

Good day,

I would like to submit written correspondence regarding agenda item (Section 5.4.4(b) of Procedure By-law – June 08, 2022) that brought forward by Councillor Perrelli / seconded by Councillor Beros.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention.

Need:

This area of Oak Ridges has by far more parks than anywhere in Richmond Hill. One best example would be **Lake Wilcox Park**, a jewel in our city. Here is the list of parks on the West & East side of Yonge St, South of Bloomington:

Briar Nine Park and Reserve, Minthorn Park, Beaufort Hills Park, Black Wollow Park, Russell Tilt Park, Pine Needle Park, Raccoon Park, Hughey Park, Worthington Parkette, Delbert Baker Pond & Garden, Brickworks Park, Moraine Park, William Bond Park, ...

Most of these parks are “empty” most of the times. North of King Rd to Bloomington along Yonge St could be considered as one of the greenest areas in Richmond Hill. There is no actual need for another park.

Cost:

The mentioned **70 million dollars** reserve is for essential / necessary causes, and should only be used to expand and improved our services. There is no point to use this very important reserve – which came from our TAX DOLLARS – to buy a park! Not to mention that this is not a communist country, and the government is not and should not be in the position of publicizing private lands for the purpose of unnecessary park.

Investment:

Parks cannot be considered as investment. In fact, a park is a costly liability and will greatly add to the residents' tax.

Besides, the fundamental question would be: is the municipal government in the business of investing in lands or not? The answer is obvious.

Politics:

This motion is obviously politically motivated as we are getting very close to the municipal election. This is not the first time that this councillor put forward this motion. In fact, it was part of his platform as a “mayoral candidate’ in the Jan 2022 by-election.

Out tax dollars should not be used for the ambition and personal gain of politicians.

Fact Checking:

- Comparing the most important city in the world (New York City) with Richmond Hill is irrelevant.
- It is not true that “*the hallmark of a great city is a destination park*”. What are the Hallmarks of Los Angeles, Chicago, Montreal and Toronto?
- Did really the City of Richmond Hill “*missed a rare opportunity to create a destination park when it failed to purchase the 189-acre David Dunlap Observatory Lands*”? People who followed this progressive incident closely know that this statement is untrue, and therefore, this argument is baseless.

Conclusion:

We are in a housing crisis. More people are coming to Richmond Hill every day and the shortage of homes for new families becoming a true challenge. The prices are skyrocketing and homes are becoming more UNAFFORDABLE every single day. In this situation, a responsible government put itself in the position of promoting smart and appropriate developments. Buying large lands with public fund and turn them to costly parks is opposite to that.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Majid Zohari

Richmond Hill, ON