

GREEN SPACES

MY NAME IS TANICE LUNN

I AM HERE TODAY TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE CORONATION PARK GREEN SPACE GROUP

THE INFORMATION I WILL PRESENT IS BASED ON WHAT OUR RESEARCH HAS IDENTIFIED THROUGH STATS CANADA, CITY POLICE RECORDS AND PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

ACCORDING TO THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2007 THE REGINA PLANNING COMMISSION HAS A LEGAL DUTY AND AN OBLIGATION TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND GENERAL WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY IN MATTERS OF REZONING

CITY PLANNERS AND CITY COUNCIL MUST ENSURE THAT THEY DO NOT APPROVE OF BUILDING THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO CONDENSED POVERTY AND INCREASED CRIME

THE 4 BLOCK BY 4 BLOCK AREA AROUND THE GOLF COURSE GOLF COURSE IS DIFFERENT THAN ANY OTHER AREA OF CORONATION

IT HAS A 65% CHILD POVERTY RATE WHICH IS FAR HIGHER THAN THE REST OF CORONATION AND HONESTLY FAR HIGHER THAN MOST PLACES IN THE WORLD

FOR EXAMPLE TURKEY HAS A 28% CHILD POVERTY RATE, MEXICO 26%

IN THE USA DETROIT HAS THE WORST CHILD POVERTY RATE AT 57%

IT IS APPALLING THAT THE GOLF COURSE AREA OF CORONATION IS WORSE THAN ALL OF THESE.... SHAME ON REGINA

WE DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE CITY WOULD PUT ANY BUILDINGS ON THE GOLF COURSE LAND THAT WOULD INCREASE POVERTY IN ANY WAY NO MATTER THE EXCUSES USED

THE GOLF COURSE AREA HAS A HIGHER VIOLENT CRIME RATE THAN MOST REGINA NEIGHBOURHOODS AND HIGHER THAN ANY OF THE OTHER 6 CORONATION ZONES IDENTIFIED BY THE CITY POLICE

TO PLACE ANY MORE BUILDING IN THIS AREA AT THIS TIME IS WRONG, UNETHICAL, IMMORAL AND POTENTIALLY ILLEGAL

THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF ANY BUILDINGS THAT WOULD ADD TO THE POVERTY IN THE AREA

CONTRARY TO WHAT PEOPLE HAD BELIEVED AT ONE TIME NEWER RESEARCHER HAS NOW FOUND THAT EXPANDING GREEN SPACE IN DISADVANTAGED AREAS LEADS TO MANY POSITIVE OUTCOMES INCLUDING, DECREASED DEPRESSION AND LOWER CRIME RATES ESPECIALLY VIOLENT CRIME

SOCIAL HOUSING RESIDENTS THAT HAVE ACCESS TO MORE GREEN SPACE AND TREES EXPERIENCE LESS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

ACCORDING TO MAYOR FOUGERE AT REGINA'S LAST BUDGET MEETING REGINA HAS 17 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CALLS PER DAY

MOST OF THESE TAKE PLACE IN HIGH POVERTY AREAS.

ONE STUDY FOUND THAT IN SIMILAR DISADVANTAGED NEIGHBOURHOODS THERE WERE 56% FEWER VIOLENT CRIMES WHEN GREEN SPACES INCREASED. AS IT TURNED OUT THE MORE GREEN SPACE THERE WAS THE LESS VIOLENT CRIMES OCCURRED.

RESEARCHERS SAY IT IS TIME TO RECONSIDER THE VALUE OF GREEN SPACE IN DISADVANTAGED NEIGHBOURHOODS

KEEPING THE GOLF COURSE LAND FULLY GREEN WITH NO BUILDINGS WILL DETER VIOLENT CRIME THAT HAS BECOME SUCH A PROBLEM IN THE AREA

CHILDREN IN WEALTHY NEIGHBOURHOODS HAVE NO END OF AMENITIES. THEIR GREEN SPACES ARE PRISTINE AND HAVE EVERY POSSIBLE TYPE OF PLAY STRUCTURE, GRASS AND TREES AND OFTEN INCLUDE SMALL STREAMS AND OTHER WATER FEATURES.

FOR EXAMPLE ONE HUGE CITY PARK ON MICHNER IN ARCOLA EAST HAS FIVE DIFFERENT PLAY AREAS ALL WITH WELL MAINTAINED PLAY STRUCTURES JUST IN THAT PARK ALONE

THE KIDS IN THE GOLF COURSE AREA HAVE 2 SWINGS AND A TEETER TOTTER PLACED ON A LARGE BED OF GRAVEL AND SURROUNDED BY DESOLATE SPACE, DIRTY SYRINGES, USED CONDOMES AND GANG TAGS

DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN DESERVE BETTER THAN WHAT CITY HALL IN REGINA HAS GIVEN THEM SO FAR.

THEY DESERVE AS GOOD OF GREEN SPACE AND PLAYGROUNDS AND AS MUCH OF BOTH AS WEALTHY CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO.

TO PUNISH THEM FOR BEING POOR IS IRRESPONSIBLE

THE ONLY HOPE DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN HAVE FOR A LARGE GREEN SPACE ON THE GOLF COURSE LAND SHOULD NOT BE CRUSHED BECAUSE THE CITY NEEDS MORE MONEY FROM PROPERTY TAX AND DEVELOPERS.

THE CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BEAR THE BURDEN FOR THE CITY OVERSPENDING OVER THE LAST DECADE. OR ANY FINACIAL IRRESPONSIBILITY THE CITY HAS CREATED

THE CITY SAYS GOLF COURSE AREA KIDS CAN PLAY IN THE BALL DIAMONDS

BUT THE BALL DIAMOND CONSISTS OF A LARGE GRAVELLED SPACE THAT IS LITTERED WITH ALCOHOL BOTTLES, LISTERINE BOTTLES, USED CONDOMS, AND DIRTY SYRINGES. THIS AREA IS CERTAINLY NOT USABLE

THE CITY HAS RECENTLY BEGUN TO ALLOW BASEBALL GAMES IN THE AREA AND BECAUSE OF THIS COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAD TO POST WARNINGS REGARDING SYRINGES, GLASS AND CONDOMES SO THAT UNSUSPECTING PARENT WOULD KNOW THEY HAD TO WATCH THEIR CHILDREN. GIVEN THAT A CHILD AS POKED WITH A NEEDLE FROM THE BALL DIAMONDS IN THE PAST THIS IS NOT UNREALISTIC

IT IS UNLIKELY THAT CITY EMPLOYEES OR CITY OFFICIALS WOULD BRING THEIR CHILDREN TO THE OPEN SPACES IN CORONATION PARK AND DROP THEM OFF FOR THE DAY...

IF CITY EMPLOYEES WOULD NOT LET THEIR CHILDREN PLAY HERE THEN WE WONDER WHY IT WOULD BE OK TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED REZONING TO ACCOMMODATE BRINGING MORE PEOPLE WHO NEED SOCIAL AND SUBSIDIZED HOUSING INTO THE AREA?

THE GROUP WONDERS WHETHER THE CITY HAS CONSIDERED THE RISK OF BUILDING CONDENSED POVERTY ON THE GOLF COURSE LAND.

THE CITY CLAIMS THE BUILDING WILL BE A SENIORS COMPLEX BUT THERE IS ALREADY A 16% SURPLUS OF SENIORS COMPLEXES IN REGINA. IN ADDITION SENIORS WHO LIVE IN THE SENIORS COMPLEX THAT ALREADY EXISTS A BLOCK FROM THE GOLF COURSE TELL OUR GROUP THAT THERE IS A VERY HIGH VACANCY RATE.

ACCORDING TO A SURVEY CONDUCTED THIS MONTH WITH SENIORS WHO ARE LIVING IN SENIORS COMPLEXES IN DISADVANTAGED REGINA NEIGHBOURHOODS MANY PEOPLE LIVE IN THEIR COMPLEXES WHO ARE NOT SENIORS BECAUSE OF THE HIGH VACANCY RATE.

WE LIVE IN AN AREA THAT IS LITTERED WITH DISCARDED CONDOMS AND USED SYRINGES ARE COMMON AND WHERE EXPERIENCING DANGEROUS AND TRAUMATIC SITUATIONS LIKE THESE IS AN EVERY DAY OCCURRENCE

SO WE ARE STRUGGLING TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE CITY WOULD OK THE IDEA OF A SENIORS COMPLEX AND WHY ANY DEVELOPER AND THE CITY WOULD THINK IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO MOVE ELDERLY PEOPLE INTO SUCH A HIGH CRIME HIGH POVERTY NEIGHBOURHOOD.

ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE ARE MANY HEALTHY AND SAFE AREAS IN THE CITY THAT COULD BE USED TO DEVELOP THE PROPOSED PROJECT

IF A SENIORS COMPLEX WERE DEVELOPED IN THE AREA, IT WOULD NOT BE SUSTAINABLE AT THIS TIME AS THE VACANCY RATES FOR SENIORS COMPLEXES ARE TOO HIGH, AND THERE IS EXCESSIVE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, EXCESSIVE GANG ACTIVITY AND EXCESSIVE DRUG RELATED ACTIVITY IN THE AREA.

WE FEEL THAT FOR WHATEVER REASON THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE EXISTING COMMUNITY AND OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD BE PLACED IN THE AREA IS NOT BEING CONSIDERED.

ALLOWING REZONING OF THE LAND TO ACCOMMODATE THE ADDITION OF ANY SORT OF HOUSING AT ALL WILL NOT DECREASE THE PROBLEMS THE COMMUNITY FACES AND WILL IN FACT EXPOSE ANY NEW RESIDENTS TO THE SAME DANGERS AND HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS THAT CURRENT RESIDENTS ARE STRUGGLING WITH

THE CITY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN BUT CLEARLY SOME CHILDREN IN THE CITY ARE CONSIDERED MORE VALUABLE THAN OTHER CHILDREN. AS LONG AS WEALTHY NEIGHBOURHOODS HAVE NO END OF LUXURIOUS GREEN SPACE IT DOESN'T SEEM TO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO CHILDREN IN POOR NEIGHBOURHOODS

AS AN ASIDE, THE OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY THAT IS REFERENCED IN THE CITY REPORT ALSO IDENTIFIES THE AVAILABLE SPACE IN CORONATION PARK AS BEING "FAIR" CONDITION.

GIVEN THE CONDOMS, SYRINGES, GANG GRAFFITI, LYSOL BOTTLES, SOLVENT SNIFFING PARAPHERNALIA, ETC. IT MAKES ONE WONDER WHAT LEVEL OF HORROR THE SPACE WOULD HAVE TO SINK TO IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED POOR.

THE AREA NEEDS TO BE SAFE AND HEALTHY BEFORE GREEN SPACE CAN BE PROPERLY MAINTAINED AND TRULY ACCESSIBLE TO FAMILIES. UNTIL THIS OCCURS MORE RENTAL HOUSING OF ANY KIND SHOULD NOT BE DEVELOPED IN THE AREA.

THE PARK GROUP WONDERS WHETHER THE CITY HAS CONSIDERED THEIR MORAL, ETHICAL AND LEGAL OBLIGATIONS TO THE CITIZENS OF CORONATION PARK, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN CLOSEST PROXIMITY TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IN THIS MATTER.

THE PARK GROUP WONDERS WHETHER THE CITY IS WILLING TO PUT IN WRITING A COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF CORONATION PARK THAT THEIR HEALTH, SAFETY AND GENERAL WELFARE WILL NOT BE NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY ALLOWING REZONING OF THE LANDS LOCATED AT THE GOLF COURSE.....WE DOUBT IT

FOR THE REASONS MENTIONED ABOVE AND OTHERS, THE PARK GROUP PROPOSES THAT ALLOWING THE REZONING WOULD VIOLATE THE SPIRIT AND INTENT OF THE REGINA DEVELOPMENT PLAN, THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2007 AND THE CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS AND WOULD CAUSE HARM TO CITIZENS.

THE CITY HAS A LEGAL OBLIGATION TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND GENERAL WELFARE OF NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITY RESIDENTS.

IF THE PROPOSED REZONING OF THE GOLF COURSE LAND IS APPROVED, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE EXISTING COMMUNITY AND THOSE WHO WOULD BE BROUGHT IN. THIS WOULD EXPOSE NEW RESIDENTS TO THE GRAVE RISKS AND DANGERS THAT THE EXISTING COMMUNITY IS ALREADY STRUGGLING WITH.

THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED IN PARTICULAR WOULD BE PLACED IN DANGER.

POTENTIAL OUTCOMES INCLUDE EXPOSING SENIORS TO DRUG USING BEHAVIOURS AND PARAPHERNALIA, EXPOSING SENIORS TO ABERRANT SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS AND ASSOCIATED ITEMS AND EXPOSING SENIORS TO ASSAULT, MUGGINGS, THEFT AND OTHER CRIMES. ALL OF THIS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO A HIGH LEVEL OF FEAR AMONG ANY SENIORS BROUGHT INTO THE AREA.

THE CITY HAS SAID THAT MOVING MORE PEOPLE WHO NEED SENIORS HOUSING INTO THE AREA AND PUTTING MORE EYES ON THE STREET WILL MINIMIZE CRIME

WE FEEL THAT THIS COMMENT IS FOOLISH AND NIAVE AND THAT IT IS DISRESPECTFUL OF THE COMMUNITY

THIS APPROACH HAS CERTAINLY NOT WORKED IN NORTH CENTRAL WHERE THERE IS AN EXTREME DEFICIT OF GREEN SPACE AND A VAST NUMBER OF EYES ON THE STREET AND IN FACT THIS HAS BACKFIRED HORRIBLY

THE SAME THING WILL HAPPEN IF THE CITY CONTINUES TO BUILD IN THE IRRESPONSIBLE MANNER THEY HAVE ALREADY DONE IN CORONATION PARK. CRIME AND POVERTY AND ALL THE NEGATIVES THAT GO WITH GHETTOIZING A

COMMUNITY WILL ESCALATE BRINGING HARM TO THE ALL BUT ESPECIALLY THE CHILDREN

THE CITY IS CHOOSING TO BE WILLFULLY BLIND AND IGNORE THE DEVASTATION CAUSED BY POVERTY AND HIGH CRIME RATES IN CORONATION AND THIS HAS TO STOP.

STATISTICS CANADA HAS SAID THAT IN REGINA THERE IS A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MORE RENTAL PROPERTIES IN AN AREA AND INCREASED CRIME RATES YET THE CITY CONTINUES TO DENY THE CONNECTION AND TO TRY TO FIND OTHERR EXPLANATIONS.

CLEARLY ADDING MORE RENTAL PROPERTIES TO AN AREA THAT ALREADY HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST RENTAL PROPERTY RATES IN REGINA AND ONE OF THE HIGHEST CRIME RATES WILL BY THE CITY'S OWN ADMISSION CONTRIBUTE TO INCREASING RATHER THAN MINIMIZING THE PROBLEM

FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS AND MORE WE OPPOSE THE REZONING OF THE LANDS LOCATED AT 4001 3RD AVENUE NORTH

I REJECT ALL FOUR CITY CONCEPTS FOR THE GOLF COURSE AND I AGREE WITH CONCEPT 5 BY NELSON BRYKSA

I AGREE WITH THE 1069 INDIVIDUALS WHO SIGNED THE PETITION TO NOT HAVE ANY BUILDINGS ON THE GOLF COURSE LAND