

REQUEST FOR PARK DEDICATION BYLAW AMENDMENT

January 12, 2020

Dear chair and members of the Planning and Environment Committee,

I would ask you to consider an amendment to our park dedication bylaw, CP9.

When a property is developed, or possibly redeveloped, this bylaw allows us to require the owner to turn over a portion of the developable land for a park. Should the city not desire the land, then payment can be demanded in lieu of the dedication. Presently, the amounts we require are 2% for commercial properties and 5% for residential and other properties. Industrial properties are exempt.

I believe the policy has been creating undue hardship on communities developing a place of worship because the fees are tens of thousands of dollars and the ability of these groups to pay (from the collection-plate) is dramatically less than that of developers who subdivide the property and sell multiple new residential units at market value.

I understand that the province may be making changes to this process but, in the meantime, I would ask the PEC to consider amending our city policy for 2020 to also exempt properties being developed as a place of worship or at the least reduce their contribution from 5% to 2%.

Sincere thanks,

Michael van Holst
Councillor Ward 1