

This is a request to appear before City Council on December 9th & 10th, 2019. I will be discussing the redevelopment of the Regent Par III Golf Course. My name is: Josh Campbell My address is: [REDACTED] My phone number is [REDACTED].

The following is a written summary of what I will be presenting:

My name is Josh Campbell I am here tonight to oppose the redevelopment of the Regent Par III Golf Course into a recreation hub. It is important that the trees on the land not be destroyed.

Regina city administration says the financial outlook is tough in Regina, population is rising & financial reserves are low. Property taxes are the main source of money for the city, but costs are overtaking the amount of money being brought in (CBC News, April, 2019).

According to CBC News, the City of Regina hiked taxes by 6.49 per cent in 2017. This was the biggest property tax hike in decades. The city also approved a two per cent increase to the water utility rate that year. In 2018 and 2019 property tax went up 4.3% placing each of those years in the top 25% property tax hikes for the last 2 decades.

The budget for the golf course redevelopment / recreation hub is 3 million dollars much of which will go to removing the trees. There are other areas of land in Coronation Park where it would cost far less to build a recreation hub because hundreds of trees would not have to be removed. The ACT Ball Diamonds are good example. They are located 50 feet from the golf course and not a single tree would need to be destroyed to convert this land and the expense to tax payers would be much much less. Until 3 years ago these diamonds were rarely if ever used

But now, the city says they need the ACT Ball diamonds because there are 5 of them making it good for tournaments. Realistically, the city has other locations where more diamonds could be easily added and tournaments could be held. For example, Pacer Park, Optimist Park, Columbus Park, Currie Field, McMurphy Park, and Sangster Park just to name a few. The ACT Ball Diamonds are not the only group of diamonds available in Regina nor are they the only space that can accommodate multiple ball diamonds. Saving the ACT Ball diamonds is inappropriate because it is in an area of 65% child poverty and is only used two months of the year leaving barren gravel that is unusable by children in the area for the rest of the year. Having a cluster of ball diamonds in a high poverty neighbourhood that already has 6 times the average number of ball diamonds compared to the city overall certainly does not justify destruction of the trees on the golf course.

Ironically, the City of Regina Master Recreation Plan says we need to get rid of half of the ball diamonds in the city because there are too many. The ACT would be a good place to start.

To destroy the golf course urban forest at great expense to taxpayers because the city wants to put a recreation hub there is financially irresponsible. The City would be spending money to destroy trees when that is unnecessary.

The engineering firm of Stantec generated a report that identified Coronation Park as one of the worst flood areas in the city so much so that it could be considered dangerous. Stantec also said that Coronation has one of the highest rates of insurance claims for flooding. In 2011 City Council approved the backfilling of the floodplain in Coronation Park that adjoins the golf course. Tons of dirt were brought in to fill the floodplain and then the City allowed buildings to be built at the location. The residents in the area saw this as a lack of concern on the part of

the city for the flooding they had been subjected to in the past. At that point, the golf course became the floodplain in the area and served to help protect homes and people from flood risk.

According to Tree Canada, trees intercept rainfall and reduce run-off, thereby functioning like retention/detention basins. Moreover, one large tree can lift up to 100 gallons of water out of the ground and discharge it into the air in one day. The trees and land located at the Regent Par III Golf Course provide protection to the area against flooding.

For this reason and others I am opposed to building a recreation hub on the Regent Par III Golf Course land.