

Lynda Schofield

It is a pleasure to take this opportunity to say thank-you in advance to this Council and Administration, for a positive outcome on the vote before you tonight. Such bylaw votes, having gone through Committee and come before you are pretty routine – but far from routine to those who will benefit from them.

I have been appearing here about off-leash spaces for 16 years, often to express disappointment or concerns so it seems only right that I also take time to say thank-you for a positive outcome this time.

The development of the Mt Pleasant off-leash park area has been accomplished much faster than such initiatives have moved in the past and your vote tonight will hopefully result in another much-needed , fully-fenced off-leash park available before year-end. Many who usually travel in the winter will not be doing so this year; now more than ever, having this additional outdoor space for people to walk their dogs , exercise, and build and connect with community is important.

You are also voting for the bylaw change allowing an off-leash space at the Regent Par 3 development, but of course that is no guarantee of completion of the planned off-leash space next year. Even though the City is facing unprecedented challenges around budgets as we move forward., I hope that development of all aspects of the Regent Par 3 space remains a priority with the incoming Council and the Administration, and it will continue to completion just as efficiently next year, including the off-leash areas included in the plan.

Thank you again.

Lynda Schofield