

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

3.7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING – Application – 900 King Street and 925 Dundas Street (OZ-8937)

- Hugh Handy, Land Use Planning Consultant, GSP Group, on behalf of the applicants – advising that they worked very closely with City staff in terms of the application; indicating that they have also reviewed the staff report before the Planning and Environment Committee this evening and the recommendations contained within; expressing support for the recommendations, on behalf of their clients.
- Jen Pastorius, Old East Village Business Improvement Area – advising that, historically and currently, the Old East Village Business Improvement Area has worked very successfully with the Western Fair on a number of different projects; stating that the Queens Park redevelopment is probably the most pronounced in the neighbourhood between the arts building, the new splash pad, the redesign, the art installations and then more recently, the purchase of the Western Fair Farmers Market; indicating that the Western Fair has really demonstrated to their community that they are not only interested but invested in connectivity of activities on that site to Dundas Street and the existing businesses; believing that the recommendations for the uses here, as Western Fair goes, she thinks that they have demonstrated that they are committed and if they were to move forward with these uses, she would hope and expect that they would work well together as they have in the past; advising that this is a little bit outside of this particular meeting, recognizing that; however, regarding future activities on the site, when they did their community consultation, there was a large portion of the feedback that was related to what happens next if expanded gaming lands on this site, what is the mechanism going to be that the community can become involved in the more detailed site plan and how this new development is going to connect with the community; asking that this be considered in the next steps because historically, the Business Improvement Area and the community has worked very well with developments to bring their feedback to the table, the developers have then taken that feedback and in the end has produced a product that is better for them and also successful for the community so the recommended amendments for the Western Fair are excellent and she looks forward to further conversations if Gateway does decide to reside in the Old East Village.
- Guido Mulder, 932½ Lorne Avenue – reading through all the documentation and for the average layperson, it is a lot to go through; advising that he does not have a full picture of everything that is going to be happening but he just wanted to speak out to say that he knows that residents of the Old East Village will be concerned that the continued operation of the Market stays as it is, there could be some sort of, there is a mention in the invite for this for holding provisions, that sounded interesting; indicating that it is a vital piece of the revitalization of that area and it is something that should be considered; advising that it is wonderful to see the development but there should be a small price tag and that should be one of the things; indicating that that is not mentioned in any of the assessments that he has seen, it is all sort of preserve these buildings and that is all great stuff but the operation of that Market should be some sort of consideration for Council going forward.
- Gary Brown, 35A – 59 Ridout Street South – believing that this goes to the fabric of our city; expressing sorrow, but after wading through all of this stuff, he sees that we are here allowing specific zoning for a casino in our city and you are the Councillors for the time and you are all running for re-election; asking for that single item to be pulled separately because he would like to know how the Councillors all vote on it before he votes; apologizing for being negative tonight but he has been shattered the last few weeks with, on Wharncliffe Road, we have what is called a Tree Protection Zone that does not protect trees, in the

area where he lives in Old South, has been told that they do not have a lot of green space for the last ten years, they are paving concrete pathways on the green as we speak; indicating that he does not have a lot of faith in City processes right now but he was at the public information session for this and he is going to tell you that it was the most disappointing public information session he has ever gone to put on by the City in his life; indicating that there was one point of view there – casinos are us, there was the Casino Addiction Service, there was the casino whatever, the casino whatever; indicating that he was expecting a blackjack table next to them; there was not the Health Unit there talking about the addictions that this causes, there were not any folks from their mental health community there to talk about the effects of gambling on this community which we know are dramatic; there was nobody from the women's groups talking about the effect it has on human trafficking and he thinks that this Council should not be making a decision without that information because one thing that he would like to know himself, how much is the cost to the City, how much do we have to spend in additional services because of an expanded casino on dealing with these addictions, on dealing with human trafficking and we know what happens; wondering why that is not part of the discussion, why is the discussion trying to slip the casino zoning through the back door here; advising that he does not have a problem with the rest of it although he does think it should be bonus zoning just so they have a few tools to control the design of these things but he is also fairly good, we have new laws in place that will look after this but this is a question for this City, casinos are not necessarily a great thing to put in the core of a city, it is bringing gambling right into our institution; stating that he used to live in the Old East Village, he used to live on Queens Avenue by Adelaide Street and the best thing that they ever did there was remove that strip bar off of Dundas Street; stating that he used to bike home there every single night of the week by at least fifty escorts and he does not see that anymore; advising that this feels like we are taking a step backwards, we could be bringing this back into our communities; advising that he would really like the question of zoning to allow casino uses to be called separately by this particular Committee and he would like it called separately by Council because he thinks that it is really important that they know how each Councillor stands on this one issues; reiterating that he does not have problem with the rest of it; noting that, to him, it is just an extension of when they tore down the buildings on King Street to build more parking lots; noting that was the last Council, nothing to do with this Council but it is a continued extension of this; thinking that it is something that they should specifically know as citizens of this city.