From: Julia Allen
Sent: Sunday, December 3, 2017 2:04 AM
To: MayorBowman
Cc:
Subject: Waverley west recreation deficit

Hello Mayor Bowman.

I am writing to express my shock at your city council's disregard for the recreation deficit in my neighbourhood.

I'm sure if you weren't familiar with the relevant numbers before this decision was made, you are now, so I'm sure we are both on the same page that per the city's own policy for heated recreation space per resident, we are at only 1/3 of the recommendation at .67 sqft/resident. Yet this is completely ignored by your council.

My son is 7 and has been living in Bridgwater since he was 4. At this rate, you have shut the door on the idea of funding for a rec centre until he is 13. Saying funding is approved straight away when he turns 14, plus 2 years to build, (which is probably an utterly unrealistic timeline), the best case scenario is that he will be 16 before we have any rec facilities in the neighbourhood he will have lived in, and we have paid taxes in, for the previous 12 years.

How can this the be the type of legacy your council wants to leave for this child?

You're happy to accept our taxes, but won't plow our sidewalks so we can actually use the active transportation network that sold us on the area. You'll impose a growth fee that aims to collect millions of dollars from us, but then leave us with no facilities for our kids. You'll approve plans for landscaping an area that you can't or won't maintain. I could never get away with running my business like this and cannot fathom how this is acceptable to you & your council.

There is a lot of chatter going on in this area about this issue and it isn't pretty.

People feel neglected, people feel misled, people taken advantage of, people feel targeted as the "lowest hanging fruit." People do not feel respected or taken seriously. And I can assure you, people are very, very angry.

Certainly I will be at this meeting on Tuesday, and so will many of my neighbours.

I think previously people had some patience with the process & were understanding that things take time and that money is scarce. But with this last slap in the face, your council has taken it too far, and we have run out of understanding.

We are not the ones that made the plans for this area and we are no longer going to put up with being punished for buying into the product of a vibrant, healthy, active-living & family-oriented neighbourhood that was sold to us. We pay our taxes just like everyone else, and we deserve recreation facilities just like everyone else and frankly it is your job to make that happen.

Your provincial colleagues can thank you at the city for tipping these scales because we also deserve an adequate number of schools in our neighbourhood, and you can bet that our tolerance for patient waiting on this point is also now over.

None of this is right. You know it, your council knows it, and I know it. Obviously money is tight, but that doesn't relive you of an obligation to adequately service an enormous tax base.

Change needs to happen now. I will see you on Tuesday.

Julia Allen
Bridgwater Lakes