

CityClerk

From: Cathy Sichewski <c.sichewski@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 16 October 2017 13:30
To: CityClerk
Subject: Fwd: onni proposal....
Attachments: v2 Cathy Sichewski re - Onni Steveston Development.docx

Good Day;

Please find my attached letter for today's council meeting in regards tonight's agenda # 9 "The onni proposal of Boutique Hotel'.

Thank you for forwarding my letter to Council

Kind Regards;

Cathy Sichewski
604-862-4823

From: Cathy Sichewski [mailto:c.sichewski@gmail.com]
Sent: October 16, 2017 12:40 PM
To: Paul Ursich <pvursich@gmail.com>
Subject: onni proposal....



Cathy Sichewski
10-4111 Garry Street
Richmond BC V7E 2T9

16 October 2017

Re: Onni Development in Steveston

Good day,

I am a Steveston Resident and Taxpayer of this Community and am sending my concerns about the idea of a 'boutique hotel'. We do not need one. I hope that this open hearing will allow the residents of Steveston to be heard by Council. The decisions made with respect to Onni's waterfront development will have a lasting impact on the small community of Steveston.

The Community of Steveston shares some similarities with community of Fort Langley. The two communities are unique components of a wider community. The two communities draw many visitors and tourists. The two communities have a growing population of residents who typically commute to work in other communities.

I am very aware that Steveston is a 'tourist destination to see and visit' but, a Boutique Hotel is not something that will better our community. Visitors come and go but, it is us the residents of this community that support it every day. This will also not benefit the many seniors, families, and children of this community. However, it is bad form to point out a problem without looking for solutions.

1. Steveston does not have a seniors' centre. Considering the many surrounding community programs this is a large gap. Seniors have difficulty accessing many of these programs due to mobility restrictions.

An assisted living facility and with medium or high-density housing would be a huge asset.

2. The increasing number of residents who commute to other communities for work means that there are many school age children in town. Having another option for before and after school and holiday breaks for our children is highly needed. The existing community center has said they cannot support any more programs. The local private before and after program is at its maximum capacity. The city is well aware of this situation. Unfortunately, despite more plans for residential developments, there has been no plan announced for child care.

3. The increased local population requires ongoing access to health care. Plans for even more residential development do not seem to factor in services such as walk-in clinics. Richmond General Hospital's Emergency Department should not be put under more stress due to a lack of services for planned development.

4. The existing library in the Steveston Community Centre is inadequate but takes up valuable space. A library on the Onni site would be able to expand, as this community has; increased reading programs, book clubs for all ages and let's not forget circle and baby time. Instead of being tucked away in a corner of the library the openness of this space would certainly promote health and well being for all. Library space in the new development would allow for a better library while also freeing up space in an already overstretched community centre.

5. Finally:

- A Soup and sandwich deli
- A fresh fruit and veggie stand

- A Freshii (fresh food solutions for the many single elderly and students that frequent the village every lunch hour)
- A small home improvement store as we have nothing here for emergency home repair now that Rod's Lumber is gone.
- Family restaurants
- A Boutique Hotel serves no purpose/benefit for us in Steveston. I did not see a 'boutique hotel' on my recent visit to Fort Langley that is similar to us but, saw lots of great art spaces, bake shops, cheese shops, local made product stores, bistros, family restaurants – all full!!!

Please don't waste valuable community space on a meaningless "boutique" hotel. The residents, the ones who live in this community, who contribute to Richmond over the course of years, and who raise families here, need more services. We have plenty of beautiful hotels only minutes away. We are a residential community that is growing and that needs access to daily services that grow with us.

There are many ideas that I'm sure that people will come up with. We have been stuck in limbo for years and we all want a solution rather than the status quo. Hopefully, the City can find solutions that put their own citizens front and centre instead of a small number of tourists.

Sincerely;

Cathy Sichewski