

To Public Hearing
Date: <u>May 21, 2013</u>
Item # <u>1</u>
Re: <u>Zoning Amendment</u>
<u>Bylaw 8907</u>
<u>7460 Ash St.</u>

Schedule 2 to the Minutes of the Council Meeting for Public Hearings held on Monday, May 21, 2013.

May 17, 2013

Attention: Director, City Clerk's Office

**Re: Zoning Amendment Bylaw 8907 (RZ 11-586861)**

My name is Sharon MacGougan. I live at 7411 Ash Street. I have a few comments about this proposed development.

### **Extension of Ash Street sidewalk**

I request that the proposed new sidewalk/street improvements on Ash Street be extended to include my mother's house at 7500 Ash Street.

I believe my mother to be the last remaining "homesteader" still living on Ash Street (between Blundell and Granville). My father built their house in 1948. In 1949 - the year of the Great Flood - my father was one of the men who voluntarily sandbagged Richmond's dikes (after working a full day). My parents paid taxes in Richmond for 65 years. I think it would be a nice gesture and a real commitment to sense of community to provide my mother with a safe place to walk.

### **Traffic calming**

Traffic calming and a full street upgrade were promised to Ash Street as part of the redevelopment process. According to the city's plan for South McLennan the money was to come from development cost charges. New homes have been built on our street. Now 6 more are planned. Do I understand correctly that development cost charges from these (built and to be built) homes will now go towards traffic calming and a street upgrade, as promised?

### **Loss of Mature Trees**

Our area has lots of mature trees. I am disappointed that plans for new housing developments in our area have seemingly not considered this unique aspect of our neighbourhood. We lost 24 trees on the Keefer extension (southeast of Ash). Barely any trees were replanted and none on the boulevard (something about pipes or wires). With this proposed new development 56 trees will be lost. And "Because of site constraints for new planting, no tree of significant size was recommended", pg.3.

What this really means is there is no room for trees. How is this possible? If the lots were a larger size there would be space for trees, bird habitat could be restored and the area would continue to reflect a respect for the natural world. Instead what we will get is lots of concrete and a few decorative trees that no bird will ever build a nest in. What a loss.

**Supplementary comment:** I have alerted city staff that there is an active hawk nest in the area slated to be clearcut. According to provincial regulations and common decency, the tree with the hawk nest and the immediate area surrounding it should not be cut while the nest is active.

### **Little Things Matter**

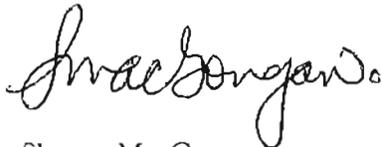
Safety is important. Good neighbourhoods are places where people can safely walk. And that should mean everyone, not just the sure-footed.

Overall planning would be nice when redevelopments of neighbourhoods are taking place. We have multiple sections of sidewalks that abruptly end. How about figuring out some way of connecting these walkways to nowhere?

Encouraging people to get out and walk (high density, park and shopping centre close by) is good but not in combination with speeding cars. Real traffic calming (not just cars parked at the side of roads) would deter some cars from rat running our street but it could also preserve lives.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon MacGougan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon MacGougan

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604.278-8108