

Robicheau, Vanessa

Subject: RE: Fruitland Winona Secondary Plan Comments

From: Llewellyn Smith
Sent: May-30-13 10:42 AM
To: Robicheau, Vanessa
Cc: Johnson, Brenda; teresa sutton
Subject: Fruitland Winona Secondary Plan Comments

Dear Ms. Robicheau,

I am unable to attend the Planning Committee Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 4th, 2013 starting at 9:30am. I therefore submit the following comments for inclusion in the Agenda for the Meeting.

By way of background, I am a land owner in Winona and was a volunteer member of the Community Advisory Committee, which was asked by the City to develop a Vision and provide suggestions for land use leading to a Fruitland-Winona Secondary Plan. Committee members gave of their time on many nights. It was an educational process for all concerned and in the end, through collaboration and negotiation with the City, an agreed upon Plan was concluded in April 2008.

We now learn that this Plan is being set aside, in favour of a new one, that is dated June, 2012. Furthermore, the City is moving immediately forward to implement this new Plan.

My comment is not directed to the changes proposed, but rather with the process used by the City. I find it disrespectful to engage many members of the community in a process, reach an agreement, then develop a new Plan and take immediate action to implement it without the courtesy of formally re engaging the Community Advisory Community for considered input and comment in a constructive environment.

Councillor Johnson is to be congratulated for arranging and using best efforts to conduct a Community Meeting on May 22nd to alert the Public of these changes. Unfortunately City staff in attendance either were not qualified or chose not to answer in an open or honest manner many of the questions posed. It was clear by some of the questions raised, that many of the residents lacked adequate knowledge of the process or governing bodies that contribute to the land planning considerations. The meeting atmosphere soon deteriorated into a scene of anger, frustration, and grandstanding. It was an embarrassing reflection of both the City and its participating residents. I am at a loss to understand why this meeting could not have taken place months earlier. We can and should do better.

I respectfully ask The Planning Committee to set aside this Agenda item for 60 days. During this time, qualified City staff could immediately reconvene the C.A.C. and interested members of the public for the purpose of logically explaining each of the changes; to seek additional input and attempt to resolve any differences. Changes could then be incorporated into the Plan and represented at another Public Information Meeting. A Final Plan inclusive of any modifications as a result of public input could then be put before the Planning Committee within 60 days.

By implementing this suggestion it would enable both the City and its residents to once again work in a collaborative manner to meet the balanced interests of the community. Considering the overall length of the planning process, sixty days is a short period of time, given the potential upside to restore faith in the City and its officials with the result of designing a better Plan.

For your consideration,

Respectfully

Llewellyn S Smith
Helderleigh Holdings Inc.
938 Barton Street
Winona, Ontario
L8E5H5
Tel: 416 545 0411
Fax: 905 643 3720
E-Mail: lsmith@hhold.com