

Good Afternoon Chair & Members of the Planning Committee !

We wrote in recently regarding the Public Consultation Strategy and we now see that our correspondence is on tomorrow's agenda under item 9.6 report. The report for item 9.6 was just made public, so for clarification, our previous correspondence was not written in anticipation or with knowledge of item 9.6 Report/Recommendations.

We have however taken a quick look just now at the recommended changes within that report and we can see some VERY positive changes to processes. Kudos!

We now see that there is a recommendation which appears to be mandatory for a Public Consultation meeting to be conducted and a summary of that meeting to be included with a development application in order to deem that application complete. This is great to see!

**We're perplexed though as to why this requirement (for a Public Consultation meeting, a Q&A response & summary) is discretionary & can be waived by Staff at the formal consultation stage for any or all ZBAs and OPAs development applications?**

In addition, while we can appreciate the rationale behind reducing the Pubic Notice for statutory public meetings lead time down to 7 days notice for City Staff, we believe that recommendation is not in the best interests of the Public at large.

Presently, the Planning Act requires 20 days advance notice of statutory public meetings, unless a muni's OP states otherwise. In Hamilton, our OP reduced this by 3 days notice and it is presently 17 calendar day's advance notice; which in our experiences has been a tight timeline due to weekends & the general public's work balance.

We do not recall seeing this proposed change in any of the engage Hamilton sessions so this is the first time we are commenting on that recommended change. **We are not supportive of only 7 day's notice to the Public for statutory Public Meetings held under the Planning Act.**

**In summary, we are respectfully requesting that Planning Committee:**

- 1. Ensure Public Consultation Meetings are held for every ZBA/OPA development application proposed; and**
- 2. Consider revising the leadtime for Public Notices of statutory public meetings in our rural and urban official plans to better align with the Planning Act & comparable municipalities; ie 20 days.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Lakewood Beach Community Council

P.S. Would also love to see plans to make Site Plan applications/documents 'open data' since under the Planning Act records are public records. With these new timelines there is no window for the public to make such requests for records under the current process of FOI filings.