

ENCOURAGING PUBLIC INPUT SESSIONS BEFORE RE-ZONING APPLICATIONS

Mover: Paul Christian

Seconder: Matthew Shoemaker

WHEREAS Council is responsible for considering all rezoning applications as recommended by planning staff and;

WHEREAS part of the rezoning application process requires that notice is provided to neighbours in the immediate area of the property in question and;

WHEREAS these notices provide very limited information which often raises many questions and concerns from the affected neighbours and;

WHEREAS planning staff routinely encourage developers to hold at least one public information session to address concerns and answer questions in an attempt to foster better understanding and transparency; and

WHEREAS in the great majority of cases, developers are already willingly undertaking these public information sessions; and

WHEREAS in the absence of such information sessions, planning staff and councillors often spend a great deal of time trying to address questions and concerns of affected constituents and;

WHEREAS there have been instances where Council has postponed rezoning decisions to allow for neighborhood input which delays the entire process and;

WHEREAS Council continues to advocate for more public input and transparency;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council request that planning staff prepare a report on the feasibility of making public input sessions part of the rezoning application process.

FURTHER THAT staff seek input from local developers and include this in the final report to Council.