

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

3.3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING – 755-785 Wonderland Road South (O-9409/Z-9410)

- Casey Kulchycki, Zelinka Priamo Ltd.: Good afternoon, Madam Chair, members of Planning Committee, Mayor and members of staff and members of the public. My name is Casey Kulchycki. I'm a Senior Planner with Zelinka Priamo Ltd. representing McCorr Management and Dogtopia on this proposed Zoning By-law Amendment. I just want to extend a thank you to Olga and Catherine who were the Planners handling this file. We've had a chance to review the staff report and its recommendation and we are in agreement with this recommendation here tonight. To go back to Councillor Turner's questions with regards to the noise mitigation measures, I'll lead off first by saying, as part of this proposal, there's no outdoor play space as part of this proposal, it's an interior facility. There is a small outdoor space that is used for drop off and pick up of the customers, the dogs, if you will, but the actual play rooms are all internal. With regards to the noise mitigation measures, Dogtopia increases insulation and wall widths and depths between itself and it's adjacent tenants to ensure that noise mitigation is kept down to acceptable levels, if at all, heard from outside. There's also no vision glass from the outside into the play spaces, again, just to avoid the noise from spilling out into any sort of public area to avoid those impacts. With regards to the HVAC system, Dogtopia, as part of their daily operations, do install upgraded HVAC filter system into their unit to filter out the dander and smells associated with high active dog activities, so these types of uses, Dogtopia specifically, have successfully opened locations in other shopping centers in downtown Kitchener as well as the GTA with much success. Around the mitigation measures that they use, I will note that I am joined tonight by Erika Ness and Michael Waitzer of Dogtopia who can also assist in answering any operational questions that Planning Committee members may have, or members of the public may have. I think I'll leave it at that and if there are any additional questions myself, Erika and Michael are on hand to address them. Through you, Madam Chair, I will look to Erika or Michael to address some of the other Dogtopia locations.
- Michael Waitzer, Dogtopia: I'm happy to answer that. We have seventeen locations across Canada, several in the GTA and have had no complaints. We install considerable HVAC units, about one tonne per 250 square feet of square footage and we exchange the air about every eleven minutes so we're constantly keeping the rooms fresh. No sir, we have a very robust cleaning protocol where, through environmentally friendly and pet friendly enzyme cleaning fluids we actually break down any bacteria's and odor-causing agents in the facilities several times a day. Yes, our customers. Our customers are the dogs. We actually are insulated well, the building is typically a concrete structure to start with, we then soundproof the walls and so, to date, we have had no complaints of noise. We do get some barking on the way in and on the way out but no different than dogs walking on the sidewalk in a neighbourhood. It's a debate, we do get some customers owners that ask about outdoor space. Our model currently, in the majority of cases, particularly in Ontario where the weather is not always conducive to dogs playing outside and is all indoor space. We do have some in the US in southern climes that have outdoor space.
- Edward Slivinski, 743 Woodcrest Boulevard: Good afternoon. My name is Edward Slivinski. I live at 743 Woodcrest Boulevard which is at the west end of the Mall. First of all, I would like to say good afternoon, Madam Chair and to the Mayor and Councillors. What my concern is that with a dog kennel, the ones that are in use or in the city at present are at the exterior locations of the city. We don't have anything in the center. Secondly, the air circulation, I realize that they're going to have an excellent air circulation but as we all know, Covid is spread by airborne and I'm wondering how that will affect even just the exterior of the building with people coming and going as well as the Super King. How the interaction between the air exchange

and the animals. Other than that, you've all been very good and you've answered all my other questions and I thank you for being there and I appreciate what you are doing. Thank you.