

Schedule 2 to the Minutes of the Regular meeting of Richmond City Council held on Monday, February 8, 2021.

ON TABLE ITEM

Date: Feb. 8, 2021
Meeting: Council
Item: #16

From: Sharon MacGougan <sharonmacg@telus.net>
Sent: February 8, 2021 5:27 PM
To: MayorandCouncillors <MayorandCouncillors@richmond.ca>
Subject: Re Talisman Park input, Feb. 8 council meeting

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Dear Mayor Brodie and Councillors,

I will be speaking at tonight's meeting. This is the printed copy.

Thank you,

Sharon MacGougan
President, Garden City Conservation Society
H 604.278-8108
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From: Sharon MacGougan, President of the Garden City Conservation Society.
To: Mayor Brodie and all members of Richmond Council
Re: Polygon Talisman Park RZ 18-836123, February 8, 2021

Creating community: Part One

At Planning Committee last Tuesday, a councillor commented about keeping the needs of the future Talisman community in mind. That got me thinking about how to create and sustain good communities, which include the natural world.

When we save mature trees—and the biodiversity that trees exist in—we do something great, something existential. For instance, we protect the existence of our various bird populations, including the raptors like hawks, owls and eagles one typically sees on visits to the Talisman Forest. That is an easy-to-see reason why we conserve urban forest in the Richmond Ecological Network, the EN. Doing that for our wildlife populations enables our community to be more alive and less dead.

The Richmond Tree Management Strategy 2045 highlights an elm tree at city hall. With another photo, it shows that same tree on the Minoru Race Track in 1951, half a century ago. The elm tree is considered high-value, according to the report, and this particular elm “... *has the largest canopy spread of any measured in Richmond today.*” That tree exists today because someone made a decision to keep it, thinking of future community needs. We’re lucky. As responsible community members, we also need to think ahead like that.

Thank you to Mayor Brodie and the councillors that voted to refer the Talisman project back to staff to “*explore the better use of existing trees*” and to “*review the proposed park location*”. We also thank the Applicant for collaborating. Clearly, keeping mature trees in their forest ecosystem is vastly better for the community than missing the opportunity.

Creating Community: Part Two

I visited a condo development in Richmond recently, built in the 1970s. Perfect for young families. The homes have yards. There’s lots of open space and mature trees. There’s minimal traffic, and the development has its own tennis court and small park.

We can no longer make that kind of development possible. However, with zoning for rental only, the units can be made more affordable for young families to have a home in Richmond at all. (John Roston has explained that.)

We are stronger for the community we create where our children can still live in the city they grew up in, and raise their own family.

We are even stronger if our natural world retains space in our community as well.