

Dear CWC. Please use this letter as my request for delegation status and delete the previous letter.

Thank You. And can you please confirm.

AnnaMaria

Dear Committee Members,

I would appreciate an opportunity to discuss with you aspects of the Harris Park shoreline reconstruction:

With all stormwater projects, public open houses are designed to simply inform the public but not serious adjust the project to alleviate concerns raised during the open houses. It is understandable to have limited knowledge of stormwater management, and rely heavily on staff recommendations. These projects are massively expensive and have huge environmental impacts. The learning curve for these projects is steep.

Therefore, public open houses tend to be dismissive of public concerns simply because it is assumed that the public understanding of the issues do not compare to the expertise of staff. Public concerns are typically explained away.

For example, the Environmental Impact Study was not released prior to the public open houses. The public was not able to review it. It was only recently released and has raised even more questions regarding environmental protection.

Staff have stated that the design of the reconstruction was determined many years ago during the One River Assessment Project when Matt Brown was mayor. That was approx. 8 years ago. Since then there have been many concerns raised about climate change, the loss of tree cover, wildlife habitat and the future of Harris Park.

Those concerns were raised and yet all were ignored because the project was essentially already set in stone prior to any public open houses. Even the smallest changes brought forward have been ignored, such as the necessity of a concrete lookout platform over the river and the use of potted trees in a park.

Concerns have been raised about using petroleum (tar) for pathways to access the river's edge, the number paths into naturalized areas, the cost of the concrete lookout and the necessity of removing mature trees from the park and a road through the park.

The answers that have been provided to date have been inconsistent. Initially we were told that the widening of the Thames Valley Parkway was to alleviate bike and pedestrian congestion. Now we are being told it is to facilities large transport trucks for festivals.

We are being told the the cutting of mature trees before the nesting season was needed to comply with the Migratory Birds Convention Act to avoid nest removal, yet the same is not applied to ground nesting or shoreline migratory birds. None of these answers are justified in the Act itself and are 'answers of convenience' believing the public will not understand.

The problem with stormwater is that staff believe the public and Council lack the understanding to review these projects. The public in the Harris Park review raised

questions because overall the project does not make sense on the most basic instincts. And many now are asking whether stormwater staff chose to proceed with the current design to facilitate the Farhi high rise behind Bankers Row.

Essentially, the current design is extreme and expensive. It is not just reinforcing the embankment as staff presented to the public, but removing the floodplain altogether. That was not presented to the public. We also learned that these projects are funded by a levy on our Hydro Bills. I hidden cost that is not publicly revealed on our bills.

I am asking that staff be held to account and make the public whole. I am also asking for a review the design of the Harris Park embankment restoration and the need for a road through the park. This project has not yet being tendered.

AnnaMaria Valastro