

August 8, 2011

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Good Morning:

On June 10, 2010, I stood before you and brought forward concerns that I (and many neighbours) have about the proposed development of the Chedoke Browland. For the sake of being "green" I did not reprint my speech for this meeting, since it would already be on file from the meeting on the 10th. After that meeting, I honestly felt that community efforts had been worthwhile and we made headway. It was refreshing to find out that the Planning Committee did not support the application for development by Deanlee Management 7 - 1. Alas, the community felt like there was hope.

Just over a year has passed and while I am disappointed, I am not surprised that I am standing here again. In my opinion, we are still playing the same game; however, the players and the rules of the game have changed. When I say "the game", I do mean it in every sense of the word. We have spent the last 4 ½ years trying to come to some sort of resolution to the disturbing development of this property. I fail to see any transparency in the process. In my "participant statement" prepared for the OMB, I reiterated my concerns and that of many neighbours. I am sure that you recall the petition that over 600 taxpayers signed. Also, there was a survey done about closing Sanatorium Road in the Browland development area. The response from the community was against closing it. It is apparent that the City isn't listening to the community on these issues. The community has spent countless hours and energy forging ahead with the belief that the City wanted our input into these matters.

I do note with interest that Terry Whitehead is going to request that the City purchase a parcel of this land where the baseball diamond once was. I am glad that he is stepping up to bat on this and really do hope that this comes to fruition.

Another point of interest is that I have been advised that when a neighbourhood changes to non-homogeneous, property owners can apply for a reduction in property taxes through MPAC. I understand that the reduction it is in the area of 15%. At this time, I am uncertain of how far reaching this affects neighbours in the area, however, I know that I will be contacting MPAC to investigate and take advantage of any reduction that may be forthcoming. Unfortunately, I can only assume that with the reduction in property taxes comes a depreciation of property values.

I think that when you are making your decision here today, that it would be beneficial to review the notes from the June 10, 2010 meeting. Take a look at what the community had to say then. The fact that there is a new player in this game is not going to change the flaws with this development or the concerns expressed to you previously. It is unfortunate that the community has not been shown all the cards in the "game". This will only cause more suspicions and hard feelings about the democratic process as it relates to our City, our home. Since "transparency" is one of the really big "buzz words" these days, you would think that the community would have been advised of what we are facing now.

Thank you.

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