From: Jerilynn Habon
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2017 11:44 AM
To: Gameiro, Carlos; MayorBowman
Cc:
Subject: Lack of recreational funding/facilities in Southwest Winnipeg

Dear City Council and the Executive Policy Committee,

I moved to Bridgwater Trails in the Waverley West area just over a year ago with my family. We chose the area becauseof the deliberate design to foster a sense of community with the trails and amenities with the seeming promise there will be recreational facilities to serve our area. When I drive through the area, I marvel at the amount of homes that have been built and continue to be built. However, at this time, when I want to register my children in leisure activities to foster the importance of physical activity so they understand taking care of your body as well as your mind is important, I have to DRIVE outside of my community in order to provide that. To me that already seems counterproductive when we could easily walk/bike in warmer weather to the propose site from our home.

To not even have hope there would be any consideration for funding for the super rec centre that had been talked about is unacceptable. By the time there is another suggestion of providing this, I'm sure there will be money spent for a feasibility study and so on. Who knows how long that would all take before a shovel could possibly hit the ground? Six years from now, my kids will be approaching the tween age. By the time something could possibly be worked out, are my kids now going to be teenagers/young adults? Would all their experiences be outside their neighborhood? It's already bad enough my children are unable to attend school in their area. To not have a recreational facility so that families can come together, meet and have our children engage in positive, pro-social activities is a failure. I recognize it was Manitoba Housing that developed this area but it is you, City Council, who are holding the purse strings for what is sorely needed. There was so much excitement when Bridgwater was initially proposed and I vowed that I wanted to live there and raise my family there. Now doubt is setting in and it appears the area is not what it tried to portray itself to be all those years ago. It appears some residents feel the same and have put their homes on the market due to the lack of facilities and schools.

All areas of the city pay high taxes including us. However, only new areas are being forced to pay for the "impact fee" you proposed Mayor Bowman. Where is that money going? How are we getting taxed and taxed some more and then you turn around and say there is no money from the very people you are very happily taking money from? It is unacceptable and I think you need to re-think how you budget because that type of dismissive political jargon is just not going to fly. We pay taxes assuming some of that will be re-injected into the community we bought into. We deserve this recreational centre and strongly hope and expect you will reconsider.

Even though I am unable to attend the meeting tomorrow, I know my neighbors will.

Sincerely,

Jerilynn Habon