

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Bay St N / Strachan Sunset Cultural Garden

**From:** Lakewood Beach Community Council [<mailto:LakewoodBeachCC@hotmail.com>]

**Sent:** March-21-17 1:38 PM

**To:** DL - Council Only; [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** Bay St N / Strachan Sunset Cultural Garden

*Rose, please add this to next Council agenda. Thanks.*

Dear Honourable Mayor and Council,

Today at Planning Committee, a motion to declare the above mentioned land surplus was unanimously approved. While we applaud clr's efforts to think outside of the box and come up with ways to address affordable housing issues, we have very serious concerns about declaring parkland surplus and the potential impact to our own neighbourhood parks as well as parks city-wide.

It was repeatedly stated that in our Official Plan these lands are designated Low Density Residential. This appears to be false. According to the Setting Sail Secondary Plan shown on the city's website, these lands have an overriding designation of Parks/Open Space with a sub designation of parkette. See link:

<https://d3fpllf1m7bbt3.cloudfront.net/sites/default/files/media/browser/2015-01-16/urbanhamiltonofficialplan-volume2-mapb-6-5-1-to-mapb-6-5-6-westharboursecondaryplan.pdf>

In addition, during the meeting, it was stated that there should be no concerns about this motion being precedent setting and opening the doors to selling off parks because all of our neighbourhood/community parks are designated as Parks. Again, this is false.

In our neighbourhood, all of our parks and parkettes are designated Neighbourhoods. In fact all lands north of the QEW from Grays Road to the east city limits are. Under a Neighbourhood designation, everything from a park to a high density residential to a commercial building can be built without an Official Plan amendment. A simple Zoning By-Law amendment, with limited public notice, is all that is needed. See link:

<https://d3fpllf1m7bbt3.cloudfront.net/sites/default/files/media/browser/2015-01-15/urbanhamiltonofficialplan-volume1-schedule-e1-feb2017.pdf> *(the only section which is Green, for Open Space, is our Big Pond)*

We've long held the believe, that keeping these lands north of the QEW designated Neighbourhood has been a strategic move to eventually sell the prime lakefront "park" - Cherry Beach - after years and years of taxing the local residents the millions of \$ in costs of purchasing these lands. We hope that when the time comes however, our local councillors will be able to get a Motion passed similar to the one today that ensures the sale of the proceeds of those lands remain in Stoney Creek (even though we're principally opposed to fiefdom non-amalgamated motions)

It saddens us, and scares us a little, that our parks are not protected from development. In the hands of a "develop at all cost" councillor this power could destroy neighbourhoods and communities.

We're respectfully asking that you reconsider approving the Motion as presented.

Sincerely,

Lakewood Beach Community Council