatoon SK.



RE: This is the text of my presentation to the Committee in chambers on March 13, 2017 regarding item 7.1.1 of the agenda. (Request to Speak has previously been submitted.)

Your Worship, Committee Members,

The opening paragraph of the Swale Watchers 12 Main Points clearly states *the need for a City-administered Swale Buffer Plan, parallel to the MVA NE Swale Master Plan that should be implemented since the surrounding City development creates disruptions and pollutants that will potentially affect and degrade the Swale.*

The response to this paragraph is a City Report consisting of three categories called: “*In-progress*”, “*Partially-addressed*”, and “*No action possible*”. Yet three of four roads crossing the Swale and two of three neighbourhoods abutting the Swale are built or in advanced construction stages. The MVA Swale Master Plan protects the important assets within the Swale, but the MVA is powerless to protect against contaminants that come into the Swale from beyond their jurisdiction.

My presentation solves only one of the problems – that of light entering the Swale. Maintaining the darkness of night within the Swale is critical in maintaining floral and faunal health from avoiding algae blooms, to preserving fireflies, bats and large mammals.

In 2008, City Council adopted the *Saskatoon Comprehensive and Integrated Dark-sky Policy* that now requires *all outdoor lighting from all sources* to follow the dark-sky rules for all civic works – street lightings, parks, sports fields, parking lots and buildings.

The 12-Point City Report states: “*Saskatoon Light & Power is working with Graham Commuter Partners, in consultation with Meewasin, on the lighting design for the North Commuter Parkway Project to ensure Dark Sky considerations are addressed appropriately.*”

I will point out that lights will also be installed on Central Avenue and Fedorak Drive and on Lowe Road. All lighting within the Swale must be 3000K colour temperature or preferentially redder, fully shielded and needs to be the lowest brightness possible. A good portion of the Swale will unfortunately be lit in some manner, including the critical pinch point nearest the river. But addressing this street lighting alone does not provide adequate environmental protection for the Swale, since all lighting issues are not just created by city streetlights.

Quoting again from the City Report: *“Planning and Development will be exploring the potential for Zoning Bylaw ... amendments that would provide incentives for environmentally-sustainable development. The incentives to be investigated may include measures to encourage, though not require, the use of appropriate lighting on residential properties. Zoning Bylaw amendments mandating Dark Sky-compliant lighting are not being considered at this time.”*

Although lighting from the large number of residences may have an effect on the Swale, the larger issue comes from industrial and commercial lighting, from parking lots and from up-lit billboards and LED billboards. The comment does not address this, and this lighting has the greatest potential to contaminate the Swale. I simply don't understand the reluctance to regulate and eliminate off-property lighting that does nothing but produce light pollution, light trespass and nuisance that degrades the environment.

The solution is to add a few simple sentences to Zoning Bylaw 8770 that states, *“All lighting from all sources (industrial, commercial and residential buildings, parking lots and signage) in Evergreen, Aspen Ridge and UH3 shall be adequately shielded and mounted in a manner that contains all light within the legal boundaries of the property from which it originates, and that no direct light shall enter the Swale. Lighting shall be of a brightness that does not create glare or nuisance for adjoining properties. Up-lit billboards shall be prohibited, and digital billboards shall be prohibited within 250 metres when pointing in the direction of the Swale.”*

That's it - problem solved. There is nothing anti-commercial nor controversial in these statements. No one is telling anyone that you can't have whatever lighting you desire **ON YOUR OWN property**. But it is incumbent on the City to assure that such lighting does not cause environmental destruction off property. The City has a Noise Bylaw that doesn't use *“measures that encourage, though not require,* you to keep the city quiet after 11 p.m. Light trespassing into the Swale deserves the same consideration *if the Swale is considered a Special Area*. We are asking for basic environmental protection. It is common practice for the City to adopt regulatory policy *for good reason*.

In recent history, non-action in zoning bylaws have resulted in the deaths of thousands of yellow warblers at the Painted Hand Casino in Yorkton by unregulated tepee-shaped spotlights because the Province failed to enforce the destructive nuisance the spotlights

created¹. Just two months ago a human safety issue was created where the glare from a greenhouse in Medicine Hat is now causing pilots to lose sight of the runway during the last 15-seconds of the landing because the County failed to place light pollution regulations on the greenhouse during permitting². And last month, a lawsuit was filed in Queen's Bench in Swift Current where an acreage owner is suing a farm dealership because the RM failed to regulate destructive lighting nuisance from off-property lighting. None of these issues would have been prevented with "*encouraged, but not required*" feel-good policies.

I therefore request that this Committee ask critical questions of the City Report conclusions and demand a counter-plan from the City as to HOW each problem WILL be solved, WHEN it will be solved, WHO will solve it, and HOW the timeline for resolution and implementation WILL protect the Swale before it is further degraded.

Sincerely,

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Saskatchewan Light Pollution Abatement Committee

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¹ <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/casino-spotlights-stack-odds-against-birds-yorkton-man-says-1.738544>

² <http://medicinehatnews.com/news/local-news/2017/01/14/greenhouses-causing-light-pollution-for-planes/>