

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

18. Property located at 493 Springbank Drive (Z-8611)
 - Richard Zelinka, Zelinka Priamo Ltd., on behalf of the applicant – pointing out that with him tonight are M. Wasyлко from Wasyлко Architects, Charles Crow, Chair, Woodland Board of Directors, Board of Management and Paul Culliton, Cemetery Manager; thanking staff for moving this along at a time when there was some staff changes; appreciating B. Turcotte's, Senior Planner, efforts to get this before the Committee and we also appreciate the minor change to the wording because this matter has not yet gone to the Urban Design Peer Review Panel so there will be additional site plan comments and we will be working with staff and with the Urban Design Peer Review Panel as well at that time; advising that this is part of the continuum of the history of the cemetery which goes back to 1878; indicating that the range of bereavement services and end of life services has been expanded on this historic cemetery, including the addition of mausoleums, the addition of a crematorium and now we are seeking to add the funeral home as part of this range of services that are provided at this cemetery; noting that the cemetery has been associated and affiliated with the Anglican Diocese of Huron and St. Paul's Cathedral since its outset, so there's a very long history of change that has been geared towards providing these bereavement services to the people of London; advising that there is an attachment in your package that has to do with the road widening request that was made by Transportation services; raising it at this time, even though it will be a site plan matter, simply to point out that it had been our understanding that the City tries to avoid situations of taking widenings of active cemeteries; pointing out that this is a situation where widening is being requested on Wonderland and on Springbank Drive; advising that there are grave sites along both of those frontages as well as additional grave lots that have been sold in those areas and the gates of the cemetery come right to the sidewalk along Springbank Drive; indicating that it is a situation where any widening in this area would create major hardship for the cemetery and could also be a very complex and difficult procedure for the City itself; reiterating that he just wants to raise it at this point in time so that Council members on this Committee are aware of that concern; reiterating that his communication is on the Planning and Environment Committee agenda on that matter; (*Councillor Hubert enquiring as to whether or not the Diocese is going to be operating the funeral home because that tends not to be the core of the business; enquiring if they will be operating the funeral home as well as the cemetery or will there be a third party operator brought into the funeral home*); Mr. Zelinka responds that the Woodland Cemetery will operate the funeral home; advising that it will be an integral part of Woodland Cemetery and it will not be separated; mentioning that, that in response to a comment that the Councillor made, there is another situation in the City and that is the Forest Lawn Cemetery on Dundas Street East and in that situation the funeral home was set up on an adjacent site to the cemetery but has since been incorporated into the cemetery and now if you go along Dundas Street you will see the signs that are for both; pointing out that the City's zoning incorporates both under the same zoning that permits cemetery and funeral home use, although the technical zone that is being requested here is somewhat different from the one in the Forest Lawn situation, it is the same principal and Mr. Tomazincic, Manager, Current Planning, identified the policy basis for that.