

Submission to a Richmond council meeting on Monday, Feb. 21, re Richmond approval of a Metro Vancouver growth strategy bylaw.

Schedule 2 to the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday, February 21, 2011.

My name is Olga Tkatcheva and I live on 8-7680 Gilbert rd Richmond BC.

I want to start by saying that I live in the city Centre area and am very interested in its responsible development when the continued planned densification is balanced against the parks and jobs creation.

The OCP for the city centre was discussed with the Garden City Lands marked as "under study" - it was presented in this way on the open houses and city of Richmond web-site when public input was collected.

Before of that the land was designated as Public and Open Space Use. The Public and Open Space Use designation does not provide for urban development. The OCP for the City Centre was approved with the lands still under study and the appropriate lands were allocated to satisfy the plan to provide the housing for the targeted population and the park land to satisfy the requirements.

Clearly, these lands were not needed to meet these targets. Then without any proper consultation with the City Centre residents, the designation changed to a General Urban designation, that also allows those lands to be used for residential development.

I do not see any formal ground for that unless we, as a society, accept the desire to please the developers companies financing the election campaigns of the council members as a valid reason.

We have 2 members of the council that were always on the side of the large scale development of these lands and their election campaign was 100% financed by the big development companies. They keep pushing the illegal "General Urban" land designation of the Garden City Lands in order for Richmond to loose in the court against the Musqueam Indian Band and to force a return to essentially the original "Agreement of Purchase and Sale" development agreement. They have their reasons and will probably not change their minds regardless what they hear here, but I am asking the rest of the council and a mayor to place themselves on the right side of this matter, on the side of the people of Richmond.

These lands have to be returned to their Agricultural lands designation as it was before the development agreement was drafted. There are bylaws and procedures in place before any changes could be made and they were not undertaken so the council has no formal ground to change the designation on its own.