

From: City Council
Sent: Saturday, November 03, 2018 8:35 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council
Attachments: fences_letter-_final_draft.pdf



Submitted on Saturday, November 3, 2018 - 08:35
Submitted by anonymous user: 71.17.147.248
Submitted values are:

Date: Saturday, November 03, 2018
To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name: Kathy
Last Name: Lindsay-Olfert
Email: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]-6th Street East
City: Saskatoon
Province: Saskatchewan
Postal Code: S7H [REDACTED]

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

Subject: Boulevard Lease with City of Saskatoon

Meeting (if known): SPC Transportation Committee - NOV. 6th, 2018 2 p.m.

Comments: Last night I sent a file to this committee and it might have been missing the second page. I am resending this again today with the hopes that the full PDF will be attached. It is regarding a letter that was dropped off in my mailbox on Nov. 1st, 2018 from Chris Helt, Special Projects Manager regarding Item 7.2.4 - Right of Way Boulevard Leases- Policy Update (files CK 4070-2 and x4070-0) for the upcoming SPC Transportation meeting on Tuesday.

Attachments:

fences_letter-_final_draft.pdf: https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/webform/fences_letter-_final_draft.pdf

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/265401>

November 2nd, 2018

█-6th Street East
Saskatoon, Sk.
S7H █

Re: Boulevard Lease with City of Saskatoon

Dear Councillor Block,

I am writing in regards to the letter I received yesterday about the City of Saskatoon administration's wish to present to Council that they plan to terminate the leases with property owners in Ward 6 and have us remove the fences around this leased property.

First of all, I am disappointed that such a major decision affecting our yards would only be given 1-5 days to respond to the Transportation Committee meeting on Nov. 6. I have to work on Nov. 6th and cannot attend the Transportation meeting on that day. Giving us 4-5 days to get out of work to attend a meeting in the middle of the afternoon is not always feasible for some of us. Also, after calling the City Clerk's office, I found out that if an actual letter would be presented to this committee in time for their meeting, the deadline would be today at 5 p.m. (That's a 24 hour turn around)

Secondly, I am disappointed that it takes only some comments about unsightly fences for the city to take action about this issue. I have only had compliments on my fence and yard through the years. In the Buena Vista neighbourhood, we have character houses that are well kept and not well kept. We have war time houses that are well kept and some not well kept. We have diversity in the home designs and we have **poverty** as well as **affluence** in our neighbourhood. This is what makes our Buena Vista neighbourhood so special. The diversity. I do not complaint that some fences and houses are shabby looking, I realize that they may be in a different financial situation than myself. Perhaps you could offer the \$500.00 to just those people who need some paint to fix their fences.

Regarding the issue of sign lines affecting driving, there is more of an issue at the corner of 1st Ave and Taylor Street where cars are allowed to park right up to the corner rather than my property/fence and other peoples' property around here. My trees that were planted in 2003-2004 are 7-10 feet away from the street, my fence is higher up than street level and 10 feet from the street. Certainly driving sight lines have to be kept in mind for safety but I have not heard of any serious accidents happening in the 30 years that I have lived in this neighbourhood and the 18 years that I have lived on this property. My property is backing the Buena Vista School and I believe there is more need to have police monitoring the speeding of drivers who travel down MacPherson Street during school hours than to ask everyone to pull down their fences for safety's sake.

Thirdly, I am disappointment that City Administration's memory is so short that within the 18 years that I have lived here, they cannot make up their mind with what they want to do with this issue and have told different people different things. I am talking to my neighbours in this same position and I am hearing all different stories about inconsistencies around this issue.

I am going to outline our frustrations in dealing with City Administration regarding this issue of leasing land:

2001 - purchase of property at [REDACTED] 6th Street East. A phone call was made to city administration asking if we would be able to lease the side property and perhaps even purchase it. We were told that **no** we could not purchase it, but we could **lease** the land. I can provide the application for lease from May 18th, 2001 if you wish to see it. (my scanner is not working)

2002- (May 14th) - when we put in an application to lease the land. The city accepted our \$250.00 application fee but we were told that the city was going to study the issue and we had to wait until the study was done. (Please contact me if you wish to see the receipt of application) After waiting 2-3 years, there was no answer to our approval for building the fence and leasing the land. So we approached Elaine Hnatyshyn, our city councillor at that time and she asked if there were any complaints about the landscaping and the proposed fence – we said there were no complaints. Then our application was approved through city council via the Planning and Community Services Dept. Since this time, we have been paying \$443.24 yearly for the lease of this fenced land. There have never been any complaints.

When the prices of land went up after 2008, we were told that we could buy the land for a cost of \$34,000 if we wanted to. At this time the lease was serving our purposes and we had no need to purchase the land at the inflated cost compared to what the costs were in 2001 when we first offered to purchase the land. At this time, I cannot consider purchasing the land but there would be very huge implications on the value of my property if the fence were to be removed. The offer of \$500.00 would never cover the costs of removing the fence and filling in the trampoline holes. Thousands of dollars were spent on purchasing trees, infill and plants for the leased city property to beautify it. What the city is proposing would cost much more than \$500.00 and would certainly bring down the value of my property significantly.

Since 2004, I have been faithfully paying the fee of \$443.00 every year and this brings in revenue for the city. I can provide all the Cash Receipts if you wish to see this. Perhaps you could offer to landowners that they have to pay for the leased land and paint their fences with the \$500.00 or the fence will have to be removed. It would cost the city less money to pay \$500.00 to only those who need to paint their fences and continue to collect yearly lease fees from everyone who wants to keep their fences up.

I would very much like to you to consider this letter in your decisions on the SPC Transportation Committee meeting on Nov. 6th, 2018. I would gladly be willing to talk to you if you needed more information. I will certainly be researching into past City Council meeting minutes regarding their decision to approve my fence back in 2003 or 2004.

Sincerely,
Kathy Lindsay-Olfert
[REDACTED] 6th Street East
Phone [REDACTED]

CC -Sean Sass- President of the Buena Vista Community Association

CC -Chris Helt- Special Projects Manager, C of S