

MayorandCouncillors

From: MayorandCouncillors
Sent: January 17, 2022 10:15 AM
To: 'De Whalen'
Subject: RE: Written submission for Public Hearing Jan 17, 2022

Categories: - TO: MAYOR & EACH COUNCILLOR / FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Good Morning,

Thank you for your email and letter. Please note that copies will be provided to Council in advance of the Jan 17, 2022 Public Hearing. In addition, your comments will be received by Wayne Craig, Director, Development Approvals.

Sincerely,

Claudia

Claudia Jesson
Director, City Clerk's Office
City of Richmond, 6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1
Phone: 604-276-4006 | Email: cjesson@richmond.ca

From: De Whalen <de_whalen@hotmail.com>
Sent: January 16, 2022 12:33 PM
To: CityClerk <CityClerk@richmond.ca>; MayorandCouncillors <MayorandCouncillors@richmond.ca>
Subject: Written submission for Public Hearing Jan 17, 2022

City of Richmond Security Warning: This email was sent from an external source outside the City. Please do not click or open attachments unless you recognize the source of this email and the content is safe.

City of Richmond
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC

January 16, 2022

SENT BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear City Clerk's office and Mayor & Councillors:

Please accept this written submission (below and attached) for the Public Hearing on January 17, 2022, regarding the proposed rezoning of the area bordered by Sexsmith, Capstan, Garden City and Cambie, the "Polygon" proposal. I would like to attend Council Chambers in-person. Please advise, thank you. De Whalen

Submission to January 17, 2022 City of Richmond Public Hearing on Polygon Rezoning proposal

My name is Deirdre Whalen, and I am a long-time resident of Richmond. I would like to express my opposition to the proposal of Polygon to rezone the area around the Garden City urban forest. It is one of the last urban forests in Metro Vancouver, and the last farmed field remaining in this densely populated neighbourhood of Capstan Station.

Back in the old days, City Hall elected officials and their planners decided how the city would grow and were not hampered by the needs of developers. They were influenced by the **garden city movement**, a method of urban planning in which self-contained communities are surrounded by greenbelts, containing proportionate areas of residences, industry, and agriculture. Garden city planning aimed to capture the primary benefits of a countryside environment and a city environment while avoiding the disadvantages presented by both.

In recognition of the fact that Richmond or Lulu Island was primarily a farming community, elected City officials back in the day used the 'garden city planning' concept throughout Richmond. This is witnessed by looking at some older neighbourhood hubs – for example, Steveston, Seafair, Shellmont, Cambie, and Broadmoor - which used the garden city concept to develop town-like hubs where one could get from their residence to services, amenities, and nature equally.

Garden City Road was meant to be the urban boundary that opened into nature. Beyond the perimeter, city residents could escape the busy-ness of city life and enjoy nature. Farmers were close to the markets they served, and city dwellers were close to forests and the flora and fauna within. As a living example, if you go out to the Garden City urban forest at night, you may see owls and coyotes out hunting for mice. They keep the vermin population down in densely peopled areas and they deserve a place to live too.

Capstan Station is already crowded with thousands of condos and thousands of residents. What is done is done, but why would the City allow developers to build more condos on the only space of natural respite these residents have? Why are you considering paving over fields and bulldozing trees to build housing (including the LEMR units that are not truly affordable) that does not serve people who wish to 'live, work and play' in Richmond?

By the way, the motto of Richmond of *'live, work and play'* comes directly from the **garden city movement**. To think the City has moved so far away from its roots of creating garden cities on this small island, is sad, and especially sad when you are contemplating destroying the last urban forest in Richmond during a climate crisis.

I needn't remind you that this is an election year. I will be joining others who will want to hear from incumbent Councillors and 2022 municipal candidates, on how they championed the preservation of the Garden City urban forest.

Thank you,

Deirdre Whalen
13631 Blundell Road
Richmond, BC
V6W1B6

De Whalen
604.230.3158

"We are all in this world together, and the only test of our character that matters is how we look after the least fortunate among us. How we look after each other, not how we look after ourselves. That's all that really matters, I think." Tommy Douglas

"You can't undo the past. You don't have to feel guilty about the past. You don't even have to apologize for the past. All you have to do is say YES. Yes, this happened. We can start there." Richard Wagamese on Reconciliation.