

SUBMISSION – DAVID LACHO

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT DATED MARCH 2, 2023 – ITEM 4 - CRESCENTWOOD-ENDERTON PARK HERITAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT PLAN

Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2023 7:16:46 PM

Personal information

Full name: David Lacho

Email address:

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Job title:

Organization:

Address:

City: Winnipeg

Province or territory: Manitoba

Postal code:

Delegation information

Committee: Council

Committee - council: Opposed to the recommendations

Committee - other: N/A

Agenda item (number and title): 4. Crescentwood-Enderton Park Heritage Conservation District Plan

Service inquiry: Submit Comments in writing

Participation preference: N/A

Comments in writing: Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing to express my concern over the lack of meaningful consultation regarding the Crescentwood Heritage Conservation District (HCD) proposal. As a community resident, I strongly urge you to hold at least one in-person consultation before approving the HCD.

I am disappointed that many residents in the community were not properly informed about the HCD proposal. The consultation process was not comprehensive enough to involve a sufficient number of homeowners, which raises concerns about the legitimacy of the decision-making process. Our community feels as though this HCD did not get enough consultation for these reasons:

- Poorly attended meetings: The few consultation meetings that were held were poorly attended. This suggests that many homeowners have not been informed about the proposal or have not had enough notice to attend the meetings. Without sufficient participation, the feedback collected does not represent the views of the broader community.

- Lack of outreach: The consultation process did not include enough outreach to all homeowners in the area. This could mean that some people did not receive the necessary information about the proposal or were not given the opportunity to provide feedback. Incomplete outreach can result in a skewed representation of the community's views.

- Ineffective communication: Even though online consultation meetings were held online, limited outreach was conducted, and the communication's effectiveness has not been sufficient, as shown by the small number of attendees. This suggests that the information provided was unclear, confusing, or presented in a way that was difficult to understand, and homeowners have not been able to make an informed decision about the proposal.

Poor attendance at the few consultation meetings that were held suggests that many homeowners were not informed about the proposal or did not have sufficient notice to attend. The lack of outreach and ineffective communication during the consultation process may have resulted in a skewed representation of the community's views.

Furthermore, Matt Gowdar's Capstone Report titled "The Once and Future City: Conflict over Heritage Designation in Winnipeg's Crescentwood Neighbourhood" suggests that the HCD proposal in Crescentwood was not effectively managed, preventing a productive debate and ultimately hindering the potential for the exercise to fulfill its heritage goals. I urge the committee to review this report to ensure that the HCD proposal is managed effectively. To quote a poster presentation by Mr. Gowdar, "The Crescentwood HCD represented a missed opportunity for the competing discourses surrounding heritage conservation and infill development to move forward productively. Instead, the process was hindered by conflict and distraction. When managed properly, controversy can be useful, but in the case of Crescentwood, an overly antagonistic atmosphere and the intertwining of NIMBYism with heritage concerns meant that productive discussion about planning priorities and values was not possible." that this is a crucial step towards ensuring that the event is successful and beneficial to all members of the community.

Attached is a PDF of Matt Gowdar's report for the council to review.

While I understand that the timing of consultations allowed for only online consultations, I stress that online consultations are not sufficient, especially given that the lifted COVID restrictions allow us to meet in person now. In-person consultations allow for more meaningful engagement with the community, enabling residents to ask questions, raise concerns, and provide feedback in real time. Online consultations, on the other hand, can be less interactive and less accessible to those who may not have access to the internet or digital devices.

I believe that community engagement is crucial to ensuring that the HCD proposal is successful and beneficial to all members of the community. Therefore, I urge you to consider the importance of engaging with the community in a meaningful way before making any decisions about the upcoming event.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and action on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

David Lacho

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