

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

3.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING – 825 Commissioners Road East (Z-8860)

- *Councillor Paul Hubert – relating to the water servicing so to increase that they would have to increase the size of the main and would they have to connect all the way back to Commissioners Road or is there a source closer that they could tap into, like Parkwood or some place around there; Mr. M. Corby, Senior Planner, responding that it does not look like there is anyone here from water; however, he did have a conversation with them so he may not technically be right, but he does believe the main doesn't actually have to be bigger, they have to create more pressure, in a sense this main is actually too big is the problem; the connection would have to be from Wellington Road as it cannot be from Commissioners Road; it has to go up through to the west of the site to get to Wellington Road; Councillor Hubert clarifies that the current mains coming from Commissioners Road; Mr. M. Corby, Senior Planner, responding that that is correct, but the pressure on Wellington Road is higher and it will get the appropriate pressure to the site; Councillor Hubert asking could they add an auxiliary pumping station; Mr. M. Feldberg, Manager, Development Finance, responding that there are two systems out there, there is a low level and a high level for this site; believing that they need a high level so they would have to run a pipe out to Wellington Road to make that connection so it is a pretty lengthy piece, he thinks it is a kilometer or 800 metres or something like that so pretty far in order to get the connection.*
- *Councillor Michael van Holst – thinking staff said that they were not able to make use of the larger building; Mr. M. Corby, Senior Planner, responding that through amendments the recommendation actually restricts them from using the larger building as it is a quite old and it would take a lot of repairs, but in terms of kind of limiting the intensity of uses on the site we have restricted it to just the three cottages; Councillor van Holst advising that he personally thinks that it is a wonderful site and it would be great if we could reuse that; not understanding the argument of it being old because that is something that said to us in heritage places all the time; indicating that he had a chance to go out there and have a sense of what they were proposing and it is really a wonderful idea; news to him, but he sees that Mr. J.M. Fleming, Managing Director, Planning and City Planner, may have a response; Mr. J.M. Fleming, Managing Director, Planning and City Planner, pointing out that Mr. Sheppard is here to speak to the proposal in more detail but he just wants to point out that in response to the technical questions this has been a real collaboration between the applicant and really our engineering group in trying to resolve some very difficult servicing issues and this is something that took some time before we could get to a point where the required health and safety issues would be addressed and at the same time the use could move forward; the Technical question that was just asked leads him to believe that maybe there is a misunderstanding, the intention is to use that building definitely, it is just that the use cannot be accommodated until such time as the services are improved to allow that kind of intensity of use and that is something that is going to be controlled through a holding provision and when the services are improved then that building definitely will be used and the Committee will hear about that from the applicant in a moment.*
- *D. Sheppard, Executive Director, ReForest London, on behalf of the applicant – indicating that it is actually an example of how collaborative this process has been to get us this far and really there is an important part of this project that he would like to acknowledge and that is how many people have cooperated and collaborated to get us even this far; first London Health Sciences Centre deserves a huge amount of credit and recognition for have being such marvelous stewards of the land and the buildings over the years; stating that if they had not been such good stewards there would be no buildings left standing for us to even be talking about right now and they also have been very committed to preserving the culture heritage of the site and have done extensive work to make sure that this transfer is successful; advising that Kirkness Consulting has been engaged on this file and like so many of our other contributors they have gone above and beyond to see this vision move forward and I would like the Planning and Environment Committee, the Municipal Council and the leadership of the Civic Administration to know how incredibly collaborative and helpful city staff have been along the way; pointing out that, as you could imagine, when we first envisioned this project there was a mountain of unknown variables including City requirements and how to fulfill them and he can tell you he worked with staff from Zoning and Development Services and Building and Water Engineering and Heritage and Water Engineering again and, of course, Current Planning and every single one has been generously informative and helpful and I know you hear more complaints than kudos so he wanted to use some of his short time to share his positive experience; relating to the vision itself, they know two important things, environment and sustainability issues become more*

important to our city and to our lifestyles every single day and London has never had an environmental center, it is a long standing gap in our community; advising that ReForest London together with Thames Talbot Land Trust have a vision to create a dynamic environmental center filling all four building with varied forms of programming and opportunities that will help our community become more sustainable by educating on issues and showing how we can change our behaviors to become more sustainable in the long run; stating that an important point about this site and this project that he like the Planning and Environment Committee and the public to know is that this is not going to be a center just for environmental groups we envision a mix of organizations operating on the site each with some form of environmental connection; for example, a children's charity running nature based programming or a mental health organization offering nature based counselling and recovering opportunities; we see a really interesting and dynamic mix of opportunities here; we are also committed to preserving and telling the story of the veterans history of the site, the heritage is very important to us; stating that the site has the potential to be an incredible new amenity in service to our community and to help us become a greener, healthier and more sustainable city we are delighted to be here right at the beginning of our journey.

- D. Crocket, 73695 Shingla Boulevard, Zurich – advising that he is a retired Vice-President of Facilities Management and he has been working on this file since 1999; stating that he really just wants to add to this it has been a wonderful experience to work with the community over the years; seeing David Wake is here and he goes back to the early days when he thinks we were all educated about the very special nature of this property and so he really commends the London Health Sciences Centre now for realizing as it did, that it is a 50 to 100 year master plan that this parcel of land, six hectares, did not fit into the future, but they did want to honor their original commitment to protect the environmental aspects of the land and to preserve the culture heritage so they have been working really for almost three years now to find a partner, which is ReForest London and the Thames Talbot Land Trust and they are really here today to, he thinks, being really close to finalizing the investment of this property back to not for profit in the communities; the hospital is delighted to be here today and we hope you will be supportive of this initiative.