**From:** Kerri Neish <
**Date:** December 4, 2017 at 9:28:36 PM CST
**To:** < >
**Cc:** <
**Subject: Opposition to Budget-Lack of Recreation Infrastructure in Southwest Winnipeg**

Good Evening.

I would like this email included in the Executive Policy Committee (EPC) minutes for consideration and be included in the public record for Tuesday December 5th, 2017.

This email is to register my opposition to the upcoming 2018 City of Winnipeg Budget with regards to lack of funding set aside for recreation infrastructure in our part of the city. I understand that SWAT is speaking about this and I would like to voice my support on behalf
Of their initiatives. I do NOT support the proposed 2018 budget.

Why? We have lived in Bridgwater Forest for the past 5 years. My husband and I founded the Bridgwater Forest Neighbourhood Association in 2013 with the intent to create a sense of community through social events. But its hard to have a sense of community when you don't have a community centre, or a school. And the ones we do have available are constantly booked up. That's not acceptable to me and my family as taxpayers. Large dollar taxpayers I might add.

The lack of heated recreation facilities in the area is very obvious. The Waverly West area will have a population of 40,000 plus residents soon. That's the size of Brandon Manitoba. By the City's own recreation standards, there should 5 smaller community clubs within the area, yet development plans were approved 10 plus years ago without any dedicated land sites for heated recreation anywhere. It has put tremendous strain on the two existing facilities we have and kids are being turned away from organized sports because of it. I personally have to drive my child to Cindy Klassen Rec Centre every Wednesday evening for swimming lessons. It's a 30 min drive in rush hour traffic. Each way. It's a 26 km round trip each week. Why there? It's the only facility that has room as Pan Am Pool and Margaret Grant slots fill up all the time.

As well, we have many new immigrant families that live in our area that may not have the means to travel outside the community for recreation. Through sports and recreation it is a way for them to feel like part of the community and meet new people. However with no such facilities in the area, my worry is that they will think we are not an inclusive city and feel isolated.

I'd also like to point out that this lack of recreation facilities in our neighbourhood goes against the City of Winnipeg's **Our Winnipeg Policy, Part 01 "A City that Works"- 01-5 Recreation**; Direction 2,3,4,and 6 specifically, as noted below:

***Direction 2:*** *Work with community partners to provide services that are responsive to the community's recreation and leisure needs. Enabling Strategies: > Work with communities and across sectors to identify needs, measure effectiveness and make improvements so that community needs can be integrated into business planning and service delivery. > Apply a neighbourhood integrated service delivery model focused on meeting community needs and priorities. In this model, Neighbourhood Integrated Service Teams (NISTs) will focus on the assessment of community needs and priorities and provide coordinated services that support local vision.*

***Direction 3****: directly provide, or facilitate through partnerships, equitable access to a base level of recreation, culture and leisure services for all Winnipeggers. Enabling Strategies: > Promote social development and inclusion through the development of strong strategic alliances with service providers. > Identify and address barriers to participation in recreation, culture and leisure services. > In partnership with the community, develop and promote a program to help low income families participate in recreation, cultural and physical activity opportunities*

***Direction 4****: With community partners, participate as a leader in planning and delivering recreation and leisure services in Winnipeg. Enabling Strategies: > Enhance the sustainability of recreation services by collaborating and leveraging resources through partnerships. > Partner with community organizations to support leadership development and capacity building. > Provide leadership, and collaborate with other service providers to meet community needs, avoid duplication, identify gaps and leverage resources.*

***Direction 6:*** *Plan for sustainable and connected recreation and leisure infrastructure. Enabling Strategies: > Maximize the use of existing facilities, including converting or consolidating to meet emerging community needs while minimizing operating costs. > Use population trends to properly fit recreation facilities to community needs, including potential multi-use and inter-generational needs. > Sustain the amount of available space for community recreation with a priority of multi-use and intergeneration opportunities. > Engage the community in recreation, leisure and library infrastructure planning. > Deliver community and neighbourhood-managed recreation services by maintaining ongoing support for developing community centres with public, not-for profit and private partners. > Explore opportunities to support environmental sustainability, such as naturalization and green turf care. > Develop and maintain a system of regional sports fields in accordance with recognized needs. > Apply green building standards and universal design to the construction and renovation of city owned facilities.*

Recreation and healthy living is extremely important to me. I am a stroke survivor; 5 years ago at the age of 41 I had a stroke, and was paralyzed on my right side. While I've made an incredible recovery, I am not 100% yet. However, it is imperative I stay active and set a good example for my 9 year old son. I cant do that if we don't have recreation facilities in the Southwest part of the city.

I ask members of EPC Council and Mayor Bowman to reconsider the proposed budget and exclusion of funds towards recreation amenities in Southwest Winnipeg. This issue will certainly be a hot topic with the residents of SW Winnipeg in next year's election, and the decisions made now, will certainly affect how myself, and a number of residents will vote.

Sincerely,
Kerri J Neish B.I.D. P.I.D.I.M IDC