

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

17. Amendments to the Parking Section of 4.19 of the Z-1 By-law and Amendments to the Site Plan Control Area By-law (Z-8331)
 - Richard Cook, 1204 - 675 Windermere Road, Co-Chair, Age Friendly London - commending staff on doing this first step in improving the handicapped parking regulations in London; hoping that the staff recommendation gets passed and moved very quickly so that all new planning coming in place will be under this regulation; advising that, on the City of London official website, it says there is two hour free parking for handicapped or disabled parking and he wishes that the City would either enforce this or remove it from the website; noting that, by enforce this, he means, during Refocus London, he and his wife had two opportunities to go Downtown, to the Planning Department, in the Old Capital building where, as a youngster, he had many an enjoyable afternoon; indicating that, when they tried to park out front, on Dundas Street, in a regular parking space, he went in and spoke to the receptionist and enquired as to how he would designate that he would be there for the two hours; noting that he was advised that he cannot because parking has been farmed out by the City and now you have to pay, regardless of what the sign says; advising that he got the ticket and that is what it says; indicating that, on the City of London website, it indicates that there is two hours of free parking, and yet, when you try to park on Dundas Street, a main thoroughfare, in front of the Planning Department, to go in there to do business with the City, you have to pay; advising that the amount of money is miniscule, but what it says to the public about how London is treating those people who have been recognized officially that they need some help with parking; advising that this does not seem right and this is not the only place that it happens; indicating that there are many parking spaces that are controlled by the City, in which there is no way of designating that you are there, with a valid blue ticket, saying that I am parking here for a couple of minutes, for an hour, for up to two hours; indicating that, after two hours, he is more than willing to pay but the City says that he can do this for free because you want him to come down, into the City, the City does not want him in a big box all of the time, and yet, it is not working; requesting that the City does one of two things, find a way to enforce what you say on the website or remove it from the website and let everyone in the Province know how we are responding to those people who are designated as needing some help with parking; indicating that there is a silver tide coming; indicating that, one of the websites that he came across this Spring, a Provincial website, indicated that, within several years, there will be more people, 55 and older, in this Province than there are from 0 to 14; advising that, as astute Politian's, you know that seniors bring an awful lot to the a city, they help keep the fabric of this city vibrant, they volunteer and do a lot of different things; advising that, as a crass kind of reminder, seniors do tend to vote a lot more than other groups; indicating that, this City, years ago, looked at the planning models that we were going to be using for building and increased them; advising that they improved them from what the Province had; advising that the Provinces has come out with new FADS and they could have been cut and paste from what we had; advising that we were forward thinking at that time and we agreed to improve and make our building plans even safer for our people; noting that now the Province has caught up to us; enquiring as to whether we can we still do that; noting that he is looking forward to the seniors that, he hopes, London wants to encourage to come here; advising that some of the big box stores, and he believes the library, have the red designation that says that if you are either pregnant or a care giver, with significant small children, we would prefer that you get a chance to park a little closer to the entrance; advising that this has no designation in Provincial law, but it is a wonderful thing that says we value you; enquiring as to whether or not it is possible for the City to do the same kind of thing, to be forward thinking and look at finding spaces that can be designated for seniors; advising that many seniors use mobility aids, but do not, until the very last, want to go forward and get a blue sticker; indicating that it would be nice to say to anyone in the Province, who is considering moving to London, that we try to find a parking space for you, close to the

store, not out in the boondocks; and, hoping to plant the seeds that this Committee can work with staff to move forward and say, yes, let us see what we can come up with that would encourage seniors, who go out, who love to shop, who love to buy things for themselves, their family, their grandkids, and not have to go to a big box store, but can go Downtown, go to wherever the City has parking spaces and say that we recognize what you do for our City and we are going to try to find a parking space a little closer for you.