

To the City Counselors of Regina, SK.,

RE: Land at South East corner of Kinsmen Park

On behalf of the Argyle School Community Council we welcome the opportunity to speak to City Council in favor of utilizing the space on the south east corner of Kinsmen Park for a parking lot.

As community members and parents, we are extremely grateful to have the beautiful space that is Kinsmen Park in the heart of our community. Located directly across from Argyle School it benefits our children as it is accessible for learning and fun without the need and cost of transportation. And while we are extremely fortunate to have this space so close, we still want to ensure there is plenty of room for outdoor supervised spaces on our school site. A trip to the park is still a field trip and requires additional coordination by the teacher, making outdoor learning and play spaces on site the ideal. We have purposely put off new outdoor spaces in the current state of Argyle with anticipation of the new build, but we have spent time and effort researching the benefits they offer and we are looking forward to being able to incorporate these in design. The design team has shared ideas from other projects and we do not want to miss out on these options due to space constraints. The design includes mobiles should student enrollment grow, which is likely given our location and what is being experienced in Harbor Landing. These additions will further limit what outdoor space is available for play and learning. Kids need wide open spaces to burn excess energy at recess, this is for the benefit of the students and the teachers.

We would ask that consideration also be given to the parking lot as a benefit to safety. Off-site staff parking is safer for students as there is next to no risk that they would be in the parking lot at any time during the school day. When you begin to look closely at the design of King's Road, you must also take note of how narrow the road is. Combined with its curves there is actually limited visibility for oncoming traffic in either direction. Adding parked cars on either side of the street and it is a near miss whenever two cars meet to pass one another. When there are sporting events taking place or it is just a beautiful summer day, cars are literally parked bumper to bumper, with kids and adults alike running out between parked cars to cross to or from the park. It is always a hub of traffic and people. Having a parking lot would help mitigate these risks as it provides a designated space for vehicles, in turn freeing up the street for traffic.

It appears that the votes from the community survey conducted do not demonstrate a strong response in favor of a parking lot compared to those opposed. In looking more closely at the response ratio, with only 200 responses from the 3,402 surveys sent, at 6% one could challenge that the sampling is not near representative of the community as a whole. The results could suggest that 94% of the community is indifferent to the use of this space; with the vast majority believing their vote was not necessary in determining the use of a space that currently serves no purpose. In fact, up and until a few years ago, this space was nothing more than dirt and a

few dumpsters, underutilized with zero curb appeal. While we recognize that grass has been planted, the fact remains that this corner of the park has no use. Kinsmen Park has plenty of green space that will remain untouched and in no way hindered by a parking lot. While we appreciate concerns raised by those with homes adjacent to the proposed lot, the fact stands that these homes located across from a school and a large city park will be subject to high traffic volume and vehicles continuously parked in front and across from their homes, parking lot or not. It has been communicated by the design team that every effort would be made to create a space that incorporates the natural surroundings in conjunction with a functional parking space.

We are so excited about all the joint build with St.Pius has to offer, but with that comes a need for more space; as much as we can possibly get! So you can appreciate why our request for an off-site staff parking lot is instrumental in providing both schools with those needs. We know how fortunate we are to be getting a new school, and we do not want to seem ungrateful in asking for more, but we are appealing to the Council for your support and assistance in making this build everything it is meant to be. Both St. Pius and Argyle have school communities that are like families with respective pride and school spirit that has not been broken by the crumbling of our facilities. We have been waiting for so long for this dream to become a reality for our children, our staff, our communities and having a few extra acres really can make all the difference!

We thank you for your consideration of our request to approve the use of the south east corner of Kinsmen Park to be utilized as an off-site parking lot for St.Pius/Argyle staff.

This request is respectfully submitted by the Argyle Elementary School Community Council.

Stephanie O'Connor
Argyle School Community Council