

From: Cris Sturino

Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 9:33 AM

To: Office-Mayor Richmondhill <officemayor@richmondhill.ca>; Godwin Chan <godwin.chan@richmondhill.ca>

Cc: Joe DiPaola <joe.dipaola@richmondhill.ca>; Carmine Perrelli <carmine.perrelli@richmondhill.ca>; Tom Muench <tom.muench@richmondhill.ca>; Castro Liu <castro.liu@richmondhill.ca>; Raika Sheppard <raika.sheppard@richmondhill.ca>; Karen Cilevitz <karen.cilevitz@richmondhill.ca>; Greg Beros <greg.beros@richmondhill.ca>; Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>

Subject: Member Motions 14.2 & 14.3 - Wednesday, June 8th, 2022

Dear Mayor West and Members of Council,

I have reviewed the Motions presented by Councillor Perrelli for approval to purchase land to build a "destination" park at the upcoming Council Meeting. I have also reviewed his motion to provide residents free replacement of green and blue bins.

I've been a resident of Richmond Hill for almost 40 years and raised my now 37 yr old son here. He plans to raise his family here.

Land Purchase

As a small city of 200,000, we already have a wide network of parks and trails. It's one of the things that I've heard new residents highlight as one of the great features of our town - I still call it my "town"!

As a resident, I am opposed to the motion to enter into negotiations with the developer to purchase land at a cost of \$70 million dollars to create an unnecessary "destination park" at Yonge and Bloomington. I ask that you reject this motion for the following reasons:

- As we recover from the pandemic, now is not a fiscally responsible time to purchase land for an unnecessary park.
- Maintenance of a large, new park will add to a budget that will already be strained in the coming years as our economy slowly recovers from the pandemic. I expect that the cost of gas, labour, higher supply costs, etc will add unanticipated costs to our budget as it is.
- Many already struggle to pay their bills and cannot afford large property tax increases - it stands to reason that the recent 0% property tax increases are not sustainable. This is not the time to add to our operating expenses.
- The location of the park at our northern border means that the park is not convenient for a vast majority of residents, which will substantially reduce the number that will take advantage of it apart from those perhaps in Councillor Beros' ward. As a resident of the south part of

Richmond Hill, I cannot see that I would drive to this "destination" rather than visit the many existing parks and trails.

- Using the results of a survey that represents less than 1% of the population to make a major land purchase is hardly fair representation of our entire community. Further, I have been the recipient of Mr Perrelli's "surveys" in the past. I wasn't impressed with the skewed and partisan presentation of the questions although, I did not receive or see this one.
- To build integrated communities moving forward, we're far better to build smaller parks that are within walking or biking distance for seniors and families to encourage residents to leave their cars at home. For larger 'town' events, we already have the Richmond Green Complex.

Blue/Green Bin Replacement

In keeping with my comments above with respect to fiscal responsibility, I ask that you vote against this motion and seek alternative remedies to resolve some of the points raised in the motion. This is another expense that would add to our operating budget, when we haven't yet fully realized the challenges we will have in our current budget year. Further:

- In my older condo building, we are still waiting to start a green bin program, due to pandemic delays.
- Thousands of condo owners will receive no benefit from adding such a large expense to the budget. Asking us to bear the cost of this program is unreasonable.
- Partnering with various local businesses to sell the bins may help to make them more accessible to those that don't drive.
- "Free Delivery" is not free delivery - it costs all of us. I don't think I should have to pay for someone's delivery because they don't want to wash their "smelly" bin before putting it in their vehicle.
- "Free Bins" are not free. In fact, condo owners would be subsidizing the cost of bins for all other residents when we already pay for a compactor, bin puller, labour to prepare for pick up though our maintenance fees.
- Work with our waste management contractor to reduce the number of damaged bins. Some of the responsibility lies with them.
- Consider a 'free' program for those that are truly financially or otherwise challenged, such as seniors and disabled residents.

All other options should be explored before we even consider adding an expensive program to our budget. There are better things that benefit all residents that this money can be spent on.

Kind regards,

Cris Sturino
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