



June 21, 2024

Chair and Members
Strategic Opportunities Review Working Group
City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, ON

Re: Agenda item 4.2 re Neighbourhood Decision Making (NDM)

Dear Members,

We have reviewed the June 14, 2024 letter from Deputy Mayor Lewis and Councillor Lehman. In our view the Neighbourhood Decision-Making process has largely been successful and has historically resulted in a fair distribution to worthy projects across the City. Notwithstanding that, we do respect the intent of the proposed pause. We do not oppose at least thinking about whether these types of projects could be better folded into the existing parks budget in the longer term, provided there continue to be ways for neighbourhoods to provide input and advocate for their unique needs. We look forward to contributing to that conversation.

At this time, however, we are mostly concerned with the abrupt timing of the proposed pause of the NDM program. It is not totally clear from the letter, but our interpretation of the proposed motion is that this would halt the 2024 submission process which is *already underway*.

Our association has already solicited ideas from our community, and our members have even voted on them at our recent Annual General Meeting. It appears the 2024 submission portal has been open since June 17. Out of respect for community members who have already taken the time to engage with the ongoing 2024 NDM process, we request that, *if* a pause is to be directed, it be set for after the conclusion of the 2024 round of submissions and approvals.

In our view this would reflect a reasonable compromise between the intent of the proposed motion, and the investment Londoners have already made under the expectation that projects would be approved for 2024.

Sincerely,

By e-mail
Members of the Executive Committee
Orchard Park/Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association
London, ON,