

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING - Group Home Type 1 Uses with Regards to Distance Separation Regulations of the Zoning By-law (Z-8779)

- *(Councillor Turner enquires about Type 1 and Type 2 Group Homes, appreciating the exposure we have with Type 1 Group Homes, wondering why that same exposure does not exist with Type 2.);* Mr. P. Yeoman, Director, Development Services, responding that they have not received any legal concerns that have been raised externally with respect to any Group Home Type 2's and that is why they are not before the Planning and Environment Committee with that tonight; indicating that this is something that they would review as part of the review of all Group Homes in general.
- Aileen Watt, Manager of Accommodation Services, Community Living London – reading from her communication included on the July 31, 2017 Planning and Environment Committee Added Agenda.
- Chris Butler, 863 Waterloo Street – indicating that he has been asking for the planning report and nobody would come and make a public comment or submit a public comment without the planning document; advising that the planning document was released last Wednesday and he received it from staff Thursday morning which gave him exactly one business day to look at the document and submit something to the Planning and Environment Committee; *(Councillor Park advises Mr. Butler that his questions will be answered after all of the public has been heard.);* requesting clarity, if this amendment passes, this is a Group Home Type 1, what, if anything, prevents some concentration of Group Homes on the same street or the same block; enquiring what, if any, metrics have been collected on the existing Group Home operators; understanding that there are advocates at this meeting about the actual operators that suggests that basically they are a good fit for a R-1, R-2 residential neighbourhood without the setback; noting that that would include interviews with existing neighbours, police metrics and traffic, which Mr. L. Pompilii, Manager, Development Planning, accommodates in his staff report; wondering why there has not been public input on this particular document all through the process; indicating that he and Mr. L. Pompilii, Manager, Development Planning, agreed on two things and disagreed on a lot of things, when Mr. L. Pompilii contacted him on July 19, 2017; noting that Mr. L. Pompilii would not release the document at that time; indicating that the two things that they agreed on are that there has been no public input on this particular by-law amendment and that was a concern; advising that the second point they agreed on is how does this fit into the overall plan for London because he sees no budget for Group Homes in the London budget; noting that he has looked for it, he does not see it in the London strategy and he does not see it in The London Plan, which is a bit vague for most citizens like him; saying that he would like the whole thing at once rather than look at this by-law; reiterating that he would like to see the whole picture and he thinks that most Londoners would be up to the challenge of saying how do we deal with these legal issues, how do we work things through but would also be able to provide an amazing amount of input, if we had public input but we do not; making sure that we underline that fact at this Planning and Environment Committee meeting; referencing page 3 of the staff report, expressing concern as a citizen, as it says “Through this application review, staff may also consider changes to the definitions of Group Home Type 1, Supervised Residence and Group Home Type 2 uses as well as any other necessary definition changes.”; enquiring if there would be public input for this process because, to him, that is just a blank cheque, if you insert that in this by-law amendment it leaves an open step for City staff to just move on and not allow any public input for the amendments that come up other than potentially for special interest groups; thinking that is an opportunity for the same thing as here, there has been no public input and it really concerns him; advising that he did a fair amount of web research this morning and he does not understand how the City distinguishes between a Group Home Type 1 and a business because when he looks at who is running the Group Home, the ones that allow you to look at their sites, not the ones that advocate for them, he can only come up with two businesses; indicating that these are businesses, they are not Group Home operators, they are businesses; noting

that one is international, it's Ango Residential Resources Inc. and they have a number of sites in London; noting that they are one of the few that do not hide their sites on the web; reiterating that they are international, they are a business, the name ends with "Inc." and the other one is Western Area Youth Services, which sounds like it calls itself "WAYS"; wondering how you can distinguish against a business running a Type 1 Group Home and remove the provision that he has as a homeowner that stops or at least allows him a minor variance to respond to a doctor's office, a real estate office, anything like that; advising that he is not being discriminatory in that, it is just the way that it is; stating that he is allowed some protection of his R-1/R-2 rights as a property owner to be able to look at what is coming beside him and he is allowed to be able to work with people to get that sorted through; indicating that, in this case, none of that has happened as there has been no public input; recommending that Council take a pass on this now but proceed full speed with not digging in the weeds but with what the overall plan looks like for London, what is the budget, how does this amendment fit through and have real public input on that; realizing that some of that public input will not match the information that the Committee has heard in terms of how they feel about this in their neighbourhood; indicating that they are going to be somewhat apprehensive about it; providing the example that they had a Group Home in his neighbourhood at 853 Waterloo Street, not three years ago; advising that this was before the licensing and all the other stuff happened because he asked the operator what was going on; indicating that they had huge traffic problems with this Group Home, they had people moving in and out, it was five bedrooms, they had eight residents and one supervisor; stating that there was always a truck parked on the front lawn with somebody moving in and out, there were guests overnight; advising that people put up seven foot fences in the lots right behind it because they had all kinds of noise, confusion and everything else; advising that it does not match what is being presented tonight, that was the neighbourhood experience and they worked really hard to try and get this sorted out; reiterating his request to take a pass on this particular recommendation, staff reach out to the public and have a true public meeting on this matter and look to that public meeting to have quality answers and some of the challenges.

- Brian Sim-Little, Director of Finance, Community Living London – indicating that Community Living London receives no funding from the City, they are independent charities that receive funding from a variety of sources and run their own Group Homes under the direction of a local Board of Directors; advising that he does not know the exact number of Group Homes in the city but there are well over eighty and they are full of people who live in their community, shop in their community, drop over to their neighbours for a drink; advising that, as far as he knows, the last time he moved, there was no call for public input into where he could move and to which neighbours he was allowed to have and how many people were allowed to live in his house with him; expressing that he is unsure why these particular people are the target of government regulation; reiterating that they receive no funding from the government at all and all of the providers are supervised by the government and meet a very high standard of inspections every year by the Fire Department, the Ministry, the Health Unit, the Ministry of Labour; believing that there are eight or nine providers in their section of the city; stating that if there are better maintained homes in the city he certainly does not live in one.
- Anita Bacon, Christian Horizons – advising that they share and support the efforts and the comments of Community Living London as a partner agency in the developmental services sector; indicating that Christian Horizons is one of the largest developmental services providers in Ontario and nationally as well; people with a developmental disability should have choice in where they live and with whom they live with; stating that it should not be limited by zoning; advising that they, too, have experienced some of the challenges that they heard from their colleagues at Community Living London in the past when wanting to find locations where people that they support can live in this city; distance restrictions in essence discriminate against people based on their disability; distance restrictions limit the ability of community agencies to leverage shared supports and be cost effective and as such being good stewards of the public purse; stating that the very definition of community is open and welcoming and this by-law restriction is counter to that thought; eliminating the distance by-law would certainly help to make London a more inclusive, diverse and welcoming community.