

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

12. Low-rise Residential Development in Existing Neighbourhoods (Infill Study) (Z-8701)

- Anna Maria Valastro, Chair, North Talbot Community Association, 1-133 John Street – indicating that they were never consulted on this report; advising that she wants this on the record as they are often not consulted; pointing out that for some reason their neighbourhood is invisible but there are real people that live there, people have lived there for decades and there are renters that have lived in some of those places for years and years and years and they were not consulted.
- Gary Brown, 35A-59 Ridout Street South – stating that his neighbourhood requested this so he is going to speak to this matter; indicating that the consultations with his neighbourhood were extensive but he will say the consultations with the city do not appear to be extensive; noting that this was a city-wide project; realizing that it was being taken from a response to some of the developments in their neighbourhood; pointing out that as they argued in Council Chambers, it should be a city-wide response; advising that the Mayor and Councillor Paul Hubert spoke out against this and used the word draconian; indicating that they do not believe that a recommendation from their Councillor who lives in their neighbourhood and their neighbourhood and their planning staff should ever be described as draconian; stating that the Councillors do not live in their neighbourhood so he is not so sure what they are talking about; indicating that there is one thing missing that he did not see; thinking that it is an excellent plan; understanding that everything that is ever developed is going to be a living document and the proof is always going to be in how we apply this document but he thinks that it is an excellent first swipe; indicating that there is one thing that caught his attention and that is that there is no height restriction in this document which means that he could build a five storey house next to you; noting that he does not see what would stop him from doing that; stating that there is one question he does not see here, it is a technical question and maybe he has missed it when he read the document; pointing out that he thinks that the height should be associated not with a city-wide average height but it should have to do with the block that you live on because that is what matters, that is what creates the rhythm on your street; reiterating that he does not see anything that would stop you from building a three or four story house next door; realizing that in the Heritage Conservation District language, as it has evolved over time, has used the language that houses must be of a similar envelope, which is volume, it is a restriction on the size as to what was there before; reiterating that that is a technical question; realizing that this is a response to what they have seen in their neighbourhood and he would say that it is a superb first start; this is a place to go, this is a document that they can use, it is easy to understand, he thinks that developers will probably find the implementation fairly easy to go through as well; pointing out that from a technical point of view and he saw the pictures today of the wanton destruction of the natural habitat in Meadowlily; noting that he was nearly in tears looking at that; indicating that it is a changing of a historical vista for the rest of your lives; advising that it is also happening in the Coves as developers are going to build two giant towers overhanging the Coves and any history in this city starts in the Coves; stating that Council has just changed the historical vista forever and he would like to know how this document would apply to that or is this just outside the zone; enquiring as to how that would apply to that as this is a neighbourhood that does not have any houses but it is still a community, it is a community of natural habitat and it is as valuable to our community as our houses are; look at how hard they fought to get the green as part of the city; indicating that these places matter to a community; indicating that it has happened on this Council's watch which is unfortunate as he has a lot of trust and faith in this Council and this planning staff; *(Mayor M. Brown indicating that his grandparents moved to Elworthy Avenue in 1953 and have been a part of Old South for a majority of their adult life, they raised four kids in that area; indicating that his dad was the first class at Mountsfield Public School and he is a proud South Collegiate graduate; thinking that it is the best neighbourhood in Canada in many ways as is Old East Village and most recently nominated; noting that it is one of our absolute best neighbourhoods; expressing support for the staff report that was previously provided, but*

he did not support the Interim Control by-law recommendation that came through Council as he felt that it was something that they did not need to do, that they could get this work done by moving in this direction and he is pleased to see the report that is before the Committee today; wanting to correct the record as he did support what the Committee is seeing here today.